

**Briefing note from the Chief Executive  
Scrutiny Call-In Meeting 18 May 2009 – Southwark Circle**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

1. In 2007, a number of Chief Executives from over 30 authorities were invited to consider putting themselves forward to government to be selected to join a partnership with DWP, BSkyB and Participle, to research innovative new ways of providing social care for the elderly. This was driven by growing concern about the costs of providing for an ageing society.
2. The Chief Executive considered the criteria for selection and consulted with lead elected members from all parties as to whether Southwark should apply. Following agreement with Group Leaders, Southwark applied and was short listed and invited by DWP to be the Council that would undertake the research. The Chief Executive again consulted with lead elected members on the most appropriate area for a pilot as required by DWP, Camberwell was considered and selected.
3. Further discussions were held and the Council was chosen to be the pilot area because of the diverse character of the borough and because service provision was currently delivered along traditional lines and a transformational agenda had begun. The involvement of the Chief Executive as project sponsor was also a key factor as the DWP wanted to ensure momentum and drive and research showed this was of significant importance to the success of an initiative.
4. At this stage, negotiations began between the partners to establish Heads of Terms and project structures and agreement to initiate the project was formalised in a Chief Officer delegated decision. The report agreed payment and requested the Chief Executive to continue to negotiate the full scope and terms of the partnerships and if appropriate, to bring a further report authorisation to continue the partnership.
5. Once the project was agreed, the Chief Executive remained a sponsor of the project, however, Rod Craig the former Director of Adult Care was the project lead officer and worked with Participle to direct and develop the service and the research and embed this within the community and with relevant groups and organisations.
6. Shortly after signing the agreement, the lead officer from government from the DWP was moved to head up the Cabinet Office following Gordon Brown becoming Prime Minister and the project moved with her. The DWP and Cabinet Office continue to be involved and the Cabinet Office direct the government's involvement.
7. As part of the project team, the Chief Executive presented findings to the Prime Ministers' Improvement Team who were working cross departmentally investigating innovative service design within local authorities to use as models of best practice nationally, this has led to continued support and interest from Government.

8. At the end of the research element of the project, Participle presented a business case for how over the next three years, Southwark could move social care out of the traditional deliver model as part of the government's personalisation agenda.