

# The Co-operative Council Commission

## Business Meeting

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2010, 2.p.m – 3.p.m

Lambeth Town Hall, Room 106

## This is a Public Document

### Minutes

#### PRESENT:

#### Commissioners

- Cllr Steve Reed, Chair of the Commission
- Cllr Jackie Meldrum, Commissioner
- Richard Bridge, Commissioner

#### Officers supporting the commission:

- Sophia Looney, Divisional Director Policy, Equality and Performance
- Mike Wiltshire, Policy Manager
- Ofordi Nabokei, Policy Innovation Officer
- Victoria Hardman, Head of Media Relations

#### Apologies

- Rebecca Eligon, Interim Head of Equalities and Consultation
- Erica Ballmann, Head of Leader's Office

#### Progress Update

Council officers provided Commissioners with an update on the planning and programme management of the Co-operative Council work. This update built on information presented to the Commissioners at their 5 July meeting. Commissioners were informed that since their last July meeting the following progress has been made:

- An additional 17 organisations have agreed to take part in the work of the Commission. This brings the overall total to 69 local and national organisations.
- Co-operative Council Executive Summary and Summary Leaflet have been published.
- Delegate and Commissioner Briefing Packs, along with pre-briefing sessions for Delegates attending the 23 July meeting, have been completed.
- As part of the Community Engagement programme officers have completed the Co-operative Council Roadshow, held a further two Focus Groups, attended Expos in Camberwell, Streatham and Norwood, commenced fieldwork for the latest Residents Survey and completed the co-operative consultation toolkit.
- Secured a date for the Commission Public Meeting and promoted this event through a variety of media channels.
- In terms of the work being undertaken into co-operative pilots the Commissioners heard that initial ideas for pilot areas had been suggested. Further meetings are currently being held between the Divisional Director for PEP and council directors to discuss this work focusing on the methodology that will be used to select/implement pilots.

## **Initial Commission Meeting – Review**

The Commissioners felt that the first commission committee meeting went very well and that the level of debate was good. However in order to ensure future meetings do not repeat/go over the same issues the Commissioners agreed that future meetings should be themed to some extent – to ensure all issues in the Co-operative Council White Paper are explored. In addition, based on feedback at the commission meeting, council officers will review Business Meeting dates to ensure as many Commissioners as possible can attend these meetings.

It was also suggested that the Commissioners should seek to develop their working relationship further through an informal meeting in September. This would enable Commissioners to take-stock of work undertaken to date and consider next steps.

**Agreed: ON to look at the dates for the Commission Business Meetings to ensure that as many Commissioners as possible can attend.**

**Agreed: ON to look find a suitable date for the Commissioners to have an informal meeting.**

## **Community Engagement Update and Early Findings**

Officers provided Commissioners with an update on the public consultation and community engagement programme that is being implemented. Since the last business meeting the following activities have taken place:

- 4 Focus group meetings have been held.
- Attendance at Stockwell Partnership on the 13 July.
- Attendance at Norwood Forum on the 15 July
- The Co-operative Council had a presence at the Lambeth Country Show.
- There has been a Co-operative Council presence at 3 Expos (Streatham, Camberwell and Norwood. In addition, council officers will be attending the Norwood Expo this weekend (24-25 July).
- Officers met with the Green Community Champions on 21<sup>st</sup> July. The meeting was very informative and the Green Community Champions have asked for an open space event to be held in September, where they (and a wider range of citizens and community group) can discuss the Co-operative Council in more detail.
- Partners in health have expressed an interest in holding their own summit to discuss the white paper. This summit will focus on developing a joint health sector response to the Co-operative Council White Paper. Council officers are supporting NHS Lambeth in their planning of this event.

The Commissioners agreed that they should attend as many open events/events put on by partners as possible.

Commissioners were also provided with some high level initial feedback from the community engagement and consultation events held to date. Overall the response from community engagement events has been positive and people have been interested in the Co-operative Council work. A key next step in this community engagement work will be to provide practical examples of the new types of public service delivery models that the council may use.

The Commissioners were also briefed on early findings from the Focus Groups that have been held. Initial findings suggest that young, relatively affluent people in their 20s will be one of the most challenging groups to engage in local public service provision.

## Communications Update

The commission were told that in terms of external communications:

- A press release relating to the Co-operative Council had gone out
- Based on the press release the Streatham and Clapham Guardian and South London Press have covered the Co-operative Council.
- Two articles have been placed in Lambeth Life about the Co-operative Council.
- All the Web based and social media relating to the Co-operative Council was up, running and being promoted.
- The Co-operative council was on the front page of the next *Making A Difference* news letter as well as on the front page of the area news letters.

Building on this communications work the commission were told that additional information was needed for a number of op-ed/feature articles about the Co-operative Council. Specifically these articles would need to include examples of the changes that could be implemented as a result of the Co-operative Council work. The Commissioners discussed and agreed that these articles should be developed and that, where possible, existing local Co-operatives within Lambeth should be profiled.

**Agreed: Examples of Co-operatives to be provided to the Communications team to inform the development of a series of co-operative council articles.**

**Agreed: VH to profile local Co-operatives as part of this series of co-operative council articles.**

## Commission Public Meeting – 29 July

To date, 20 residents had confirmed that they will attend the public commission meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> July from 6pm-8.30pm in Room 8 of the Town Hall.

The Commissioners agreed that the format of the meeting would be as follows:

- Introduction and welcome by the chair of the Commission
- Short presentation by the Chair of the Commission
- Public questions and comments followed by a short break and then more questions and comments

Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive of the Royal Society of Arts and Martin Green Chief Executive of the English Community Care Association will be attending.

## AOB

There was none.

The meeting ended at 3pm.