

**The Cooperative Council Citizens Commission  
Room 125, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton**

**12.45am – 2.00pm**

**6 September 2010**

**Minutes**

**PRESENT**

**Commissioners:** Cllr Steve Reed  
Cllr Jackie Meldrum  
Lord Victor Adebawale  
Richard Bridge  
Martin Green  
Srabani Sen

**Delegates:** Ching Wah Wong, Programme Manager, Clapham Park  
Susan de Swarte, Chair Norwood Forum  
Robert Doyle, Streatham Action  
Giles Gibson, Herne Hill Forum  
Maureen Johnson, KOV  
Melissa Knight, Crystal Palace Community Foundation  
John McCay, Stockwell Partnership  
Barbara Patterson, SE5 Forum for Camberwell  
Derrick Anderson, Chief Executive, Lambeth

**Officers supporting**

**Commission:** Thomas Man, Senior Policy Officer, Lambeth  
Julie Stoltman, Senior Projects Officer, Lambeth  
Ofordi Nabokei, Policy Officer, Lambeth  
Sophia Looney, Director of Policy, Equalities and  
Performance, Lambeth  
Charlotte Evans, Active Communities, Lambeth  
Sarah Coyte, Active Communities, Lambeth  
Anne Nunn, Democratic Services, Lambeth

**APOLOGIES**

**1. Welcome and introductions**

The Chair of the Commission, Councillor Steve Reed, welcomed everyone and highlighted the aims and objectives of the meeting.

**2. Lambeth Forum Network (LFN) Feedback**

Representatives from LFN provided the following comments on the Cooperative Council model:

- The role of the Council should be as a strong community partner rather than a community leader.
- As community projects often derived from small changes, this ought to be given a higher priority to ensure that the community can act on those changes.
- The proposed model was seen as an opportunity to embrace further local partnership working. This would require a culture shift within the Council which was important as it would signify the success of the Cooperative Council model.
- There was a need to empower communities to create a level playing field and to build on existing practices.
- The LFN was committed to assist in delivering the Cooperative Council model but there was a need to further clarify the role of the model in a way which could be easily disseminated to communities, including how the model would be financed, how to cooperate with Council officers and the governance arrangements surrounding the model.

Councillor Steve Reed, welcomed the positive feedback from LFN representatives and provided the following comments:

- The relationship between the state and the citizen would need to be resettled.
- Solutions to future service delivery would be developed through a bottom-up approach by communities and it was important to note that there would be a variety of solutions to different issues.
- The Council was committed to ensuring that communities were given freedom to design and deliver services according to their priorities. It was recognised that communities were better placed to design and deliver some services but in doing so it was vital to recognise that specific support would be required by communities.
- There was a need to further consider the interrelations between corporate and local outcomes and community organisations would need to be consulted on this.
- It was important to ensure that existing resources were utilised and shared. The Council should be seen to be enabling different ways of working and utilising capacities in the community to enable sharing of creativity.