

The Co-operative Council Commission

Business Meeting

Wednesday 11th June 2010, 10.30am – 11.30 am

Lambeth Town Hall, Room 106

This is a Public Document

Minutes

PRESENT: Cllr Reed leader of the Council; Cllr McGlone; Cllr Meldrum;
Sophia Looney, Divisional Director, Policy, Equality and
Performance; Erica Ballmann, Head of Leader's Office,
Ofordi Nabokei, Policy Officer

APOLOGIES: Mike Wiltshire, Policy Manager.

1. Progress Update and processes

The meeting was told that over 500 people had been sent the cooperative council document and invited to submit evidence to the commission. The invite list, originally based on the council's stakeholder list but now extended, includes resident and tenant groups, community interest groups, equalities groups (local and national) membership of the local strategic partnership, civil servants, think tanks, academics, and all local politicians. The invite list is not closed and additional individuals or groups can continue to be added. A positive response had been forthcoming to date, and the Policy team are to follow up on all invitations in the coming weeks. .

Commission members asked for reassurance that those invited to be on the Commission would be truly representative of the local community. The consultation plan and the methods to support as inclusive and methodology as possible to ensure representativeness was discussed. The community engagement aspect of the project was set out. The plans include:

- Questions included in the Residents Survey (standard format for the survey means that the questions will be asked of 1000 adults and 500 young people; it is a representative sample and will be a focus for questions in two waves of questioning – July 2010 and September 2010);
- Focus groups (with attendees drawn from a representative sample of the population, these deliberative events will capture the qualitative data about whether the concepts of cooperation are possible, practical and if residents are content to build a different relationship with the council);
- Presence at the Lambeth Country Fair and all the upcoming Expos, with opportunities for people to discuss with officers and/or members the ideas and formally feedback via questionnaire style forms;
- An open house commission session for all members of the public to come and ask questions and give their feedback about the white paper;

- A conference style event to test out the commission's early thinking
- The social media sites are being used to capture people's views and suggestions
- A large number of community groups had been invited to the commission, with discussion already started with the community forum network about other ways we can engage with local groups and residents.

In addition to the above the easy-read version of the white paper is in the process of being finalised which would make the discussions available to a wider audience. It was also suggested that a feedback form or questionnaire could be sent to everyone.

Consensus was that it is important everyone in each ward has their say something akin to a 'big conversation' about the Co-operative Council and that councillors should be involved in this process and find out what outcomes are wanted in their wards.

The research and consultation team will work with the communications team to draw up a full programme setting out the detail of this engagement and this will be made available via the website by the end of June 2010 (SL)

The meeting discussed the core questions needed to be answered as part of the commission's work. 5 questions / issues that will need to be considered throughout the course of the commission were agreed to be broadly the following:

- How can we ensure that services remain accessible, be of the right quality and address the real needs of the community?
- How can we prevent any developments being taken over by particular parts of the community at the exclusion of others?
- What capacity does the community need?
- How will value for money be delivered?
- How will democratic accountability be ensured for services that become either a mutual or a co-operative (for example) and that are no longer provided by the local authority?

The research and consultation team will work to establish the core questions which need to be addressed to support the citizen engagement. These questions will be circulated to members of this group for comment and agreement by the 22 June 2010 (SL)

Active learning with regards to the use of mutuals and co-operatives in service areas was discussed and it was decided that areas for pilots and a number of pilots should be identified. These pilots would need to be across a wide spread of sectors so that any information gained could be applied in a variety of settings.

A list of potential pilot services and/or existing coops that we can work with to inform the commission's deliberations will be established and presented to the next business meeting of the commissioners. (SL)

2. Social media.

The meeting was told that the Communications department were monitoring all the social media sites, escalating any issues where necessary and capturing and analysing the information on a weekly basis.

3. Any other business.

None.

The meeting ended at 11:30am