

# The Co-operative Council Commission Business Meeting

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2010 10:00 –  
Lambeth Town Hall, Room 106

## This is a Public Document

### Minutes

#### PRESENT:

#### Commissioners

- Cllr Jackie Meldrum, Commissioner
- Cllr Paul McGlone

#### Officers supporting the commission:

- Sophia Looney, Divisional Director Policy, Equality and Performance
- Julian Ellerby, Divisional Director of Campaigns and Communications
- Mike Wiltshire, Policy Manager
- Sharon Garforth Project Officer

#### Apologies

- Cllr Steve, Reed,

#### Progress Update/Next Steps

Council officers provided Commissioners with an update on the current status of the Co-operative Council work. Commissioners were informed that since their last business meeting the following progress had been made:

- The Commission had held five meetings since July, where it has heard oral evidence from 26 organisations. Apart from the meeting on 24 September, four other commission meetings are scheduled:
  - **11 October:** This meeting is targeted at senior council staff and seeks to gather a range of views from Divisional Directors on the Co-op Council proposals.
  - **13 October am:** External delegate meeting.
  - **13 October pm:** External delegate meeting.
  - **25 October:** The Leader of Lambeth's Liberal Democrat Party and the Leader of Lambeth's Conservative Party and external delegates
- The Policy Team within PEP had undertaken a research and analysis programme to inform the development of the Co-operative Council final report. The findings of this research would be fed

into the Commission's thinking at appropriate points. Key topics which have been included in this research programme are:

- Promoting innovation in the public sector
- Models of co-operation
- Reciprocity and incentives
- Public sector supporting employment
- Customer service

An additional research strand on financial models was due to commence. The Policy Team was currently seeking the input of Corporate Finance to aid this work.

- The Research and Consultation team within PEP had developed reports setting out the key findings of the Co-operative Council Focus Groups and findings of the Residents Survey questions, which focussed on the Co-operative Council. The Policy and Research and Consultation Teams were drawing the findings of these research/analysis strands together to report them to the Co-operative Council Commission and Reference Group.
- In addition the Commission continued to take receipt of a number of written submissions from a wide range of national, regional and local bodies on the Co-operative Council proposals. The Commission had set a deadline of 15 October for submission of all written evidence and council officers would start evaluation of this evidence once the deadline had past.
- The minutes of the two Commission meetings on 6 September and the meeting on 13 September had been posted online. Officers were currently reviewing the minutes of 15 and 17 September meetings and these would be posted shortly.
- The PEP Division was undertaking an analysis of submissions received to date (oral/written) to identify whether any questions within the Co-operative Council submission remain unanswered or whether there are any further questions to address
- Officers had developed a series of case study papers setting out examples of co-operative working already taking place within Lambeth. These included: X-it/2XL, Barrett and Salazar CIC, Community Freshview, Green Man Skills Zone, Homelessness Accommodation Commissioning Strategy, London Mutual, Sports Action Zone, Vauxhall BID and Weir Link Children's Centre. Building on this, officers were looking at developing a series of national case studies to inform the Commission's thinking.

Commissioners noted that front line staff would be able to contribute to the debate about the Co-operative Council, as the Chief Executive's next question and answer session would include the Co-operative Council as one of its topics. Separate workshop sessions for frontline staff were also being considered. It was also suggested that the draft report should include a section on the infrastructure required to support the move to a Co-operative Council which might include, for example providing community groups with internet connections.

Commissioners discussed some suggestions to enable Commissioners to reflect on, and review, the evidence and move towards a final report. It was felt that there should be a workshop for commissioners in November to provide strategic direction for officers in writing a draft report. This could be followed by a challenge session in December. The Commission's report would be submitted to Lambeth Council's Cabinet in January. The report was to be launched at an event in late January (28 January). It was also noted that there might need to be multiple versions of the final report directed at specific audiences.

**Agreed: JE to invite Commissioners to the next Chief Executives Q and A session.**  
**Agreed: MW to plan programme for the development of the final report**

## Community Engagement/Stakeholder Management

Commissioners were informed that since the last Co-operative Council Citizens' Commission Business Meeting, the following actions had been undertaken with regard to Community Engagement/Stakeholder Management:

- There had been continued rollout of the community engagement programme. To date officers had held a number of stakeholder consultation events where the views of partner organisations and citizens had been sought on the Co-operative Council proposals. These included:
  - **11 September:** Vauxhall Expo
  - **14 September:** Lambeth Voluntary Action AGM – which focused on the Co-operative Council
  - **14 September:** Lambeth Business Support Network meeting
  - **15 September:** Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership meeting
  - **21 September:** Joint Lambeth Council and NHS Lambeth Co-operative Council Health Summit.
  - **22 September:** Joint Lambeth LINK and Lambeth Council Public Meeting
  - **23 September:** Co-operative Council Public Meeting
- A number of other stakeholder/consultation events are also planned over the coming weeks. These included:
  - **24 September:** CYPSP Away Day – The Future of Partnership Working
  - **25 September:** Stockwell Expo
  - **30 September:** Lambeth VCS Health and Wellbeing Forum
  - **30 September:** Southbank Local Community Forum
  - **1 October:** Lambeth Co-operative Council Open Spaces Event
  - **5 October:** Lambeth Wellbeing Network Event
  - **7 October:** Streatham Action Local Community Forum
  - **19 October:** Safer Lambeth Partnership Meeting
- As part of the council's stakeholder management programme the council had agreed to host an NLGN Knowledge Exchange conference at the Town Hall on the 19 October. This event would allow the council to showcase the Co-operative Council work to other local authorities, who are part of the NLGN Knowledge Exchange network. The central part of the day would be a series of site visits to local projects which the council/community work co-operatively on and a series of roundtable sessions where projects will come and present their work to the delegates. In addition the Secretary General of Co-operatives UK would be providing a talk in the afternoon.

Commissioners expressed a particular interest in gathering views from tenants and residents groups. It was noted that Watford Community Housing Trust had been invited to a Commission meeting. It was also suggested that further research on national housing co-operatives and TMOs would be helpful.

### **Agreed: MW to follow up examples of housing co-operative good practise to feed into the Commission's work**

## Communications

Commissioners noted that the Marketing and Communications team was focusing on awareness raising and that the following actions have been undertaken with regard to communications:

- The Council's Marketing and Communications team was now meeting every two weeks to support the communication/stakeholder management of the Co-operative Council programme.

- Lambeth Life and the Leaders Blog continued to showcase the Co-operative Council work and examples of how this was working in practice.
- Area Newsletters might be used, in the future, to promote the localness of the Co-operative Council and the mechanisms to put these in place were being explored.
- The council's Communications Teams are currently pitching to sector "trade" publications to secure coverage of the Co-operative Council work.
- Consultation and community engagement events have been promoted on Facebook and Twitter. In addition, information had been placed on the council's website.
- The LGA Labour Group and Leadership Centre had published a report entitled "Co-operative Communities" which set out the case for co-operative ways of working. Lambeth's Co-operative Council work and Lambeth specific case studies feature in the document.
- NLGN are due to publish a report on using co-operative approaches to deliver public services. Again, Lambeth and Lambeth Case Studies feature within the report.
- Cllr. Reed and Derrick Anderson had contributed to a piece for Local Government TV which sets out the work of the Co-operative Council.
- The Council's Executive Director for Finance has developed a financial article for the Municipal Journal – which focuses on the Co-operative Council.
- In the longer term Communications intended to convert the 'making a difference' campaign into the 'Co-operative Council'.

### **Pilots and prototypes**

The Divisional Director PEP reported a number of actions which had taken place since the last meeting. Opportunities for pilots were being discussed with service managers. There was support for these from staff and some energy to pursue this route in the community. There were a number of potential areas. Some would become fully funded pilots whereas others might develop from work already in progress in a more organic fashion.

**Agreed : SL to prepare a paper outlining the various suggestions for projects, including scoping, method and approach for consideration by the Commission.**

### **Equalities**

The commission noted that since the last Co-operative Council Citizens' Commission Business Meeting the following actions had been undertaken with regard to equalities issues:

- Officers had completed the stage one EIA for the Co-operative Council White Paper. This was reviewed by the Council's Equalities Impact Assessment Panel on the 22 September
- Building on the panel's feedback and the stage one EIA findings, officers within PEP were currently undertaking further detailed analysis to ensure the ideas/proposals within the Co-operative Council White Paper did not have a negative impact on our equalities groups. The findings of this analysis would go through critical-challenge by the council's Corporate Equalities Board in October and would be reported to the Co-operative Council Commission.

### **Any Other Business**

There was none.

The meeting ended at 11:00 am