

<b>Item No.</b> 4.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 26 March 2014	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Other Deputation Requests	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Proper Constitutional Officer	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly considers whether or not to hear deputations from the groups listed in paragraph 5 of this report.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The full list of deputation requests received and the order in which they were submitted for this meeting is set out in item 2.3. The council assembly procedure rule 2.6 (11) states that no more than three deputations shall be considered at any one meeting. However the meeting can decide to suspend this rule in order to hear more or vary the order.
3. When considering whether to hear the deputation request, council assembly can decide:
  - to receive the deputation at this meeting or a future meeting; *or*
  - that the deputation not be received; *or*
  - to refer the deputation to the most appropriate committee/sub-committee.
4. A deputation shall consist of no more than six people, including its spokesperson. One member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the meeting for no longer than five minutes. The deputation spokesperson or any member of the deputation nominated by him or her shall be invited to ask a question of the leader or relevant cabinet member. After this time councillors may ask questions of the deputation for up to five minutes. At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation will be shown to the public seating area where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

### Other deputation requests

5. The following deputation requests were received on issues other than the subject of the themed section of the meeting. The deputations are listed in order of receipt.
  1. **Deputation request from a group of local residents on the council's constitution and related documents**

The deputation request states:

We want to raise issues in connection with the framework of the constitution and its relationship with other council policies and procedures in particular we are concerned that when it comes to implementing a particular policy or procedure little consideration is given to the fundamental principles contained within the constitution.

Subject areas include response times, the correct process, inconsistency and decision making.

We will expect to cover issues around the complaints procedure (not a specific complaint), code of conduct, code of corporate governance, employee code of conduct and council assembly procedure rules.

We hope to achieve support from members who in turn can have dialogue with officers to ensure the relevant policies and procedures can be firmed up where necessary which will in turn improve community confidence in the system.

## **2. Selling council homes**

The deputation request states:

We feel strongly about the way in which Southwark Council is selling off its council homes at auction which we feel may have an adverse effect on the future of housing in Southwark. Most recently the 5 bedroom house next door to ours was sold by Southwark Council at auction for over £550,000. The house was purchased by a property developer who renovated the house and has now let/rented out each room in the house.

We have difficulty in understanding why this property and other similar large properties in Southwark are not being renovated by Southwark Council and rented out to Southwark families on the housing waiting list? This forms the key part of our deputation in that we would like to know why Southwark Council continues to sell its properties, particularly large homes, at auction without being given to or being offered for sale to families on the Southwark Council housing waiting list? Some of these families will have been on the housing waiting list for many years and are in desperate need for housing whilst at the same time the number of large council properties is decreasing.

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Deputation Request File	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Lesley John 020 7525 7228
Council Assembly Procedure Rule 2.6, Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
<b>Report Author</b>	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	21 March 2014	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Comments sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	21 March 2014	