

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE PANEL

What is the Representative Community Panel?

A representative community panel is an established democratic tool used all over the world. It brings together a randomly selected group of people who broadly represent the entire community. The people who attend learn about issues, discuss them with one another, and then make recommendations about what should happen and how things should change.

What will the Collaborative Engagement Group be?

As a subset of the Panel a smaller representative group will be invited to participate in up to six in-person meetings a year, to deliberate over key local issues.

What is a Ward/Ward-based meeting?

The City of Kingston is made up of 11 Wards, which are each represented by a councillor. On occasion a project/issue may only be relevant to one ward neighbourhood. Panel members may be invited to participate in one of these local meetings.

Who is running the event?

Kingston City Council will be running the Representative Community Panel and in-person sessions will be managed by an external facilitator. Recruitment of the Panel is being managed by the Sortition Foundation.

The Sortition Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation that specialises in recruiting and selecting people by lottery to take part in these kinds of events, in a way that is broadly representative of the wider population.

🔗 sortitionfoundation.org

What are the dates and times I will be required to be involved?

Most of the involvement of the Representative Community Panel will not be time sensitive. Participants will be invited to provide us with feedback at their earliest opportunity, via a dedicated online portal that we will provide access to after selection.

The Collaborative Engagement group will meet up to six times a year, approximately every six weeks, on a weeknight evening, between 6 and 8.30pm. Exact dates to be confirmed.

If you are selected to take part you will be provided with exclusive, early access to information about upcoming projects and issues.

What will taking part involve?

If you are selected to take part you will be provided with exclusive/early access to information about upcoming projects/issues.

You may also have the opportunity to participate in in-person sessions/workshops where you will meet with individuals from all walks of life who live in and around Kingston, hear from engaging speakers, and discuss issues in small groups, with facilitators to make sure everyone has their voice heard.

You do not need to have any prior knowledge of the topics we will discuss – all the information you need will be provided prior to/during participation.



Please register your interest by Monday 27 March 2023

sortitionfoundation.org/represent

or call Freephone 1800 979 787 (during office hours)

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Will the events be accessible?

Kingston is home to eight libraries that offer free computer access and wifi, enabling any community member to participate in the portal established for the Representative Community Panel.

We can support you to learn the IT skills needed to take part in the Representative Community Panel including online introductory sessions.

In-person meetings

If you are selected to take part in the Collaborative Engagement Group, or any meeting/workshop that requires travel, you will receive \$50 to compensate you for your time.

In-person meetings will be held at an accessible venue that will be attended by a concierge/security staff member, who can assist with safe access in and out of the building. If you have any needs in relation to the venue, or travel, just let us know.

If required at any in-person session, we can provide internet-enabled digital devices and an internet connection, for those who do not have access to a suitable device or internet connection.

If you need access to a prayer room or quiet space during in-person sessions, we will ensure this is made available.

There is no dress code. Please wear whatever feels comfortable for you.

The information provided during the event will be as jargon-free as possible. There will be opportunities to ask speakers to explain what they mean if what they are saying is not clear.

If you require any form of additional support, for example translation, or support with accessibility issues, childcare, or other caring responsibilities, then every attempt will be made to provide this. If you are selected, please just let us know about your specific requirements when we contact you.

Who can apply?

Anyone aged 18 and over by the close of registrations, who is normally a resident or business operator in the area can apply, with a few exceptions set out below. Please note that a maximum of one person from any single household will be selected to participate.

The following people cannot apply:

Elected representatives from any level of government, paid employees of any political party, or Kingston Council employees.

After I register my interest, what happens next?

Once registration has closed, 220 people will be randomly selected from those who registered their interest, to take part in the Representative Community Panel and 45 of these respondents will also be selected to take part in the Collaborative Engagement Group.

This random selection will be weighted to make sure that there are people from all across the community participating.

If you are selected, we will contact you by phone and email around late March/early April to let you know. We will then arrange a call with you to confirm that you can attend, discuss any requirements you may have to make it possible for you to attend, and explain what happens next.



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What will happen after the Representative Community Panel's two-year term?

We will take feedback as and when we receive it from the 220-member Representative Community Panel, for decision-makers to consider as a part of their relevant consultations/strategies/projects.

A report from the Collaborative Engagement Group's meetings will be prepared by the facilitator and will be presented to Council in early 2025.

We will assess the successes/learnings of the Panel to determine whether to recruit another one to run in 2025 and 2026.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like to talk to someone about the Representative Community Panel before registering, please call the Freephone number below. More information about the event will also be available at sortitionfoundation.org/represent

Select your language

For more information visit sortitionfoundation.org/represent and select your language from the menu in the top right hand corner.

Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες επισκεφθείτε την ιστοσελίδα sortitionfoundation.org/represent και επιλέξτε τη γλώσσα σας από το μενού στην πάνω δεξιά γωνία.

Per maggiori informazioni visita

sortitionfoundation.org/represent e seleziona la tua lingua dal menu nell'angolo in alto a destra.

Чтобы получить дополнительную информацию, посетите сайт sortitionfoundation.org/represent и выберите свой язык в меню, которое открывается в правом верхнем углу.

详情请访问 sortitionfoundation.org/represent 并从右上角菜单选择您的语言。

Để biết thêm thông tin, hãy truy cập

sortitionfoundation.org/represent và chọn ngôn ngữ của quý vị từ danh mục ở góc phía trên bên tay phải.

Translating and interpreting service

If you need language assistance call our interpreting service on 131 450, state the organisation as the City of Kingston and quote our phone number 1300 653 356.



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