

Item No. 4.	Classification: Open	Date: 29 November 2017	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Deputation Requests	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

RECOMMENDATION

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. 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 5 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 5 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

Deputation requests

5. The following deputation requests have been received:

1. Wells Way Triangle Tenants and Residents Association

The deputation request states:

"The purpose of the deputation is to request the council to restore the height restrictions on tall buildings that are present in the current Southwark Plan and which have been removed in the draft new Southwark Plan.

The combination of the removal of all height restrictions, combined with the requirement for all developments in most of the borough to maximise the number

of housing units provided, de facto abolishes what remains of democracy in Southwark's planning system and hands it over to the developers, many of whom are based in offshore tax-havens.

It leaves communities across the borough, like ours in the Wells Way Triangle, defenceless against ruthless developers, who do not respect the current streetscapes. Tower blocks create anti-social over-shadowing, structural over-domination over existing communities and wind-tunnels.

Fire-brigade ladders do not reach above 10 storeys and so there is a safety logic in the current 8 and 10 storey height restrictions for office and residential blocks.

We want the council to rule out skyscrapers from being built in Camberwell and Peckham, on the borders of Burgess Park and in the rest of the borough, except where currently exempted in the business district in the north of the borough.

We recognise the need for additional housing and point out that density increases of up to 500% can be achieved through traditional human-scale streetscape terraced apartment buildings, without resorting to out-of-place towers, which often result in lower densities, due to need for ground-level services etc."

2. Chambers Wharf Local Residents

The deputation request states:

"Around 1500 residents near Chambers Wharf, Bermondsey, are suffering unbearable noise, vibration, and air and light pollution from 7am until 11pm, and on occasions, much later, from the Thames Tideway Super Sewer construction site. This has caused or exacerbated mental and physical health problems across the community, as noted in a recent report by the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust report. Residents call upon council assembly to instruct officers across the authority to provide the highest levels of support and protection for vulnerable residents, and to apply all possible pressure on Tideway to mitigate and compensate all affected residents during the next five years of construction work."

3. Dulwich Village Traders

The deputation request states:

"We represent the many traders in Dulwich Village whose businesses have been adversely affected by the roadworks currently taking place in the centre of the village. These long-running roadworks are scheduled to continue throughout the crucial trading month of December and their impact on our businesses is catastrophic. As things stand, there is no doubt that local jobs will have to be lost in the immediate future, due to the impact on December's trading. We would like to ask the council, bearing in mind their published vision for Dulwich Village, what provision they intend to make to support independent local businesses in this immensely difficult time."

4. Latin American Business Community in Elephant & Castle

The deputation request states:

"We are a group of business people representing the Latin American Business Community in the area of the Elephant & Castle.

In order to realise the council's promise to create and maintain a "Latin Quarter" at the Elephant & Castle and to respect the wishes of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) traders to remain clustered we need the following:

1. An assurance that the businesses trading from the railway arches facing Elephant Road will be protected in their current locations, or, at worst, re-located to other arches on Elephant Road.
2. Concrete plans for the temporary re-location of the businesses which are currently trading in and around the shopping centre.
3. Concrete plans for their return to the Elephant when the development is completed.
4. Financial arrangements which will make it viable to continue to trade profitably. Transitional arrangements which would eventually impose market rates on our businesses would not achieve this."

5. Dulwich Hamlet Football Club

The deputation request states:

"We are a group of individuals who, in many different ways, are involved with Dulwich Hamlet Football Club. We would like to take the opportunity to describe the range of activities with which the club and its supporters have been involved, on and off the pitch, such that the club has come to be an integral part of the wider community that it serves, attracting its highest level of support in over 50 years.

We recognise and welcome the clear support that the leader of the council and other councillors have given to the club in the past and since the development plans of Meadow Residential LLP have stalled. This situation has left the club and its supporters facing a very uncertain future as we move towards the 125th anniversary of the founding of the club in January 2018.

We also welcome the opportunity to respond to questions that councillors may wish to put to us, in a spirit of engagement and transparency."

6. Old Bermondsey Forum

"St Thomas Street sits at the heart of the London Bridge Area Vision set out in the New Southwark Plan. The New Southwark Plan (NSP) 53 Site Allocation in particular, which forms part of the London Bridge Area Vision is highlighted as a key development opportunity site. The treatment of the important St Thomas Street sites will be decisive in the area's enhancement or degradation and should thus be shaped by thoroughly considered planning policy.

The NSP53 'site allocation' as it stands in the current draft of the plan, however, constitutes a poorly developed understanding of the site and of the key features requires in any development scheme to decisively and positively influence its surroundings. The site allocation is both internally inconsistent and inconsistent with stated aims of the area vision that frames. It disregards local consultations that should be informing and enriching it.

The NSP53 site allocation brief is now, following various changes to content (to eliminate gross errors) and to format (to shift key target figures into the background), still a vague, unintelligible document that provides no useful guidance or constraints for prospective development proposals. It is thus at once a threat to the future of the area and to the soundness of the NSP going forward. The council should direct planners to engage constructively with the much more rigorous local consultation that community groups, particularly Bermondsey Village Action Group and the neighbourhood forum, have urged upon them with the objective of producing a document that provides genuine and meaningful guidance on how the site is to be treated. It must not remain expressed in its present weasel words enabling any development and every developer to claim they are proposing a policy-compliant scheme."

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Deputation Request File	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055
Council Assembly Procedure Rule 2.6, Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Constitutional Manager	
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	24 November 2017	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	24 November 2017	