



Lambeth

The Co-operative Council

A summary





On May 26, Councillor Steve Reed, the Leader of Lambeth Council, outlined a new vision for the organisation in a document called 'The Co-operative Council: A new settlement between citizens and public services, a new approach to public service delivery'. Local government faces huge challenges in the next decade caused by the international recession and councils across the country are investigating ways they can meet these financial challenges, while still delivering the good-quality services citizens and businesses expect.

What is a co-operative?

There are lots of different definitions of a co-operative. But when we talk about Lambeth becoming a co-operative council we are considering the opportunities to deliver traditional council services through co-operatives or mutuals. That is, not-for-profit businesses owned or part owned and controlled by local people or by the people who work there. The next section outlines some examples of how we are already using a co-operative approach in Lambeth.

The co-operative approach

Councils, like Lambeth, have needed the support and partnership of organisations and citizens for decades to run services. Schools have governing bodies (often made up of parents of children at those schools, among others), who help to make key decisions about how they are run. Similarly, most parks are supported by bodies of local people called 'friends of groups' (like Friends of Brockwell Park) who will organise clean ups, improve services and inform the council about any issues. In Lambeth, there are many examples of community groups and citizens working with us to run schools, children's centres, sports clubs, housing estates and environmental projects. The fact is, without your help, we could not be as effective as we are. In

recent years, this approach has been extended to personal care. Some of our residents who need social care have been provided with budgets they can use to choose and pay for the support they need. This has meant they are in full control and can use money for things that enhance their lives, like adaptations to their home, finding training to improve their chances of getting work, or for social activities they enjoy.



Taking the co-operative approach further

The document described in the introduction is the starting point for our consultation about whether we can extend this co-operative approach further and how we do it.

The citizens' commission

We would like Lambeth to be the first truly co-operative council in Britain. But there are a lot of questions and issues to consider first before we decide how we are going to take this idea forward and make it a reality. So that we can gather a broad range of views and opinions, we have set up a commission. The commission is a group of people who will listen to all of the views put forward and use them to recommend what we should do next. We have also sought out opinions from key people including local Members of Parliament, councillors, other councils, community groups and academics. The commission will conduct interviews with key people and consider all feedback before reporting how we go way forward in November 2010.

Taking part

There are a number of issues and questions in our document 'The Co-operative Council', about this idea which is available to view on our website www.lambeth.gov.uk/cooperativemunicipality.

The document is quite long at 51-pages and we understand that people do not have the time and opportunity to respond to a document of this size. So, we have put forward three questions here that we would welcome your views on. There are many ways you can submit your responses to these questions and they are described over.



If you would like us to send you more information about the co-operative council proposals please write your name, address and/or email on the form opposite and send it to us using the freepost address.

How to respond

You can use the form opposite to give us your views on these questions or on the co-operative council proposals more generally.

Alternatively, you can:

- Email cooperativemunicipality@lambeth.gov.uk
- Wiki – Take part in our on-line wiki which gives you the opportunity to comment and edit the text of our document with your own ideas.
- Twitter – You can join in the debate on Twitter by using the hash tag #lambethcoop
- Facebook – We have also set up a group on Facebook where you can discuss the co-operative council
- Events – We will be attending people's expos and the Lambeth Country Show on July 17 and 18. Come and tell us what you think. We will also be running a Co-operative Council roadshow in July and will be holding an open meeting where you can ask questions of the Co-operative Council commission. More details about events will be available on our website www.lambeth.gov.uk/cooperativemunicipality

How to keep up-to-date

The commission will meet regularly to discuss the feedback we are receiving. The minutes from their meetings will be available via our website www.lambeth.gov.uk and there will be stories about this consultation in Lambeth life.



Freepost RLSK-SSJL-KXKK
Room 113A
Lambeth Town Hall
Brixton
London SW2 1RW

Your views Lambeth Council's
cooperative council consultation

Fold here

1. What do you think of our proposals to become a co-operative council?
Do you have enough information to make a judgement? Yes No
If you need more information, what would you like more information about?

Name

Address

Email

Continued over



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2. Given the cuts that will be made to local government finance we need to consider new ways to deliver services to Lambeth residents. Thinking about the hundreds of services we provide, there are three key options for us to consider.
- a. The council could provide a service directly.
 - b. The council could pay a private company to deliver the service (if this provided better value for money). This is what we do at the moment for refuse collection, for example.
 - c. The council could pay and support local people to deliver a service themselves.

Can you please let us know which services you think definitely need to be provided by the council directly (no one but the council should provide them), which services you would be comfortable with private companies providing on our behalf and which you think could be provided by local people through co-operatives.

a. The council.

b. A private company.

c. Council pays and supports local people or voluntary/community groups to deliver a service themselves.

3. We are keen to get Lambeth residents involved as we seek to become the first co-operative council. We understand that for some people we will need to offer some encouragement.

Which, if any of these, would encourage you to use your skills in a local organisation delivering public services?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. A reduction in my council tax bill. | <input type="checkbox"/> g. Nothing would encourage me – I would not do it. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. A reduction in my rent or leasehold costs (council tenants/leaseholders only). | <input type="checkbox"/> h. Don't know. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c. Free or discounted leisure centre use | <input type="checkbox"/> i. Other (please specify). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d. Opportunity to make new friends. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> e. Opportunity to support my local community. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> f. Reward points which I could use to buy products or local services. | |

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Co-operative Council Commission
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Town Hall
Brixton Hill
Brixton SW2 1RW

Phone 0207 926 1000

Email cooperativecouncil@lambeth.gov.uk

Website www.lambeth.gov.uk/cooperativecouncil

Spanish

Si desea esta información en otro idioma,
rogamos nos llame al 0845 300 0328

Portuguese

Se desejar esta informação noutro idioma
é favor telefonar para 0845 300 0328

French

Si vous souhaitez ces informations dans une autre
langue veuillez nous contacter au 0845 300 0328

Bengali

এই তথ্য অন্য কোনো ভাষায় আপনার প্রয়োজন
হলে অনুগ্রহ করে ফোন করুন 0845 300 0328

Twi

Se wope saa nkaeboy yi wo kasa foforo
mu a fre 0845 300 0328

Yoruba

Tí ẹ ba fẹ ìmoràn yíí, ní èdè Òmíràn, ẹjò,
ẹ kàn wà l'ágogo 0845 300 0328

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print, in Braille, on audio tape or in another
language, please phone 0845 300 0328.**