

London Citizens Agenda

Mayoral Accountability Assembly 2012

London Citizens is a broad-based alliance of 220 civil society institutions from across the city, who work together for the common good. At every Mayoral election since 2000, London Citizens has listened to thousands of Londoners about what they want from their Mayor, in order to draw up a Citizens Agenda.

Just before the election, on 26th April 2012, London Citizens will hold an Accountability Assembly at which each of the four leading candidates will have a chance to respond to five specific proposals on governance, housing, street safety, opportunities for young people, and the Living Wage.

The below 'asks' have been drawn up after an extensive Listening Campaign, issues were then voted on at Delegates Assemblies across the capital at the end of 2011 and were given detail through consultation with our members at the beginning of 2012.

I. Governance

We commit to:

1. Organise London's communities and civil society to work together for the common good and in the interest of our members.
2. Train, support and strengthen a new generation of civic leadership in politics and relationship building, in order to play a responsible and constructive role in the governance of our great city.
3. Offer you the opportunity to engage regularly with our diverse and growing membership over the next 4 years.

We ask you to:

1. Meet with us at least twice a year during the next 4 years.
2. Relate to us regularly through a designated senior member of your team, who will record and support decisions made to ensure that action follows. S/he will work with us to produce an annual progress report.
3. Attend at least one London Citizens Assembly, in or before May 2014.
4. Secure a place for us at the negotiating table for strategic decisions which affect our communities.

2. Housing

We commit to:

1. Make available to the Mayor of London personal testimony, community case studies and all the information they need to prevent ever-rising rents and house-prices from creating “Kosovo-style social cleansing” within London’s housing market.
2. Organise local residents across the city to find creative solutions to the challenges of over-crowding and poor conditions, so that the places in which we live can remain as vibrant and mixed communities, with productive and accountable relationships between landlords, residents and neighbours.
3. Ensure that the excitement and energy of this summer’s Olympic Games is carried through into the legacy, and that the local community are at the heart of all regeneration efforts for that part of east London.
4. Approach landowners across the city (churches; voluntary organisations; philanthropic landowners; Local Authorities and Health Trusts) to donate land to the Citizens Community Land Trust to support our aim of providing permanently affordable family housing, to buy and to rent, for families with incomes between £15,000 and £30,000 per annum.

We ask you to:

1. Define for us, in pounds per week, what you think ‘affordable housing’ means. It is the experience of our member communities that if people are forced to spend more than 1/3 of the median London income for private rented homes, or 1/3 of the London Living Wage for social rented homes, it condemns families and young people to overcrowding, or a poor diet, or the absence of other essentials to their well-being. Do you agree that London is a special case, and will you commit to establishing through the GLA, and publishing annually, a London Affordable Rent figure, starting within your first year in office?
2. Work with us to help create a city-wide London Living Homes Standard, so as to ensure that all landlords – public or private – are registered with either the Greater London Authority or their borough, and issues around damp, repairs, overcrowding, security of tenure and space standards can be overcome through a proper relationship between landlords, residents and their local communities.
3. Use your new powers, as head of the new Mayoral Development Corporation, to create a network of Community Land Trusts across the city, by identifying and making available at least one site in North, South, East and West London over the next four years, and one site on each of the five Olympic Legacy Park neighbourhoods, starting with a public commitment that at least 100 of the first 800 houses built at Chobham Manor will be Community Land Trust homes.

3. CitySafe

We commit to:

1. Build on the success of the *CitySafe* campaign by initiating a *CitySafe Foundation* and promoting and communicating *CitySafe* outside of our member institutions. The Foundation will oversee the development of more *CitySafe Zones* across London and oversee the development of community leaders who will think creatively about how to make our streets safer across the capital.
2. Work with at least 4 Safer Neighbourhood teams to build a more relational approach to policing, through orientation and training.
3. Hold rallies and events in each of our boroughs on June 9th to mark the beginning of *100 Days of Peace*, and demonstrate our commitment to work together to build more peaceful communities.
4. Produce a map of London, which will be distributed to our institutions and published online to indicate the streets and neighbourhoods that have been adopted by Citizens.

We ask you to:

1. Be an ambassador for the *CitySafe Foundation*. Including keeping City Hall as a *CitySafe Zone*, supporting us in the building of the Foundation and committing to help find resources for 50 *CitySafe* young champions, who will work in schools and develop the *CitySafe* campaign and *CitySafe Zones* across London.
2. Attend as many rallies and events as possible on the morning of 9th June for the launch of *100 Days of Peace*.
3. Broker a meeting with the bus companies and *London Citizens* with a view to engaging our young people, organisers and leaders in the training of bus drivers who will together develop a plan to make bus routes safer, particularly at school time. This will include piloting the New Bus For London (Routemaster) as the first *CitySafe* route.

4. Living Wage

We commit to:

1. Campaign tirelessly for every working Londoner to be paid at least the *Living Wage*.
2. Work towards all of our member communities becoming accredited as *Living Wage* Employers.
3. Support the Mayor of London on all of the *Living Wage* work detailed below.

We ask you to:

1. Announce the *Living Wage* figure annually in person, at the same time each year, and ensure full compliance and *Living Wage* Employer accreditation across the GLA family.
2. Work with London Citizens to develop a multi-stakeholder *Living Wage Board* that works with GLA Economics to inform calculation and publication of the figure.
3. Work with London Citizens to sign up 100 new large (>250 employees) London employers, including at least 5 in the retail sector, 5 in hospitality and 16 Local Authorities, to become *Living Wage* Employers through the course of the Mayoral term.
4. Ensure that the *Living Wage* Olympic Legacy continues by negotiating *Living Wage* commitments with all developers on the Olympic Park.
5. Work with London Citizens to make *Living Wage* Week the greatest possible success by contributing Transport for London hoardings for advertising, having the *Living Wage* logo projected onto City Hall, spending a week on the National Minimum Wage, and any other creative ideas you have.

5. Working Future: *Creating brighter opportunities for talented young Londoners*

We commit to:

1. Train 1000 young people every year in leadership development from across our member institutions.
2. Work to deliver apprenticeships for young people by working in partnership with the National Apprenticeship Service to deliver 50 recruitment fairs for young people over the next four years.
3. Pledge to find 500 paid work placements and apprenticeships for young people from within our member institutions over the next 4 years and work to recruit young Londoners for the *Working Future Campaign*.

We ask you to:

1. Extend free travel to use of the underground for young people in full-time education or full-time apprenticeships and protect free travel for young people in summer between GCSE and further education.
2. Work with London Citizens to deliver the *Working Future Campaign* by:
3. Supporting and sponsoring a *Summer Talent Scheme*– employment for 2,000 16 – 25 years olds through six-week paid workplaces every summer through the 4 year term.
4. Support a *Talent Fast Track* by organising meetings with London businesses and arts organisations to find paid internships and develop non-graduate fast track opportunities for talented young Londoners.
5. Attend and provide a high-profile central London venue for a *Young Talent Day of Opportunity* in 2014 – a day of celebration where young people, employers and apprenticeship services can come together to build relationships and offer work opportunities