

## LONDON CITIZENS REVIVES THE ART OF POLITICS

START WITH THE PEOPLE; LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE; THE PEOPLE BUILD THEIR AGENDA; THE PEOPLE TAKE THEIR AGENDA TO THE STREETS; THE PEOPLE SEEK A CANDIDATE TO SUPPORT THEIR AGENDA; THE PEOPLE VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATE WHO SUPPORTS THE CITIZENS AGENDA!

*London Citizens is the UK's largest and most diverse community organisation, made up of 230 civil society institutions with roots in 23 London Boroughs. Our aim is strengthen and enhance public life and the governance of London and so it is appropriate at Election times that our members build their own Agenda, having first listened and voted on the concerns shared – and then organise as many voters as possible to support the Mayoral candidate who supports 'LONDON CITIZENS Agenda 2012'.*

- 1. CITIZENS Mayoral Accountability Assembly, April 26<sup>th</sup> – expected to be the largest and most diverse popular event of the Campaign.** This is the fourth Mayoral Election in London and each time LONDON CITIZENS has run an increasingly ambitious campaign of including thousands of Londoners in the building and shaping of the 'CITIZENS Agenda'. Each time LONDON CITIZENS Mayoral Accountability Assembly has been the largest and most dynamic event of the campaign. In 2000, 950 citizens attended the Assembly in the Peoples Palace in Mile End; in 2004, 1800 citizens attended in Methodist Central Hall; in 2008, 2,200 (capacity) in Central Hall – and on April 26<sup>th</sup> another 2,200 capacity CITIZENS Assembly will be organised with the four main candidates attending. This year, using New Media, the Assembly will be 'Live Streamed' across the UK and particularly into CITIZENS member schools and halls for thousands to watch the reaction of the candidates to the 'CITIZENS Agenda'.
- 2. 'Stand Up and Take Charge in 2012';** This year, from March onwards, LONDON CITIZENS members will be taking this 'CITIZENS Agenda' to the streets, market places and shopping malls of London to invite thousands of voters to be a 'London Citizens Voter' and 'sign up' their support for the five point CITIZENS plan that will be launched on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> January in Euston.
- 3. CITIZENS act on their interest to make London safer and fairer;** One of the novel and unique features of LONDON CITIZENS Agenda 2012 is that CITIZENS will be asking the candidates to agree to our proposals on condition that we – CITIZENS – act on them and support them first. For LONDON CITIZENS this is the vital 'quid pro quo' of politics – which means give and take; civil society and the state acting together on shared interests.
- 4. LONDON CITIZENS AGENDA 2012 – the journey.** LONDON CITIZENS members voted to on this campaign in the Spring of 2011 and the key process of 'Listening' was launched in June – with our member schools, student and trade unions, mosques, churches, synagogues, diaspora communities and community associations using their regular meetings and groups to share what they would like the next Mayor of London to do and what we might do as well to make London an even better place to live and work. In October and November thousands of Londoners were involved in the 'Listening Campaign' which came together at five Assemblies across London where hundreds of CITIZENS delegates debated and then voted on the main concerns that they shared and a new Mayor could help them with.
- 5. LONDON CITIZENS AGENDA 2012 – the proposals.** On January 8<sup>th</sup> 2012, over 100 leaders from LONDON CITIZENS met to refine and focus the five areas of shared interest that were voted on at the local Delegates Assemblies in the Autumn. These five challenges are – a role for CITIZENS in the governance of the capital; solutions to the housing crisis; deepening and broadening Living Wage to every major employer; reclaiming the streets and making them safer; and proposals for a brighter future for young Londoners. These will be considered in more detail on January 16<sup>th</sup> at the Press Event. At this event key leaders from LONDON CITIZENS drawn from across London will summarise the Agenda and share our plans for the period before April 26<sup>th</sup> Assembly – and the future.