



Your Voice Matters

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Project Booklet

October 13 2008

Our vision is to help new citizens from all ethnic backgrounds become more active UK citizens and provide them with a powerful voice with which to express their needs and hopes for life in the UK.

This is the Booklet for our project "Your Voice Matters" developed by New Citizens Voice for Southwark Council. It is about civic education for new citizens who are residents of the borough.

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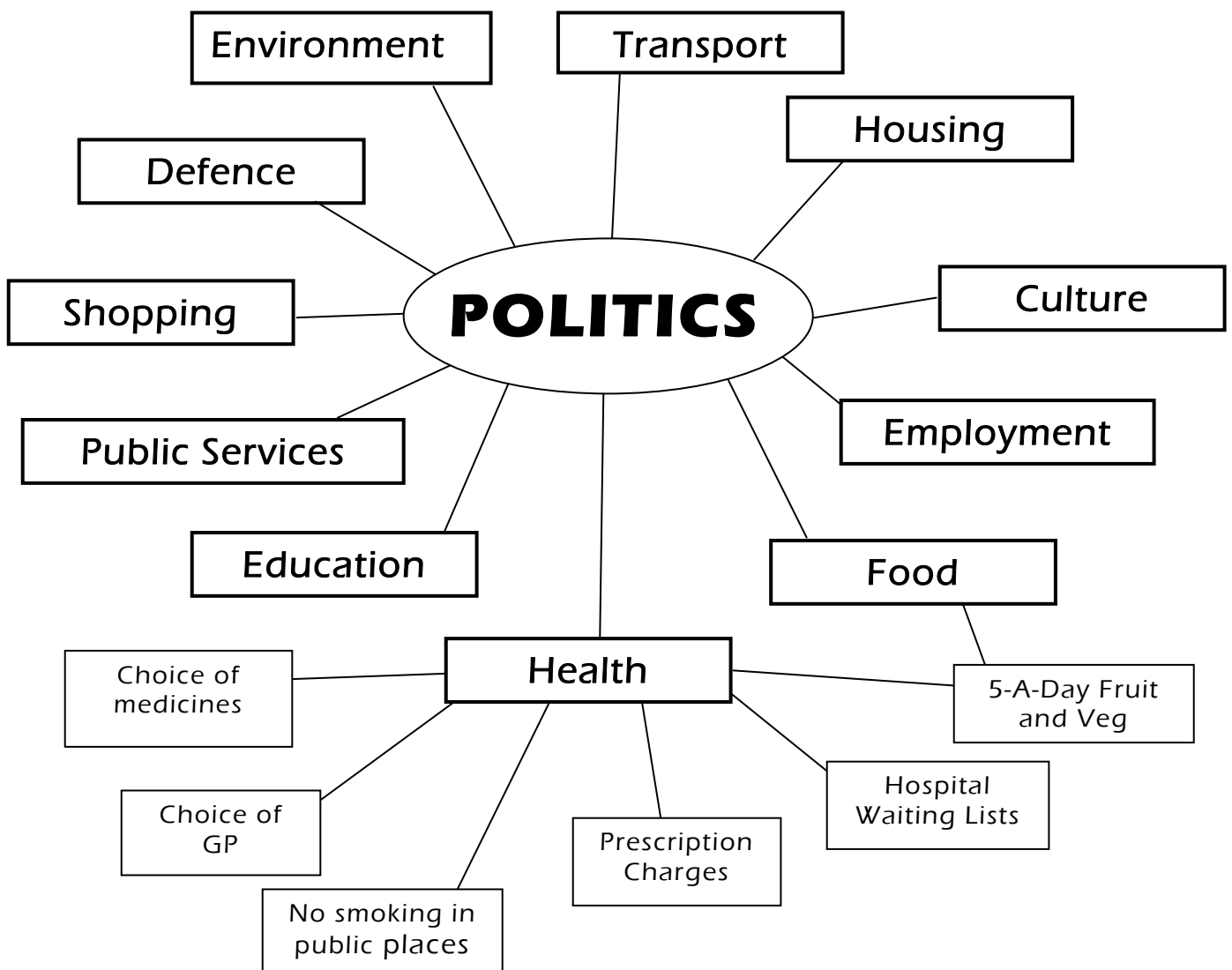
New Citizens Voice in partnership with Southwark Council

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POLITICS AND US

Politics affects almost everything, below are some examples – you can probably think of more. Elections are important as they are our chance to affect politics and shape the decisions which affect our lives.



ELECTION GLOSSARY

BALLOT	A secret vote
BALLOT BOX	Sealed box into which voters put completed ballot papers
CABINET	Leaders of the government chosen and headed by the Prime Minister
CANDIDATE	Someone who stands for election
CANVASS	To seek people's votes at election time
CONSERVATIVE PARTY	Political party, sometimes called the Tory Party
CONSTITUENCY	An area that elects one MP
ELECTOR	A person who has the right to vote in an election, also called a voter
ELECTORATE	Those who can vote in a particular election
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Elected chamber of Parliament . It consists of MPs
HOUSE OF LORDS	Unelected chamber of Parliament
LABOUR PARTY	Political party
LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARTY	Political party

MANIFESTO	A printed statement from the main political parties saying what they will do if they are elected
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
MP	Member of Parliament – member of the House of Commons . One MP is elected for every constituency
PARLIAMENT	Law-making body, comprising the House of Commons , the House of Lords .
POLL	Voting in an election
POLLING BOOTH	The place where a voter stands to mark the ballot paper in secret
POLLING CARD	The card which is sent to you before an election which tells you where and when to vote
REFERENDUM	A general vote by the electorate on a single political question
SURGERY	An occasion when an MP or Councillor is available to give advice and answer questions
WARD	Part of a borough or city represented by Councillors

Source: adapted from BBC Website

WHO CAN VOTE

	LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS	GENERAL ELECTIONS	EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS	GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS
BRITISH CITIZENS	✓	✓	✓	✓
COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS	✓	✓	✓	✓
IRISH CITIZENS RESIDENT IN UK	✓	✓	✓	✓
EUROPEAN UNION CITIZENS	✓		EU elections can only vote in EU elections if they first sign a UC1 form.	✓
BRITISH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES	✓	✓	✓	✓

London Borough of Southwark

Voter Registration Form

Please use **BLACK INK** and **BLOCK CAPITALS**. If you need help filling in this form, please phone 020 7525 7373.
Use this form if you have moved house, will soon be 18 years old or just absent from the electoral register.

1 About you, only one person's details per form.

First names in full:		Age (please tick)	18 or over		70 or over	
Surname:						
2 About your current address, at which you are now living		If you do not wish your name to appear on the edited register please tick (see section 7)				
		Please state your Nationality				
		For information about postal voting please tick here				
		Your daytime telephone number or email address. You do not have to give these but it may help us resolve any queries quickly.				
Date you moved in						

3 About where you used to be registered as an elector.

(If you are a student you may remain on the register at your old address and also register at your University/College Address)

Address and postcode:	
Name of your old local council, if known:	

4 We will take your name off the register for your old address.

However, if you believe you should still also be registered at your old address, please say why below.

--

5 Declaration.

Each person has to sign their own form. This form will be returned if it is not signed. It is an offence to make a false statement on this form – maximum fine £1,000.

As far as I know, the details on this form are true and accurate. I am a British, other Commonwealth, Irish or other European citizen.

Your signature:		Date:	
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⑥ Please return this form to:	For help and advice about this form:
Electoral Services Southwark Town Hall Central House Peckham Road London SE5 8UB	Helpline: 020 7525 7373 Email: electoralenquiries@southwark.gov.uk Web Site: www.southwark.gov.uk

⑦ The two versions of the register:	
The edited register The edited register leaves out the names and addresses of people who have asked for them to be excluded from that version of the register. The edited register can be bought by anyone who asks for a copy and they may use it for any purpose.	The full register The full register lists everyone who is entitled to vote. You can check it at the council offices or at some local libraries. Only certain people and organisations can have copies of the full register, and they can only use it for specified purposes. These include electoral purposes, the prevention and detection of crime and checking your identity when you have applied for credit. The law says who can have a copy of the full register and what they can use it for. The full list of such persons and purposes is given in the Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2002. It is a criminal offence for them to pass it on to anyone else or to use it for any other purpose.

For Office Use		Proof of residence seen <input type="checkbox"/> Initials: Date stamp:	
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If we get your form before...	Your details will be changed on ...
Tuesday, 11 December 2007 Thursday, 10 January 2008 Friday, 8 February 2008 Monday, 10 March 2008 Wednesday, 9 April 2008 Friday, 9 May 2008 Monday, 9 June 2008 Thursday, 10 July 2008 Friday, 8 August 2008	Wednesday, 2 January 2008 Friday, 1 February 2008 Monday, 3 March 2008 Tuesday, 1 April 2008 Thursday, 1 May 2008 Monday, 2 June 2008 Tuesday, 1 July 2008 Friday, 1 August 2008 Monday, 1 September 2008
There is no monthly update during September, October or November during the annual canvass period when all households have to register. A new Register is published on 1 December.	

Electoral Services London Borough of Southwark Southwark Town Hall Central House Peckham Road London	Helpline: 020 7525 7373 e-mail: electoralenquiries@southwark.gov.uk
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EUROPEAN UNION

27 MEMBER STATES

These countries are ALREADY members of the European Union.

Austria	Finland	Latvia	Romania
Belgium	France	Lithuania	Slovakia
Bulgaria	Germany	Luxembourg	Spain
Cyprus	Greece	Malta	Sweden
Czech Republic	Hungary	The Netherlands	United Kingdom
Denmark	Ireland	Poland	
Estonia	Italy	Portugal	

Member States current as of March 1, 2007

CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

These countries are waiting to be accepted into the European Union. No specific dates have been set yet for these countries to enter the EU.

Croatia
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Turkey

BRITISH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

Anguilla	Cayman Islands	St. Helena
Bermuda	Falkland Islands	St. Helena Dependencies
British Antarctic Territory	Gibraltar	South Georgia
British Indian Ocean Territory	Montserrat	South Sandwich Islands
British Virgin Islands	Pitcairn Island	Turks and Caicos Islands

Source: <http://www.eurunion.org/states/offices.htm>

THE COMMONWEALTH NATIONS

Founded in 1931, the Commonwealth is a group of nations, many of which were once British colonies. Today, while Britain's Queen is still the head of the Commonwealth, member nations are fully independent from Britain.

53 MEMBER COUNTRIES

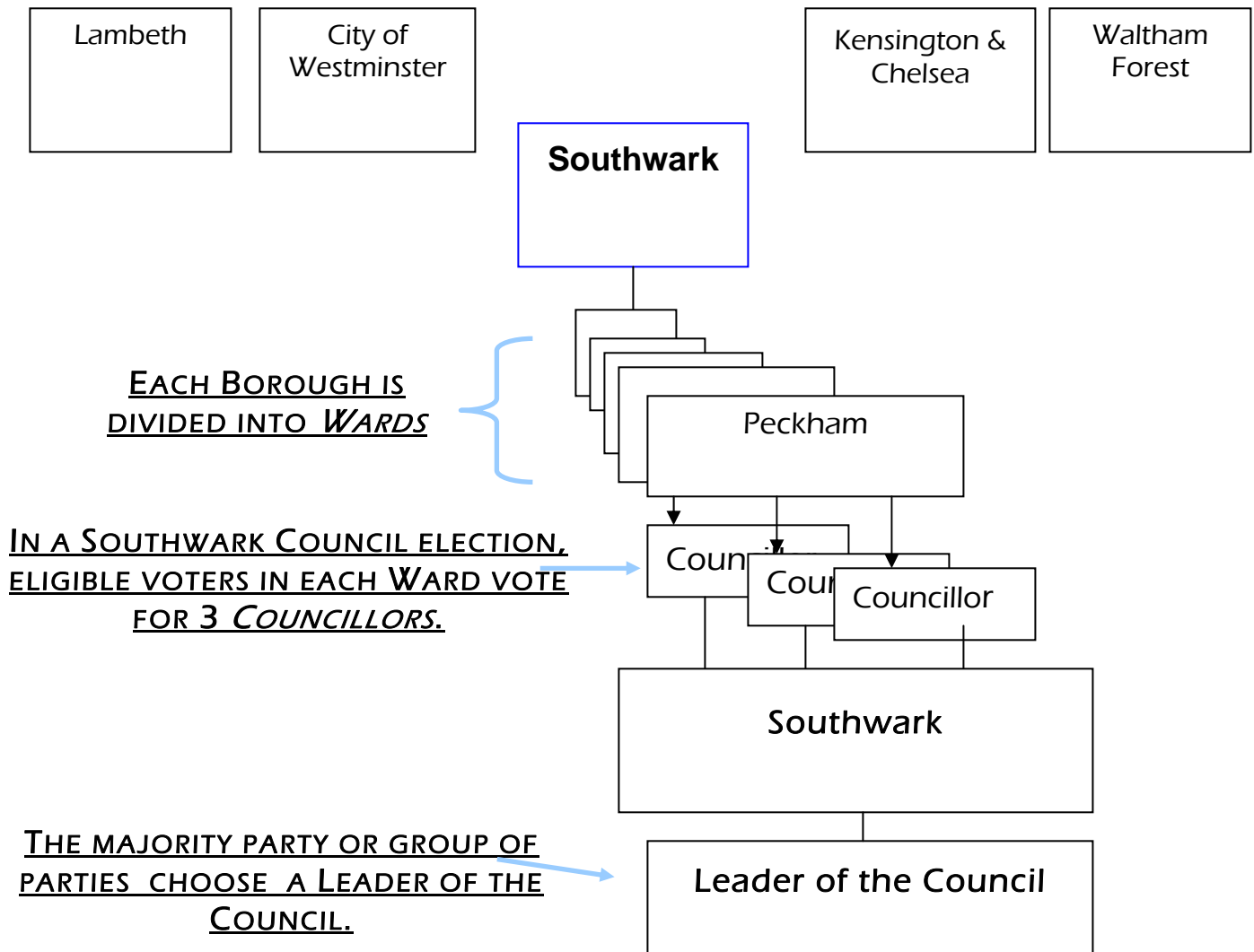
Flag	Country	Status
	Antigua and Barbuda	Realm
	Australia	Realm
	The Bahamas	Realm
	Bangladesh	Republic
	Barbados	Realm
	Belize	Realm
	Botswana	Republic
	Brunei	Monarchy
	Cameroon	Republic
	Canada	Realm
	Cyprus	Republic
	Dominica	Republic
	Fiji Islands	Republic
	The Gambia	Republic
	Ghana	Republic
	Grenada	Realm
	Guyana	Republic
	India	Republic
	Jamaica	Realm
	Kenya	Republic
	Kiribati	Republic
	Lesotho	Monarchy
	Malawi	Republic
	Malaysia	Monarchy
	The Maldives	Republic
	Malta	Republic
	Mauritius	Republic
	Mozambique	Republic
	Namibia	Republic
	Nauru	Republic
	New Zealand	Realm
	Nigeria	Republic
	Pakistan	Republic
	Papua New Guinea	Realm
	St. Christopher and Nevis	Realm
	St. Lucia	Realm
	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Realm
	Samoa	Republic
	Seychelles	Republic
	Sierra Leone	Republic
	Singapore	Republic
	Solomon Islands	Realm
	South Africa	Republic
	Sri Lanka	Republic
	Swaziland	Monarchy
	Tanzania	Republic
	Tonga	Monarchy
	Trinidad and Tobago	Republic
	Tuvalu	Realm
	Uganda	Republic
	United Kingdom	Monarchy
	Vanuatu	Republic
	Zambia	Republic

Source: <http://www.eurunion.org/states/offices.htm>

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

There are several different types of local government and local elections in the UK. Not all local authorities elect their Councillors at the same time. Many have elections every four years whilst some have elections every year. Southwark Council elections occur every four years. The last elections for Southwark Council were in May 2006.

THERE ARE 33 LONDON *BOROUGH*S, FOR EXAMPLE



THE MAYOR OF SOUTHWARK

Councillor Eliza Mann was appointed as The Mayor of Southwark on May 21 2 008.



Cllr Eliza Mann
Contact: 0207 5257303

Role of the mayor

The Mayor is elected to serve for twelve months by a special council assembly called Mayor Making held in May.

The Mayor upholds and promotes the purposes of the constitution.

The Mayor chairs the meetings of the council assembly so its business can be carried out efficiently with regard to the rights of all councillors and the interests of the community.

As first citizen of the borough the Mayor will represent Southwark at hundreds of civic, ceremonial and social engagements throughout the year including Southwark Civic Awards. The Mayor also promotes public involvement in the council's activities and attends civic and ceremonial functions.

The Deputy Mayor

Councillor Denise Capstick was appointed Deputy Mayor. The Deputy Mayor undertakes all the Mayor's functions if for some reason the Mayor is not available.

ENGAGING WITH SOUTHWARK COUNCIL:

Community Councils

Southwark Council tries to take decision making out of the Town Hall and into the community. The 8 Community Councils in Southwark enable residents to contribute to the decision making process and debate directly with the Councillors in their area.

Each Community Council meets every 6 weeks. There are usually at least 50 residents present. They discuss local issues and Council policies affecting their locality. However, they do not discuss planning issues.

For more information on Community Councils you can visit the website at www.southwark.gov.uk/YourCommunity.



THE MAYOR OF LONDON BORIS JOHNSON



Contacting the Mayor

Email: johnsonb@parliament.uk

Telephone: 01491 612852

Fax: 01491 612001

Website: <http://www.boris-johnson.com>

Postal Address: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

The Mayor's role as the executive of the strategic authority for London is to promote economic development and wealth creation, social development, and the improvement of the environment.

The Mayor also has a number of other duties in relation to culture and tourism, including responsibility for Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square

Term of appointment and next election

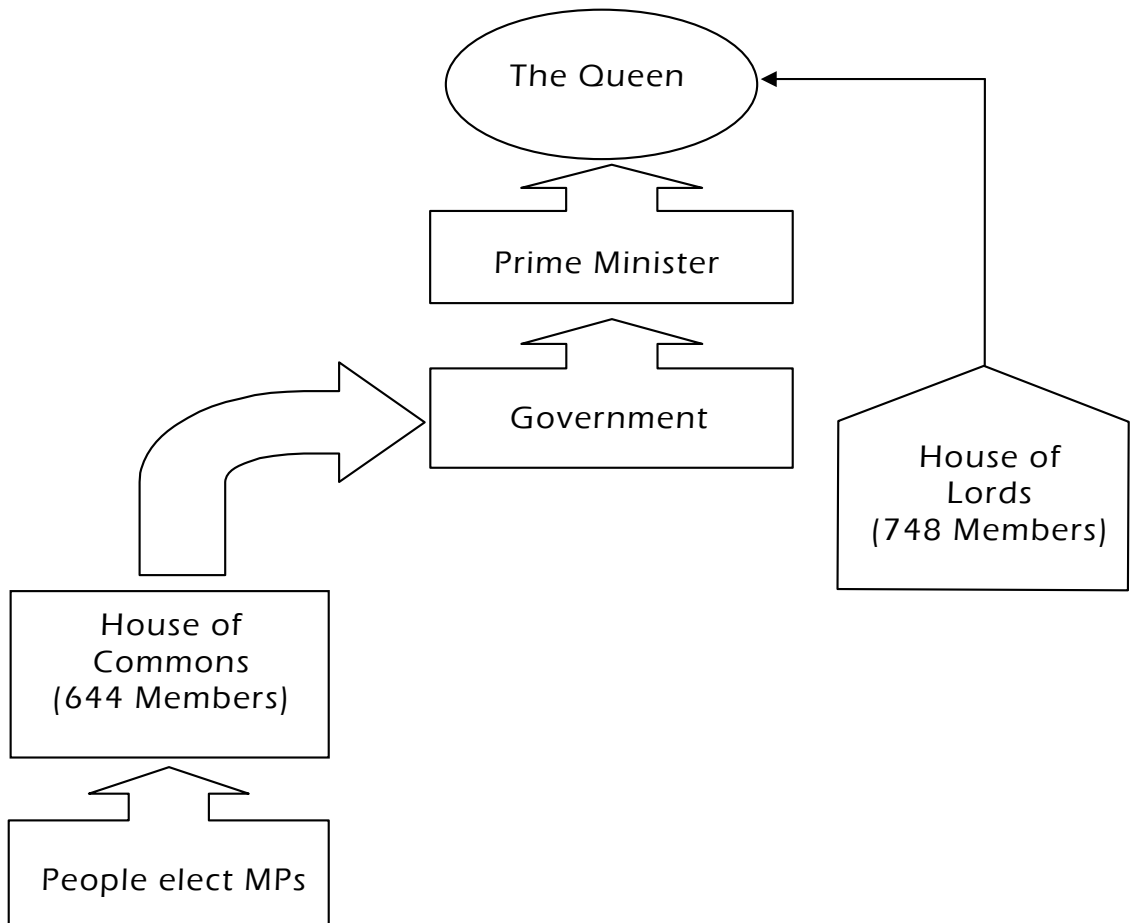
The Mayor is elected for a fixed term of four years. The next election of Mayor and Assembly will be in 2012.

Source: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

BRITAIN'S GOVERNMENT

Britain's type of government is called a constitutional monarchy. This means that the Sovereign (Queen Elizabeth II) is head of state but that political power is in the hands of the Parliament.

There are two Houses of Parliament: the House of Commons has 644 members who are elected by the voters for a maximum of 5 years. The House of Lords is made up of peers of the realm (the nobility), the Law Lords (senior judges) and senior members of the clergy and life peers – people who have made an outstanding achievement to the UK, appointed by the House of Commons . Most of the members of the House of Lords today are Life Peers. The government is formed within the House of Commons from the political party which has the majority of MPs. The leader of this political party becomes Prime Minister who in turn appoints his cabinet.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Parliament is the only directly-elected body of the European Union. The 785 Members of the European Parliament (79 from the UK) are there to represent you, the citizen. They are elected once every five years by voters right across the 27 Member States of the European Union on behalf of its 492 million citizens.

The work of the European Parliament is important because in many policy areas, decisions on new European laws are made jointly by Parliament and the Council of Ministers, which represents Member States.

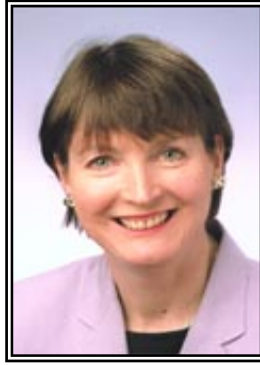
The European Parliament plays an active role in drafting legislation which has an impact on the daily lives of its citizens: For example, on environmental protection, consumer rights, equal opportunities, transport, and the free movement of workers, capital, services and goods. Parliament also has joint power with the Council over the annual budget of the European Union.



MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN SOUTHWARK



Simon Hughes
Liberal
Democrat Party



Rt. Hon Harriet
Harman
Labour Party



Rt. Hon Tessa
Jowell
Labour Party

Contact Information

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SW1A 0AA

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simon@simonhughes.org.uk

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House of Commons
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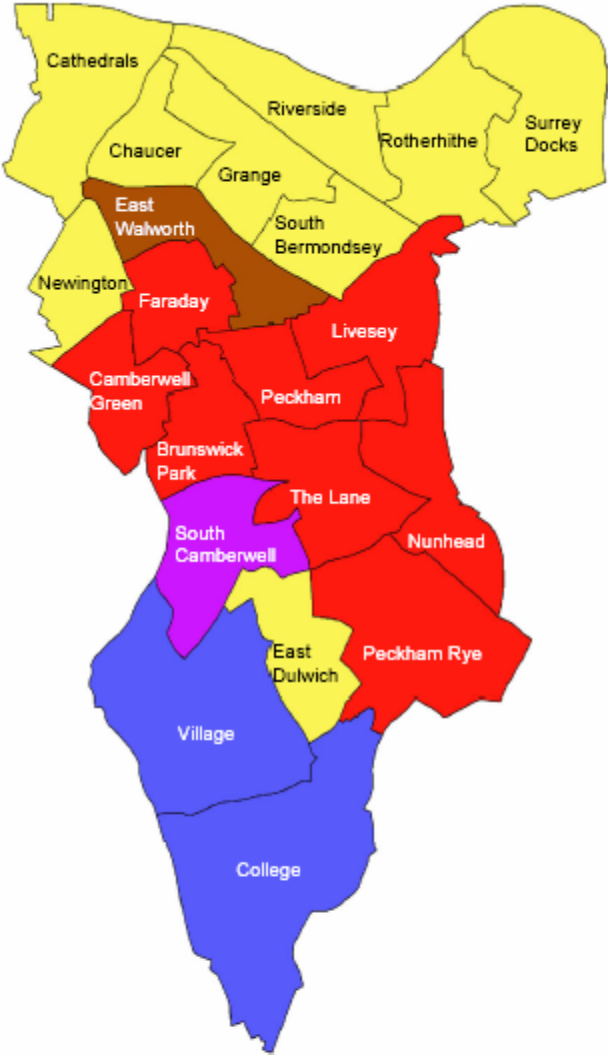
Telephone
020 7219 3409

Email
jowellt@parliament.uk

<http://www.parliament.uk>

SOUTHWARK WARDS

Map showing the names of the Council wards in Southwark



Key to Map

Conservative	Blue
Labour	Red
Liberal Democrat	Yellow
Labour/Green	Purple
Labour/Liberal Democrat	Brown

A TO Z: Southwark Council

Brunswick Park



Alison McGovern (Labour)
020 7738 4521
alison.mcgovern@southwark.gov.uk



Sandra Rhule (Labour)
07903 967 529 / 020 7703 2893
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Ian Wingfield (Labour)
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ian.wingfield@southwark.gov.uk

Camberwell Green



Dora Dixon-Fyle (Labour)
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dora.dixon-fyle@southwark.gov.uk



John Friary (Labour)
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john.friary@southwark.gov.uk



Chris Page (Labour)
020 7708 0897 / 07903 964 015
chris.page@southwark.gov.uk

Cathedrals



Danny McCarthy (Independent)
020 7237 8277
danny.mccarthy@southwark.gov.uk



Adele Morris (Liberal Democrat)
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adele.morris@southwark.gov.uk



David Noakes (Liberal Democrat)
020 7231 5521
david.noakes@southwark.gov.uk

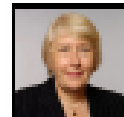
Chaucer



Tim McNally (Liberal Democrat)
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timothy.mcnelly@southwark.gov.uk



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College



Michelle Holford (Conservative)
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Kim Humphreys (Conservative)
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Lewis Robinson (Conservative)
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East Dulwich



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East Walworth



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Martin Seaton (Labour)
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Faraday



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Nunhead



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Peckham



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Peckham Rye



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Riverside



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Rotherhithe



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Anne Yates (Liberal Democrat)
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South Bermondsey



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Paul Kyriacou (Liberal Democrat)
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South Camberwell



Peter John (Labour)
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07020 967 804
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Veronica Ward (Labour)
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Surrey Docks



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paul.noblet@southwark.gov.uk



Lisa Rajan (Liberal Democrat)
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lisa.rajan@southwark.gov.uk

Village



Robin Crookshank Hilton
(Conservative)
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robin.crookshank.hilton@southwark.gov.uk



Toby Eckersley (Conservative)
020 7701 3112
toby.eckersley@southwark.gov.uk



Nick Vineall (Conservative)
020 7358 3524
nicholas.vineall@southwark.gov.uk

The Lane



Mark Glover (Labour)
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mark.glover@southwark.gov.uk



Susan Elan Jones (Labour)
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susan.jones@southwark.gov.uk



Gordon Nardell (Labour)
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GENERAL CONTACTS

New Citizens Voice

Tel: 020 7751 5829
Email: maria@newcitizensvoice.com
Web: www.newcitizensvoice.com

London Borough of Southwark. Electoral Services

Tel: **020 7525 7373**

WWW.SOUTHWARK.GOV.UK

Mayor for London
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Email: mayour@london.gov.uk
www.london.gov.uk

Parliament

Tel: 0870 600 5522
Web: www.parliament.uk

Communities & Local Government

Tel: 020 7944 4400
Email: contactus@communities.gov.uk
Web: www.communities.gov.uk

House of Lords Information Office

Tel: 020 7219 3107
Email: hlinfo@parliament.uk

Directgov

Web: <http://www.direct.gov.uk>

House of Commons Information Office

Tel: 020 7219 4272
Email: hcinfo@parliament.uk

The BBC

Web: www.bbc.co.uk

JOBCENTREPLUS
CALL FREE ON 08000324224
WWW.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/parents

Electoral Commission

Tel: 020 7271 0500
Web: www.electoralcommission.gov.uk

Prime Minister Contact

Write in confidence to Gordon Brown at 10
Downing Street, London SW1 2AA
Web: www.pm.gov.uk