



London Civic Forum June 2011 e-bulletin

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FORUM NEWS

London Civic Forum

Invites you to our

Extraordinary General Meeting and future planning session

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Monday 20th June 2011

The Friends' Meeting House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

Since 2000 London Civic Forum has played a key role in supporting Londoners engage with and influence the policies and strategies which affect their lives. In London's fast changing political and economic environment, the work we do is more important than ever.

We have just been awarded a major grant from the Cabinet Office Transition Fund. Over the next year we will use this grant to ensure greater resilience and a sustainable future for our work to improve civic participation in London.

Your support and input is critical to our future planning so please do join us at our EGM. We want to hear your views on how we can best continue to work with Londoners to improve engagement, and which activities and programmes we should be developing and prioritising.

Details of the Special Resolution to be considered at the EGM, along with a proxy voting form if you are unable to attend, were sent to members in a previous email; if you haven't received it or need another copy of the form, then please contact us at info@londoncivicforum.org.uk

The meeting will be followed by networking and refreshments

*(please note that only Full members can vote on the Special Resolution but all

members and stakeholders are welcome to join the discussion)

To book a place or for more information please email: info@londoncivicforum.org.uk

Transition Fund update

As reported in our last e-bulletin, London Civic Forum has received a Transition Fund grant from the Office for Civil Society which offers us a unique and very important opportunity to complete what the role and remit review started last year.

LCF was launched in 2000 to provide a 'civic safeguard' to the powers of the Mayor within the Greater London Authority (GLA) Act. However, since its inception LCF's role has expanded to champion civic engagement and participation across London on all levels and forms of governance and decision making that impact upon Londoners. However, LCF has not had a source of dedicated core funding for three years. Until 2008, core costs were covered by a grant from the Mayor of London and following that by management fees allocated in two government grants which have recently finished.

An extensive and independent Review of LCF's role and remit was conducted in 2010 involving surveys and interviews with members and stakeholders and the changed role and focus of LCF was confirmed. The Review also looked at the raised activity, both by statutory and voluntary agencies, in civic participation, resulting in increased interest, and increased competition in the field. There are now many players in the field, although LCF remains different in that it is focused on civic participation for all London's communities has a cross-sector membership and concentrates on enabling others to have a voice.

The extent of public spending cuts have now become more apparent and all grant-funded organisations need to look long and hard at how they can best ensure the achievement of their aims.

The lack of core funding is a major inhibitor for LCF. While we have proved adept at delivering projects to a high standard and have demonstrated the need for an organisation such as LCF; if money is not there to fund our overheads and core costs, we cannot continue. The Transition Fund grant will enable LCF to consider and develop a business model, which maybe of a social enterprise, merger or joint venture approach, in order to become a more resilient and agile operation; able to take opportunities presented by a changing funding environment and be sustainable for the future.

Towards a new business model for LCF

London Civic Forum has now appointed Micah Gold Associates to scope and assess these possible business models for LCF. Their work will build on the Review of LCF's role and remit conducted in 2010 to consider what LCF needs to do and what form it should take, to most effectively achieve its aims and strategic objectives. The scoping and assessment must consider the suitability and effectiveness of different ways forward within the context of the present voluntary and community sector environment in London, current, and possible future, political landscape and economic background. This is likely later to involve restructuring governance arrangements and recruiting and skilling trustees. LCF is committed to working with members on the identification and analysis of different options, and the EGM is one such opportunity.

... and a new learning offer for Londoners

The Transition Fund grant will also enable us to deliver a learning programme based on the Take Part approach which has proved so successful over the past year, and

continue to offer bespoke support to organisations across sectors; working with them to better enable local people get active in their communities and influence the decisions which affect their lives.

Alongside this, we'll be creating a brand new package of active citizenship learning opportunities that will fit into a future LCF, and enable Londoners to gain new confidence, knowledge and skills for greater civic participation in the capital. For more information on any aspect of our Learning Offer, please contact Kate Burls, Take Part Learning Manager, at: kateb@londoncivicforum.org.uk or on 020 8709 9773.

Athletes Village 2013> A model of community led regeneration and neighbourhood development? Thursday 28 July 2011 Toynbee Hall 9:30 am. – 1:00 p.m.

This seminar will bring together policy makers and community organisations to explore the challenges and opportunities for community led regeneration presented by the transformation of the Athletes Village on the Olympic Park into a new neighbourhood in East London in 2013/14. The seminar will also look at what aspects of the development might be a model for other regeneration initiatives across London. Speakers from the following organisations are scheduled to participate; London Civic Forum, Olympic Park Legacy Company, Olympic Delivery Authority, London East Research Institute, Toynbee Hall, London Citizens, and Shelter. If you would like more information about this event please e-mail Paul Bower paul@londoncivicforum.org.uk

A free seminar produced by London Civic Forum, London Citizens, London East Research Institute and Shelter and supported by London Tenants Federation

A Legacy Fund for London

London Civic Forum in partnership London Funders has initiated discussions and begun scoping options on how funders might join together with private funders and individuals to create a Legacy Fund for London in 2013 capitalising on the possibilities created by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. A preliminary meeting between key funders was held at the end of May at the offices of sport for development charity SportEd. The meeting looked at the experience of the LA 84 Foundation which is still distributing funds to community organisations 27 years after the LA Games and the challenges of setting up a similar fund in London. A paper describing the experience and learning from the LA 84 Foundation written by London Civic Forum can be found at

<http://www.thebigopportunity.org.uk/research--policy.html>

If you have any views on how a legacy fund might support London's voluntary and community sector organisations and capitalise on the spirit of the Games, then please e-mail Paul Bower on paul@londoncivicforum.org.uk

Communities and Local Government Select Committee Report Launch

In November 2010 London Civic Forum's director Lorraine Roberts gave evidence to the CLG Select Committee investigation examining the Government's intention to decentralise power and decision-making to communities and local agencies.

A report from the investigation has just been launched. Clive Betts, Chair of the CLG

Committee, when launching the report said “The Government has to be clear about what type of localism it wants to pursue. At present there is no generally agreed definition of the term that helps everyone understand, for example, what the future role of local government will be. Consequently, most Government departments have adopted whatever definition of ‘localism’ suits their aims, and some key areas of policy remain notably more centralised than others.”

For more information and a copy of the report:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-archive/clg/>

For a copy of LCFs submission to the Select Committee;

<http://www.londoncivicforum.org.uk/we-say/>

Vacancy at London Civic Forum

LCF is seeking a part-time administrative officer to work 21hrs per week, to include Thursdays and Fridays, starting as soon as possible until December 2011 (possible extension to end March 2012).

Responsibilities include usual admin support such answering enquiries via ‘phone and email, liaison with suppliers, maintaining records and systems, data entry, note taking and organising and servicing meetings. In addition there will be some small event organising; sourcing and booking venues, refreshments, taking bookings, coordinating papers etc.

Salary is £21,752 pa. pro rata.(inclusive of ILW)

At least one year’s relevant experience is required and applicants should send details of this (in the form of a CV /list of past roles with dates) along with details of two references, and when you would be able to start, to info@londoncivicforum.org.uk or London Civic Forum, 18a Victoria Park Square, E2 9PB

Full job description and person specification please email the address above or go to www.londoncivicforum.org.uk

*Deadline for applications: **noon 29th June***

Shortlisted applicants will be notified on 5th July and interviews will take place on 7th or 8th July.

THE MAYOR AND GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Analysis of the Alternative Vote referendum results in London

The Greater London Authority has provided an analysis of the results of the Alternative Vote referendum in London. Its findings include:

- over two-thirds of the UK voted to keep the ‘first past the post’ system, however, the proportion was lower in London at 60%;
- London had the highest ‘Yes’ vote in the country (in Hackney);
- Six of the 33 London boroughs had a majority of voters voting ‘yes’ to adopting the new alternative vote system. These were: Hackney, Islington, Camden, Haringey, Southwark and Lambeth;
- London showed a much wider variation of results compared with other regions; and
- areas with a high ‘No’ vote tended to also display a high conservative vote share in

the 2010 local elections.

[alternative vote](#)

Mayoral Community Infrastructure Levy consultation

Closing Date:

8 July 2011

On 8 June the Mayor published his latest proposals for a new Londonwide Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on development in the capital. The Mayoral CIL Draft Charging Schedule is now out for public consultation until 8 July 2011.

The levy is intended to raise £300 million towards the delivery of Crossrail, which is essential to the capital's growing economy and to ensuring it remains a competitive global business centre in the 21st century. It forms part of the funding package for the project agreed between the Mayor and ministers.

[find out more about consultation](#)

Mayor Launches 'Reading Ambassadors' for new kids scheme

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson launched a new reading and literacy project to help young children (aged 3-5 years) who are struggling with their learning development. The scheme will work with families and equip them with the skills to boost their children's literacy and prepare them for school entry. Popstar Peter Andre joined the Mayor at the launch, alongside local school children and their parents at Botwell Green Library.

The new project is part of Team London, the Mayor's strategy to harness volunteers and philanthropic money to deliver key projects to improve the quality of life and opportunities of Londoners. The scheme, run by the National Literacy Trust, will recruit 500 volunteers from across the city who will work with over 2,000 families in 12 boroughs.

[find out more about ambassadors](#)

Community Conversations - tackling youth violence

GLA are holding a series of conversation events for people concerned about crime in their local community. These are being held in areas of London that suffer from high levels of youth violence. They want to hear your views on what they can do together to tackle this serious issue.

[Find out more about Community Conversations](#)

Crime and Community Safety Roadshows

They are also holding Crime and Community Safety Roadshows to discuss how the GLA can improve our work with communities to tackle violent crime.

[Find out more about the Crime and Community Safety Roadshows](#)

THE LONDON ASSEMBLY

London Assembly Members questioning the Mayor

Part of the job of Assembly Members is to question the Mayor and his team on their plans for London. One of the main ways they do this is through Mayor's Question Time

meetings.

[find out more about questiontime](#)

London Assembly Investigations

- State of the Underground

How well is the Tube really performing? And to what extent have the promises made when the upgrade programme began eight years ago been realised?

- 2012 skills and employment

Will low-skilled and unemployed Londoners get a shot at 2012 jobs?

- Time for Action Programme

What progress is the Mayor's Time for Action programme making to prevent youth violence and equip young people for the future?

- Tube and bus fares

Transport for London is suggesting that bus and Tube fares will need to rise by two per cent above inflation each year until 2015. Is this really necessary and what is being done to keep fares to a minimum?

- The Mayor's budget

The Assembly scrutinises the Mayor's budget each year to assess how his proposals could affect transport, fire and police services, as well as City Hall.

- Fuel poverty in London

Is London on track to meet the Government's target of eradicating fuel poverty by 2016? What more can the Mayor and energy companies do to help?

- Private rented sector housing in London

More and more people are living in London's private rented sector, but are conditions in these properties up to scratch?

- Economic development in London

What is the Mayor's role in promoting economic development and how will this role change after the planned abolition of the London Development Agency (LDA)?

<http://www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/the-london-assembly/investigations>

London Assembly Annual Report for 2010-11

This report sets out the work of the Assembly over the year to April 2011 in a number of key areas.

The report details how the London Assembly has looked at the actions of the Mayor and his advisers, and the finances and performance of City Hall and London's transport, police, fire and regeneration agencies.

We've also summarised our work on the priorities Londoners identified in the Greater London Authority's Annual London Survey:

- Safety and policing
- Housing and planning
- Transport
- Health and community
- London's economy
- Environment and climate change
- The 2012 Games

<http://www.london.gov.uk/publication/london-assembly-annual-report-2010-11>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Nominate Your Inspirational Londoner to Carry the Olympic Torch

London 2012 is looking for 8,000 Torchbearers to carry the Olympic Flame across the UK during the Olympic Torch Relay in the summer of 2012.

You can now nominate someone you know to be a London 2012 Torchbearer.

The Olympic Torch Relay takes place from 19 May 2012, when it starts at Lands End, to 27 July 2012, when it arrives at the Olympic stadium in the London Borough of Newham. The Olympic torch will pass through every London Borough in the week before the Games begin

To find out more about the Torch Relay route and how you can nominate someone to take part in the 8,000 mile Olympic torch relay visit

www.london2012.com/olympictorchrelay

London 2012 are inviting nominations for people who have made a difference and inspired their communities. The process is open until midnight **29 June 2011**.

Remember:

- Nominees and nominators must be over 12 years of age at the date of nomination
- There is no upper age limit
- Applications are welcomed from disabled people
- Nominees must be resident, and have an address, in the British Isles (not including the Republic of Ireland).
- London 2012 are looking for inspirational people from all walks of life not just people involved in sport

Posters to promote the Torch Relay nomination process can be downloaded courtesy of Podium by clicking here.

Docklands Regeneration: Looking Back, Looking Forward.

An afternoon to discuss and reflect on the regeneration of Docklands, past present and future

28th June between 1.45- 5pm at the Royal Docks Campus, University of East London, University Way London E16 2RD, opposite Cyprus DLR station.

Attendance is free but please register in advance to secure a place in a workshop as well as the afternoon seminar. Please reply to Karen Hughes (khughes@brookes.ac.uk) by **June 22nd**. Further details on the venue will be sent nearer the date.

East London and Docklands have seen many regeneration initiatives over the past forty years including local authority-led plans, the LDDC, the People's Plan and two eras of Enterprise Zones. Yet still the area faces major regeneration needs. This event will review the development approaches since the 1980s and discuss the way forward.

You will hear from key players in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors about their perceptions of Dockland's regeneration needs and suggested ways forward in addressing the needs of communities in the future regeneration of East London.

Confirmed speakers include Sister Christine, Prof Mike Raco (UCL), Eric Sorensen (Ex-LDDC), Bob Colenutt (JDAG, GLC), Sarah Ruiz (Newham CVS) and Howard Dawber (Strategic Advisor, Canary Wharf).

If you have any further questions, please email (sbrownill@brookes.ac.uk.)

Sheila McKechnie Foundation Campaigner Awards

Are you, or is someone you know, campaigning to make a positive change in society?

Apply now and you could win a Sheila McKechnie Foundation Campaigner Award, which will equip you with the right skills to become a more effective campaigner.

The award categories are;

Consumer Action, Environment, International Campaigner, Local Campaigner, London Social Justice, Shout Out!, Social and Economic Justice, Take Action and Transport.

It is free to apply and all costs relating to participation in the programme will be covered by the Sheila McKechnie Foundation.

For further information about the awards programme, <http://www.smk.org.uk/smk-awards-2011>

If you would like to nominate someone for an award or would like to talk to us about the awards programme, please contact Mustafa on 020 7700 8231 or mustafa.korel@smk.org.uk

Deadlines for applications are **1pm on Monday 20th June 2011.**

Get ready for Power Up 2011

Friends of the Earth are excited to be running Power Up, a unique training weekend on the planning system and your legal rights to improve your local community.

Power Up starts from 6pm on Friday July 1, through to 4pm on Sunday July 3, 2011.

Queen Mary University, University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS

Get the knowledge, confidence and contacts to use the system and make a difference where you live. You'll leave feeling inspired and energised - ready to apply new skills to your local issues.

Workshops on

- The planning system, how it is changing and how to be involved
- Community film making
- Getting your wider community engaged in your campaign
- Freedom of information laws
- Judicial review
- Networking with other campaigners from London and across the UK and much much more!

An introductory 'taster' session is available for those who are new to campaigning and planning. Please contact us for more details.

Who

You don't need to be an expert, but you will be active and keen to make a difference. Power Up is particularly for people working in disadvantaged areas and with groups whose voices are not usually heard in decision making. When you get in touch you'll be sent an application form to apply for a place.

Cost

All places are subsidised by Friends of the Earth. We ask for a contribution to help cover accommodation and meals.

Full residential place £75

Free concessionary places are available for unwaged (Unemployed / Students / Pensioners).

Please ask for more information.

All accommodation, meals and refreshments are included.

To apply for a place and for further information:

Talk Action

Tel: 02073244774

Email: jelliott@talkaction.org

Engaging Communities in Climate Change

20th June, 2011, 10:00-16:00, TCPA, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AS

The Course:

Organisations and individuals need to take energy and climate change issues into account when planning their work. Delivering climate goals will require the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, including community organisations.

This course will teach you the skills and information needed to develop long-term engagement of civil society organisations, groups and individuals in work on climate change and low-carbon living.

The new Localism Bill stresses the need for better community engagement: the question is how to make that engagement happen on this complex issue. While some groups are active on limiting and adapting to climate change, this poses unique challenges to the majority who may have other interests and priorities.

This course outlines why climate change can be a particularly problematic issue for communities, how to overcome this and how this links to issues around the new Localism Bill and the 'Big Society'.

Cost:

£288: Large Charities, Public Sector and Businesses

£130: Small Charities and Independent Consultants

Concessionary rates available for students, pensioners and unemployed. Please contact Corinna Luther at corinna@talkaction.org for further details.

For bookings and further information, please contact: corinna@talkaction.org, Tel: 0207 324 4774

The venue is fully accessible with wheelchair-accessible lavatory facilities.

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<http://twitter.com/shapeyourcity>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Your-Voice-Your-City/196113707837?ref=nf>

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