

# Council Assembly

Wednesday 24 March 2010

7.00 pm

Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

## Supplemental Agenda No.1

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minutes – Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting) – 27 January 2010</li><li>• Appendix 1 - Public Questions with responses and supplemental</li><li>• Appendix 2 - Urgent Question with response</li><li>• Appendix 3 – Members’ Questions with responses and supplementals</li></ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minutes – Council Assembly (Council Tax Setting) – 23 February 2010</li><li>• Appendix 1 – Questions on Report with responses and supplementals.</li></ul>	

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Date: Friday 19 March 2010



## Council Assembly Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary) held on Wednesday 27 January 2010 at 7.00 pm at Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

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### PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2009-10, Councillor Jeff Hook (Chair)

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Paul Bates	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Gordon Nardell
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Toby Eckersley	Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor John Friary	Councillor Olajumoke Oyewunmi
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Chris Page
Councillor Aubyn Graham	Councillor Andrew Pakes
Councillor James Gurling	Councillor Caroline Pidgeon
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton	Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Michelle Holford	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Kim Humphreys	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Helen Jardine-Brown	Councillor Mackie Sheik
Councillor Jenny Jones	Councillor Tayo Situ
Councillor Paul Kyriacou	Councillor Bob Skelly
Councillor Jelil Ladipo	Councillor Robert Smeath
Councillor Adedokun Lasaki	Councillor Althea Smith
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE	Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor Richard Livingstone	Councillor Richard Thomas
Councillor Linda Manchester	Councillor Dominic Thorncroft
Councillor Eliza Mann	Councillor Nick Vineall
Councillor Alison McGovern	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Tim McNally	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Kirsty McNeill	Councillor Lorraine Zuleta

## 1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

### 1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor announced the following:

- That a list of Southwark residents who had received an honour in the Queen's New Year's Honour List 2010 had been circulated around the chamber on white paper. The meeting offered its congratulations to all the recipients' of the award.
- That the New Year's Day parade had raised £2,000 for the Mayor's charity.

The Mayor offered the meeting's condolences to the families of:

- Joan Khachik, former councillor and Mayor of Southwark
- Peter Moore, town crier and assistant mace bearer and
- Cyril Herbert, President of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Branch of the British Legion.

Tributes were paid by Councillors Nick Stanton, Barrie Hargrove and Kim Humphreys.

The meeting also offered its condolences to Councillor Toby Eckersley on the death of his mother.

Thereafter a minutes silence was held and members were also asked to remember:

- The victims of the Holocaust as 27 January was Holocaust Memorial Day
- The victims of the Haiti earthquake.

### 1.2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

### 1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Members' made the following declarations:

#### **Item 7.1 – Canada Water Publication/Submission Area Action Plan**

Councillors Jeff Hook, David Hubber, Lisa Rajan, Helen Jardine-Brown, Fiona Colley and Paul Noblet declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item as they live in or near the area action zone.

Councillor Paul Noblet also declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item as he is a trustee of Surrey Docks farm and a governor of Redriff Primary school, both of

which are near the area action zone.

Councillor Gordon Nardell declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item as he is a member of Southwark cyclist group, which made representation on the report.

### **Item 7.2 – Adoption of Local Development Document: Aylesbury Area Action Plan**

Councillors Lorraine Lauder and Martin Seaton declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item as they live within the area action zone.

Councillor Gordon Nardell declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item as he is a member of Southwark cyclist group, which made representations on the report.

Councillor Chris Page declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item as he is on the management committee of Inspire, which is inside the Aylesbury Area Action zone.

## **1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Denise Capstick, Mary Foulkes, Peter John, Evrim Laws and Danny McCarthy.

## **2. MINUTES**

*Report: See pages 1-61 of Supplemental Agenda No.1*

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the minutes of the ordinary meeting of council assembly held on 4 November 2009 be agreed as a correct record.
2. That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of council assembly held on 4 November 2009 be agreed as a correct record.

## **3. PETITIONS**

There were none.

## **4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

*Report: See page 1 of the main agenda and page 1 of the lilac paper circulated at the meeting*

Two members of the public submitted a written question, the answers to which were circulated at the meeting. One public questioner was in attendance at the meeting and asked a supplemental question. All questions and answers are attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

## 5. DEPUTATION REQUESTS

*Report: See pages 2-9 of the main agenda*

The meeting agreed to hear two deputations on the Aylesbury Area Action Plan (see item 7.2 on the agenda)

The representative for the Burgess Park Action Group, Donnachadh McCarthy, addressed the meeting. Councillors Caroline Pidgeon and James Gurling asked the deputation questions. The Mayor thanked the deputation which then withdrew to the public gallery.

The representative for Aylesbury tenants and residents addressed the meeting. Councillors Paul Bates, Richard Thomas, Abdul Mohamed, Kim Humphreys and Caroline Pidgeon asked the deputation questions. The Mayor thanked the deputation which then withdrew to the public gallery.

At this point in the proceedings, the Mayor stated that he intended to vary the order of business to consider item 7.2 – Adoption of Local Development Document: Aylesbury Area Action Plan (see relevant minute below).

## 6. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

*Report: See pages 2-9 of the main agenda, page 1 of the blue paper and pages 1-21 of the yellow pages circulated at the meeting*

There was one urgent question to the leader, the answer to which was circulated on blue paper at the meeting. There was no supplemental question. The question and answer are attached as Appendix 2 to the minutes.

There were 40 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated on yellow paper. There were 22 supplementary questions, the answers to which are attached as Appendix 3 to the minutes.

## 7. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION FROM THE EXECUTIVE

### 7.1 CANADA WATER PUBLICATION/SUBMISSION AREA ACTION PLAN

*Report: See pages 17-23 of the main agenda*

The executive member for regeneration, Councillor Paul Noblet, presented the report.

Councillor Paul Bates withdrew Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Richard Livingstone, David Hubber, Chris Page, Lisa Rajan and Nick Stanton), Councillor Paul Noblet exercised his right of reply.

The recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The clerk stated that in accordance with the budget and policy framework procedure rule 2 (g), the decision was implementable with immediate affect as the executive recommendation had not been amended.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the comments of the planning committee and the Government Office for London on the Canada Water Area Action Plan publication/submission version (Appendix A of the report) and the executive's response to these comments as set out in the report (Appendix G of the report) be noted.
2. That the Canada Water Area Action Plan publication/submission version (Appendix A of the report), consultation plan (Appendix B), consultation report (Appendix C), sustainability appraisal (Appendix D), equalities impact assessment (Appendix E) and appropriate assessment (Appendix F) be agreed.
3. That the publication and submission of the Canada Water Area Action Plan publication/submission version (Appendix A of the report) to the Secretary of State in March 2010 together with any representations received be agreed.
4. That the approval of any minor amendments to the Canada Water Area Action Plan Publication/Submission Version be delegated to the strategic director of regeneration and neighbourhoods in consultation with the executive member for regeneration before submission to Secretary of State.

**7.2 REPORT - ADOPTION OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT: AYLESBURY AREA ACTION PLAN**

*Report: See pages 34-40 of the main agenda*

The executive member for regeneration, Councillor Paul Noblet, presented the report.

Following debate (Councillors Richard Thomas, Paul Bates, Kim Humphreys, Jenny Jones, Nick Stanton and Gordon Nardell), Councillor Paul Noblet exercised his right of reply.

The recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The clerk stated that in accordance with the budget and policy framework procedure rule 2 (g), the decision was implementable with immediate affect as the executive recommendation had not been amended.

**RESOLVED:**

That council assembly having considered:

- a) the recommendations of the executive;
- b) the binding recommendations of the Planning Inspector on the Aylesbury Area Action Plan (Appendix A2 of the report) and the comments of planning committee; and,
- c) the Aylesbury Area Action Plan – final (Appendix A1 of the report) incorporating the binding recommendations of the Inspector and the change proposed by executive and planning committee, adoption statement (Appendix B), consultation report (Appendix C), sustainability appraisal (Appendix D), equalities impact assessment (Appendix E) and appropriate assessment (Appendix F);

thereafter adopted the Aylesbury Area Action Plan – final (Appendix A1 of the report) incorporating the binding recommendations of the Inspector and the change proposed by executive and planning committee and the sustainability appraisal (Appendix D).

## **8. REPORT(S) FOR INFORMATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE**

### **8.1 REPORT BACK ON MOTIONS REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**

*Report: See pages 41-45 of the main agenda*

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

## **9. OTHER REPORTS**

### **9.1 THE COUNCIL TAX BASE 2010-11**

*Report: See pages 46-59 of the main agenda*

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10(2) the Mayor formally moved the recommendation contained within the report.

Councillor Richard Livingstone, seconded by Councillor Mark Glover, moved Amendment B.

Following debate (Councillor Tim McNally), Amendment B was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

Following debate (Councillor Nick Stanton), the substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the council tax base for 2010-11 be set at:

	<b>Number of band D equivalent properties</b>
For the parish of St. Mary Newington	13,348.53
For the parish of St. Saviour's	1,150.92
For the whole of the borough excluding the parishes of St. Mary Newington and St. Saviour's	81,919.50
<b>For the whole borough</b>	<b>96,418.95</b>

## 9.2 PROPORTIONALITY REPORT

*Report: See pages 60-65 of the main agenda and pages 1-4 of supplemental agenda 2*

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10(2) the Mayor formally moved the recommendation contained within the addendum report, which had been circulated in Supplemental Agenda No.2.

The recommendation contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

### RESOLVED:

That in light of recent membership changes on the council the most proportionate allocation on ordinary committees be agreed as option 3:

**Option 3** – The total number of seats on ordinary committee remains at 35 seats, with a revised allocation on corporate parenting committee (see paragraph 8 of the addendum report and appendix).

	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Committee 1</b> (Appointments Committee)	3	3	1	
<b>Committee 2</b> (Planning Committee)	3	3	1	
<b>Committee 3</b> (Disciplinary Appeals Committee)	4	4	0	
<b>Committee 4</b> (Audit and Governance Committee)	2	2	1	
<b>Committee 5</b> (Corporate Parenting Committee)	4	3	1	
<b>Total no. of seats</b>	16	15	4	35



## 10. MOTIONS

*Report: See pages 66-71 of the main agenda*

### 10.1 MOTION 1 - TRANSFORMING SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

*Report: See page 67 of the main agenda*

Councillor Paul Bates sought the consent of the meeting to allow Councillor John Friary to move Amendment E in the absence of Councillor Peter John. The consent was granted.

Councillor Nick Stanton, seconded by Councillor Kim Humphreys, moved the motion.

Councillor Lisa Rajan, seconded by Councillor Caroline Pidgeon, moved Amendment C.

During debate (Councillors Veronica Ward, Paul Noblet, Chris Page, Andrew Pakes, Dominic Thorncroft, Alison McGovern, Bob Skelly, Anood Al-Samerai and Lewis Robinson), Councillor Kim Humphreys made a point of personal explanation. Following which Councillor Nick Stanton exercised his right of reply.

Amendment C was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Councillor Paul Kyriacou, seconded by Councillor James Barber, moved Amendment D.

During debate (Councillors Barrie Hargrove and Nick Stanton), the bell was rang. The Mayor then announced that the guillotine had fallen.

Amendment D was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors John Friary and Martin Seaton, formally moved and seconded Amendment E. Amendment E was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly notes the transformation of Southwark over the last eight years, from one of the worst performing London boroughs under Labour control to one of the best.
2. That in particular council assembly notes how prudent budgeting and financial competence has meant Southwark residents have benefited from cost of living tax rises, rather than inflation busting rises under Labour, illustrated by Band D council tax increasing 94% from £397 to £776 between 1994 and 2002 and by just 17.5% (to £912) since then, protecting pensioners and those on fixed incomes.
3. That council assembly also notes the rise in council tax collection rates from just 80% under Labour to 96% last year and believes they are set to rise further as a result of the council's decision to bring the service in-house.

4. That council assembly is pleased to record that local peoples' satisfaction with the council has increased in this time from 57% in 2000 to 67% in 2008 and notes that local environments are much improved with people feeling much safer walking outside their homes, and more satisfied with street lighting, street cleaning and recycling than they were under the previous Labour administration.
5. That council assembly further notes that after many years' delay and lack of commitment under Labour, all of the big regeneration schemes – Bermondsey Spa, Canada Water, Aylesbury and Elephant and Castle – are together on course to transform the borough.
6. That in addition, council assembly notes the council's record housing investment that has seen, over the last five years, a £374m major works programme (over and above the Labour government's basic standard) including roof repairs, window replacements, electrical rewiring, boiler replacements, concrete repairs, external decorations, cavity wall and loft insulation and kitchen and bathroom refurbishment (including a doubling of spending from £4.1m pa to £8.7m pa on lifts, heating, electrics and tank room refurbishments); recognises this approach has widespread support from the tenants' movement and is reflected in increased tenants' satisfaction with housing services and believes much more could be achieved if the government ended the spending restrictions on the council.
7. That council assembly welcomes Simon Hughes MP's Town and Country Planning Act (Amendment) private member's bill which by proposing to lift restrictions on the use of planning gain would significantly increase resources for Southwark's social housing of all types, and calls on all the borough MPs to support it in the House of Commons.
8. That council assembly is delighted at the continued achievements of Southwark school students, with the highest ever pass rates at GCSE in 2009 – with the total gaining five or more A\* to C grades including English and maths increasing to 46.0% and the number of those achieving five or more A\* to C grades in total improving from 56.3% in 2008 to 67.5% in 2009. Assembly further notes this improvement is mirrored in the borough's primary schools which now boast results better than leafy shires such as Essex and East Sussex.
9. That council assembly notes that educational achievement was so poor under the Labour administration, with woeful pass rates for GCSE and barely half of 11 year olds competent in English and maths, that the education department had to be put in special measures by the government and handed to the private sector.
10. That council assembly welcomes the recognition for Southwark's recent educational improvement from local MPs and others, and particularly notes comments from Harriet Harman that "In the past only a few Southwark young people went on to further and higher education. This is now changing. Previously only 185 Camberwell and Peckham young people started university. This year there are 525 young people entering further and higher education" (Source: Annual Report 2009). And congratulates all students, staff and parents for all their hard work and dedication.

11. That council assembly notes the six fold increase in recycling in the last eight years, from just 3.6% in 2002 under the previous Labour administration to 21% in 2009 and strongly regrets the lack of priority given to recycling and environmental issues by the previous Labour administration.
12. That council assembly notes the various initiatives taken by the current administration to boost recycling including the current introduction of a simple single co-mingled recycling bin to replace the various containers and the introduction of the clear bag collection service now available to over 41,000 properties including residents living in flats above shops and other hard to reach dwellings. Further notes there are now also 553 publicly accessible bring sites in the borough, 410 recycling sites within Southwark's private estates, commuter bins in and around transport hubs, a recycling enforcement programme and a complementary incentivisation scheme to boost recycling participation.
13. That council assembly notes the additional materials that residents are now able to recycle in Southwark with battery points installed in all libraries in the borough, the Town Hall and Manor Place offices (in addition to the household waste reuse and recycling centre) and two additional tetra pak sites have been put in place, with another two to follow in the near future. Notes there are now a total of 25 locations in the borough where textiles can now be recycling.
14. That council welcomes the decision to extend further the range of materials recycled with the introduction of food waste collections, which will be in place by 2015 at the latest, and a programme of improvements on council, housing association and private estates right across the borough, expanding the clear bag scheme and installing or improving recycling centre facilities and believes that all these initiatives will mean Southwark will further massively boost recycling rates to 40% and beyond.

## 10.2 MOTION 2 - SOCIAL CARE IN SOUTHWARK

*Report: See pages 67-68 of the main agenda*

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Dora Dixon Fyle and John Friary, formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors David Noakes and Nick Stanton formally moved and seconded Amendment F.

Amendment F was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly is grateful for the hard work and dedication of both the council's own social care staff and those of partner organisations providing care in the borough.
2. That council assembly regrets the publication of the recent draft report from the Care Quality Commission (CGC) without any input from the council because of the

commission's refusal to discuss their findings with the council and notes the significant flaws, inaccuracies and factual errors including:

- a) criticism of the the council's customer service centre based on a small sample survey which ignored evidence from the council's own customer service surveys showing increasing satisfaction. Council assembly also notes the inspector failed to visit the dedicated and specialist call centre dealing with the most vulnerable residents.
  - b) contradictory assumptions about the council's spending on adult social care including the claim that "the proportion of council spend directed to adult social care was in the lowest quartile nationally", when the Audit Commission confirms that the council spends in the highest quartile nationally and the social care component of the council's formula grant as calculated by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is in fact £22 million less than actual spending.
  - c) failure to recognise the council's beacon status for promoting cohesion, equality and driving out discrimination.
3. That council assembly welcomes the statement by Labour Minister of State for Care Services, Phil Hope, who in his letter to the council on 2 December acknowledges that the council is not a poor performer.
  4. That council assembly believes that if the CQC report was a true reflection of a deterioration in service that this would have been picked up through complaints, MPs casework and council questions and motions. Council assembly notes that Harriet Harman states in her most recent annual report that social care issues were just 1.5% of the total, for Simon Hughes these were just 2% of the total caseload and that opposition members asked not a single question on the quality of social care in the last two years.
  5. That council assembly supports the call for the findings to be subject to independent scrutiny to establish the facts, to allow the council to agree where improvement is actually needed and take action to improve services.

**Note:** This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the executive for consideration.

### 10.3 MOTION 3 - LOCAL RAIL SERVICES

*Report: See page 69 of the main agenda*

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Toby Eckersley and Nick Vineall, formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Fiona Colley and Mark Glover formally moved and seconded Amendment G.

Amendment G was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That in light of the potentially detrimental effect on the amenity of the Herne Hill and Elephant and Castle area, the council views with serious concern the proposals by Network Rail and/or First Capital Connect to terminate the Thameslink Wimbledon loop services at Blackfriars. Council notes concern amongst residents over adequate consultation and calls upon the executive and officers to liaise with other affected London boroughs to explore alternative options for the continuation of the current service providing through trains to Farringdon (for Cross Rail), to Kings Cross St Pancras (for Eurostar and other mainline services) and points north to Bedford.
2. That council assembly welcomes the recent extension of SouthEastern services from Nunhead, Peckham Rye, Denmark Hill and Elephant & Castle stations through the Thameslink tunnel from Blackfriars to Kentish Town, providing through trains for residents in Nunhead, East Dulwich, Peckham Rye and Camberwell to City Thameslink, Farringdon, Kings Cross St Pancras and Kentish Town. Council supports the proposal that these services should be retained on completion of the Thameslink programme in 2015 and calls on the executive to lobby to protect these services and indeed for additional services and destinations to be added for these stations when the increased capacity through the Thameslink tunnel is available.
3. That council assembly also notes the abysmal service currently being provided by First Capital Connect (FCC) and calls on the executive to support local MPs and London Assembly members in lobbying to ensure that a full service is restored, including removing the franchise from FCC if services do not improve rapidly, and to ensure that commuters are properly compensated for the disruption.

**Note:** This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the executive for consideration.

**10.4 MOTION 4 - IMPROVING PUBLIC TRANSPORT ON THE RIVER THAMES**

*Report: See pages 69-70 of the main agenda*

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors David Hubber and Lewis Robinson, formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Barrie Hargrove and Althea Smith formally moved and seconded Amendment H.

Amendment H was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:**

That council assembly notes:

1. The River Thames is an integral part of the London Borough of Southwark, not just

as a landmark, but as part of our transport system.

2. The recent publication of the report “At a Rate of Knots – Improving Public Transport on the Thames”, that contains a number of proposals to improve river transport.

That council assembly believes:

3. That the restoration of the River Thames on the next edition of the standard tube map, recognising its potential as part of London’s transport network, should be welcomed.
4. Improved river transport will attract more visitors to the borough, as demonstrated by the successful shuttle service which runs between Tate Modern and Tate Britain.
5. The council’s plans to complete the Thames Path in Southwark will provide greater accessibility to river transport and enable visitors to explore the borough with greater ease.
6. That the potential for the expansion of river services exists, although it would wish to be assured that increased public subsidy for river services (as recommended by “At a Rate of Knots”) could be achieved without a knock-on effect on subsidy levels for those transport modes on which a wider range of Southwark residents rely, including buses, underground and mainline rail.
7. That improving cross-river links is of equal importance to the borough. Council assembly therefore regrets the indications from the Mayor of London that Transport for London (TfL) is unlikely to contribute towards the development of a foot and cycle bridge over the Thames at Rotherhithe.

That council assembly requests the executive:

8. To consider how Southwark can promote greater awareness amongst our residents of existing river services and how they can use them.
9. To request that Southwark’s transport policy team consider the proposals in the report, liaise with Transport for London (TfL) and the London Mayor’s office, produce a report to executive on their viability and how Southwark could support them.
10. To request that Southwark’s transport policy team also consider as part of this report any public realm improvements associated with the completion of the Thames Path.
11. To request that the executive re-iterates its support for a new foot and cycle river crossing in the east of the borough and writes to the Mayor of London asking him to reconsider his position on such a project.

**Note:** This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the executive for consideration.

## 10.5 MOTION 5 - SOUTHWARK’S RECYCLING SHAME

*Report: See page 70 of the main agenda*

Motion 5 and Amendment I fell. This was because Amendment D to Motion 1 (Transforming Southwark Council), which was on a similar subject, had been carried.

**11. AMENDMENTS**

The amendments are set out in Supplemental Agenda 3.

The meeting closed at 10.08pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY  
(ORDINARY)  
WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2010  
PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**1. QUESTION FROM SHARYN KERRY TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF ENVIRONMENT**

Please explain disparities between parking services provided by local housing offices and the parking shop. In particular please explain why estate permits issued by housing offices take 1 week and require 5 forms of documentation whereas the parking shop issues on the spot road permits requiring 3 items of documentation.

**RESPONSE**

Thank you for highlighting some of the discrepancies that currently exist.

I am pleased to announce that we are reviewing these procedures, with a view to streamlining all of our procedures and in the future will make use of modern web based systems so that there is a single process for both on-street and estate based permits.

**2. QUESTION FROM MICK BARNARD TO THE LEADER**

If a complaint is deemed inappropriate for the corporate complaints procedure and officers refuse, in writing, to investigate at stage 2 how do you justify it as an "established process". Please provide that part of the relevant document that supports your answer.

**RESPONSE**

Under the corporate complaints procedure, officers can reject a complaint at stage 2. This is a recognised part of the process.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM MICK BARNARD**

First of all the question has not been answered so if you were to read that correctly you would see that no correct answer has been given.

Before I start my question if I might just bring your attention to council assembly rule 2.5(14) which is on page 113 and it says any member can move that a matter raised by a question be referred to the executive or appropriate committee or sub-committee. Please bear that in mind when you hear my question.

The question is, is the leader happy to support the monitoring officer's rejection of my deputation request on the ground that it raises a grievance for which there are other established processes despite the fact that the complaints manager has stated in writing that the process referred to by the monitoring officer is



inappropriate and not within her remit. I reported the matter through the disciplinary procedure to the chief executive but she refuses to investigate. In the same way she has refused to investigate the theft of a member's mobile phone by a member of the public.

### **RESPONSE**

Thank you Mr Mayor. I think it would be inappropriate for me to tell the monitoring officer whether or not a deputation request falls within the constitution. I have every trust and confidence in her judgment. I am afraid I do not understand the complaint about the theft, rather I would have thought it to be something more appropriately raised with the police than the chief executive.

**SOUTHWARK COUNCIL****COUNCIL ASSEMBLY****(ORDINARY)****WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2010****URGENT QUESTION****URGENT QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR ALISON McGOVERN**

Some members of staff have been informed in the last week that no council officer will receive an increment this year, regardless of their performance. Can the leader confirm that this is the case?

**RESPONSE**

This is not the case.

**SOUTHWARK COUNCIL****COUNCIL ASSEMBLY****(ORDINARY)****WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2010****MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME****1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR BOB SKELLY**

How do the results of the key stage 2 tests for 11 year olds compare with other areas and what is their impact on the borough in terms of future pupil numbers and people's decisions in where to raise their families?

**RESPONSE**

This summer for the first time, Southwark outperformed the group of similar boroughs determined by central government statisticians. This group includes the boroughs of Lambeth, Lewisham, Hackney and Islington.

In the key indicator of percentage of pupils achieving a level 4 in both literacy and numeracy, Southwark was the only one of its benchmark group to exceed the national average, sitting securely in the second quartile for performance.

For achievement at level 4 in literacy, mathematics and science Southwark now sits at the top of its benchmark group in each individual indicator and is at or above the national average for each. Over the last three years, the numbers of Southwark schools identified as good or outstanding by Ofsted has doubled, suggesting that the improvements in standards has been matched by improvements across our schools in areas such as care, attendance and behaviour, where Southwark's permanent exclusions were the lowest in the country last year.

Southwark schools have struggled over the years to attract local parents, particularly in the south of the borough where the most successful schools were often seen as being in either Lambeth or Lewisham. Our schools in the south of the borough saw unprecedented demand for places last year, with reports from the independent sector that their applications held-up, it seems likely that parents are beginning to recognise the improvements in our primary schools which have resulted in Southwark having some of the very best schools in the country. Eight such schools have recently been acknowledged by Ofsted, with Her Majesty's Chief Inspector inviting eight of our head teachers to lunch with her to celebrate their achievements, an unprecedented number.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR BOB SKELLY**

I thank the leader for his answer which I think is one of the most gratifying answers we have had to a question in a very long time and I hope everyone reads it. The question is this – in the unlikely event of the party opposite regaining power do you think that Southwark's head teachers would feature strongly in the chief inspector's lunch parties?

**RESPONSE**

Councillor Skelly would know as well as I do the problem that we inherited in 2002 from the administration which had simply not prioritised the problems with education in this borough

sufficiently seriously and which ended with the debacle of a Labour government privatising the Labour councils' education department which turned out, unsurprisingly to those of us who objected at the time, not to be the answer either. I am delighted about the results, I am delighted about the performance of Southwark's schools. I am delighted also that on places like the Aylesbury estate, the investments that is going into buildings like Michael Faraday primary school and the Walworth Academy are a demonstration about the importance to this council of fit for purpose 21<sup>st</sup> century education buildings and I am delighted that once again it looks as though we are getting a large number of applications from people who live in Southwark who want to send their children to schools in Southwark because they realise that they are going to get a decent quality education in this borough.

## **2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN**

Following the fires on Sumner Road and Camberwell Station Road, what action has the council taken to seek an improvement of security and fire safety on building sites in the borough?

### **RESPONSE**

The council, Metropolitan Police Service and fire service met the day after the Sumner Road fire. The council is working with partner agencies to identify other construction sites in the borough which include a timber framed design. Three sites were identified and recommendations were made to the contractors. This included the site at Camberwell Station Road and resulted in a security guard being employed. Additionally the police, working with the local fire service established contingency plans for each of the sites in the borough and police were briefed regarding those priority premises which would require evacuation in the event of a fire. These arrangements were put into practice at Camberwell Station Road, ensuring a swift response from the emergency services in the protection of the public.

The police and council are working in partnership to ensure that regular patrols of these sites take place every day both during the day and at night time.

In addition the strategic director of regeneration and neighbourhoods has written to developers and building site contractors, currently operating in the borough, providing advice for site safety and advising extra vigilance.

## **3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CAROLINE PIDGEON**

How many 16 year olds got five good GCSE passes last year, how has this improved compared to the previous Labour administration and how will it affect the borough's economic prospects to have much better qualified 16 years olds?

### **RESPONSE**

Last year, 67.5% of Southwark students gained five good GCSEs (grades A\* - C). This represents a fantastic increase of 11% from 2008. In 2002, the figure was only 36%.

Evidence is emerging to show that Southwark has weathered the recession better than other parts of the country, with smaller increases in unemployment levels. Some of this can be attributed the vastly improved performance of our young people at GCSE level. Not only has this led to more of them having the qualifications necessary to get a job, it has also led to significantly higher levels of people from Southwark going on to complete A-levels and then attend university.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL FROM COUNCILLOR CAROLINE PIDGEON**

I would like to thank the leader for his answer. I am absolutely thrilled by the improvements from 36% in 2002 under the then Labour council, under the privatised local education authority, to approaching 70% last year. Are there any threats you see to our young people's progress?

### **RESPONSE**

Mr Mayor, the problem that I think haunts all of us at the moment is the prospect of another generation leaving school with good qualifications that in the past would have been good enough to get a job but being unable to find a job and having the kind of youth unemployment problem for the next 4 or 5 years that this country had in the early 1980s. There is a degree of evidence now about the costs to the public purse that that lost generation of people who left school in the early '80s, did not have a job to go to, got lost to the system, with results of poor public health and problems with the criminal justice system and so on. I think the problem that we are all wrestling with now is here we are with schools producing good results, people leaving schools ready for work, fit for work with qualifications which should enable them to get a job but a real problem about finding jobs in places like London. We are doing our best through schemes like the local apprenticeship scheme to help them but it is a real problem for all of us in London at the moment.

#### **4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW PAKES**

How is the council using this Holocaust Memorial Day, the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, as an opportunity to raise awareness of the Holocaust across the borough and educate young people about the terrible atrocities during the Holocaust and subsequent genocides?

### **RESPONSE**

The council is supporting a number of events to commemorate this important anniversary. The Mayor attended a short Act of Remembrance this morning at Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park and led a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Soviet Memorial. The theme for 2010 is 'The Legacy of Hope' and the Mayor was asked to give a short speech reflecting on the Holocaust and what it means for us today. At 3:30pm the Deputy Mayor attended the 2010 Holocaust Memorial Day National Commemoration at The Guildhall.

Obviously, lessons about the Holocaust are included in the school curriculum across the country, and I hope that schools in Southwark will use this anniversary to further promote the understanding of our young people of the terrible events of Holocaust and all subsequent genocides.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW PAKES**

Thank you very much Mr Mayor. Can I thank the leader for his answer and can I just ask a supplementary question – I know as we get closer to elections it is very easy for us to go into our party political point scoring and very often this chamber does not do itself justice for the people of this borough. I think sometimes there is a bigger picture and I think it is very telling today in all our debates that 65 years ago today the gates of Auschwitz-Birkenau were being broken down by liberating soldiers to greet the survivors that were there. I have had the privilege today and over the last week to look after some of the 200 survivors that are in London today as part of that commemoration and those surviving holocaust and genocides such as in Rwanda.

I am very pleased that the deputy Mayor was present at that event today alongside other Mayors. Could I just ask then the leader to perhaps reflect and ask officers to look through

what we have done this year and whether in future years we can do even more because 65 years on there's not many survivors left but that legacy of hope is a message that Southwark should encapsulate as all our migrant communities have a long proud history on this.

## **RESPONSE**

Mr Mayor, certainly the most moving meeting of the community council that I have attended in the last seven years was the meeting of Bermondsey community council where young people from the Salmon youth centre in a joint project with Cambridge House, had been on a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau and the before and after of taking a gang of teenagers from Bermondsey on a jolly foreign trip – for many of them the first time ever – to actually go into Auschwitz-Birkenau seeing at first hand the memorial exhibit there, the glasses and so on and realising quite what had happened and realising that it had happened to people of their own age was an absolutely telling video that we showed at the community council. I think the impact that it had on everyone who was watching was absolutely hair raising and it is that kind of thing I think which we need to bring home to people. It is very easy to watch black and white footage and think this is all something that happened in a far away place a long, long time ago. You are right; it still happens in places today and it is really important for all of us that we continue that on, which is why we should also remember things like the Blitz and it is very easy to sit at home and watch war films and war games on DVDs and Wiis and things like that – I am not for a moment trying to say that we should ban this but there is a real horror actually being on the receiving end of that which we should also remember and inform young people about.

## **5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD THOMAS**

Last summer local residents around Lordship Lane were consulted about a new zebra crossing on Lordship Lane outside Somerfield. Over 80% of respondents wanted it. Can the leader please tell me when it will happen?

## **RESPONSE**

I am delighted to announce that a report will be brought to the Dulwich Community Council meeting in March to update members on the programme for implementing a pelican crossing in this location using funding from the local implementation plan, 2010-13.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD THOMAS**

Can I thank the leader for that answer. I am sure the people of East Dulwich will be delighted. I think one of the great problems with high streets is to address road safety and as a parent of young children I know that it can actually be quite terrifying walking up and down a high street rather than the safe – in inverted commas – environment that you get in purpose-built shopping mall. So I am delighted that he has given that commitment and the people of East Dulwich will get that long awaited crossing on Lordship Lane.

## **RESPONSE**

Mr Mayor I am pleased about that and I am also pleased that members who live in Walworth receive the notification that the preparatory work to move that dreadful southern roundabout at the top of Walworth Road is shortly to begin. Over the course of this year we should see that roundabout going and street level crossings being reinstated at that junction so people do not have to go through those dreadful underpasses to get to where they want to at the Elephant and Castle and to reassert that the pedestrians have a proper place to play at street level at the Elephant & Castle as well. I think it is really important.

## **6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER**

Would the leader comment on Labour run Lambeth's plans to aim for a minimal recycling, high incineration policy to deal with household waste?

### **RESPONSE**

Lambeth's recycling record under Labour is typical of the priority Labour gives to the environment. In 2006 when Labour regained control of the borough 22.2% of household waste was recycled. Under their brave new regime they managed to boost the recycling rate by a mammoth 3.3% to 25.5% by 2009 (the latest year DEFRA has figures for).

So given the proximity of the election and their lack of progress it was hardly surprising that in the summer of last year Lambeth Council launched a consultation on their MWMS - Municipal Waste Management Strategy including looking at 'whether Lambeth should aim for a minimal recycling, high incineration policy.'

It is clear from Labour's record on recycling in both Lambeth and Southwark – where after 40 years of Labour control the council's recycling rate was just 3.6% – that in office their actions speak louder than their words in opposition.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER**

Thank you Mr Mayor. Would the leader make it clear that the Liberal Democrats in Southwark will completely reject any attempt to use incineration as a way of bypassing recycling targets and continue to make it easier for local people to maximise their recycling?

### **RESPONSE**

Mr Mayor, yes – the whole point of the contract that we entered into earlier, the whole point of the PFI scheme for the waste transfer station on the Old Kent Road was to massively increase our capacity to collect recycling, to be able to collect different kinds of recycling and also to be able to take whatever rubbish remains to SELCHP and to make SELCHP what it was always designed to be, a giant combined heat power unit, so that the rubbish that gets burnt in SELCHP will produce the heating and then get connected up to the estates in Rotherhithe and Bermondsey to produce much more carbon friendly, much cheaper, much more reliable heating than they get at the moment. I think it is a totally virtuous circle and I think it is the kind of far sighted investment which this council needs to make because it needs to take responsibility for its waste; it needs to take responsibility for trying to increase the amount that we recycle. I think this is going to be a visionary scheme which will green Southwark, help us to meet the carbon reduction pledges, things like that and the MUSCo I think will transform Southwark as a place to live.

### **7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI**

Given in 2006 Labour run Lambeth sold off their council housing without telling tenants and Labour run Lewisham is now selling many of its homes to London and Quadrant, what assurances will the leader give to Southwark tenants that their homes will not be privatised against their wishes?

### **RESPONSE**

I'm happy to reassure Southwark tenants that the Liberal Democrats will maintain their pledge of not privatising council homes against their wishes.

I would also like to take this opportunity to disassociate myself and the Liberal Democrats from Cllr John's view, expressed at the last council assembly that the executive's decision

in 2005 to retain all stock “terrible” and “an awful con-trick”. Doing what tenants want is not “terrible” – it is the right thing to do.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR ANOON AL-SALMERAI**

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you to the leader for his answer. I was concerned to read that the privatised housing company in Lambeth is proposing a 5% rent rise and an 8% service charge rise. Does he agree with the Labour MP for Vauxhall who told the SLP that the rent should not be going up in Lambeth more than any other London council? A 5% increase in rent is not acceptable and an 8% increase for service charges would be outrageous because of the reality of poor services that tenants are getting in Lambeth. Can he also confirm that Southwark tenants will not face those sorts of increase?

#### **RESPONSE**

Mr Mayor, almost by definition council tenants in Southwark are some of the poorest people in the country and it is right that we should be responsible in any rent rises that we seek to impose. This year I think we are virtually mandated by the government to raise rents by just over 1%, that is below the current rate of RPI. I am delighted that the government listened to the representations we made last year when we were faced with having to impose on tenants a 6% rent increase and if we did not we were faced with losing a subsidy which would have had the equivalent effect to the HRA. But I do think it is wrong that council have to set rents according to a national scheme. I cannot understand why the government would want to nationalise rent setting but I think it is then incumbent on those of us who have far greater powers over local revenues to exercise that responsibly. I think at the moment to try and put up rent charges, as I say, on the poorest people in the society, cannot be the right thing to do.

#### **QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON**

How many complaints has he received in the last 12 months about the standard of social care in the borough and what information has been published by local MPs about their casework on this topic?

#### **RESPONSE**

In the last year, I have received seven pieces of correspondence related to social care. One of these was a complaint. From their recent annual reports, I am aware that social care issues accounted for 1.5% of casework enquiries for Harriet Harman MP, and 2% for Simon Hughes MP.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON**

Thank you Mr Mayor – I would like to thank the leader for his answer and ask that if the CQC report into adult social care really reflected the council service would you not have expected many more letters and complaints, including the local MPs and the Labour members opposite, but I wonder now if the members opposite are simply playing politics with elderly and vulnerable people in our borough?

#### **RESPONSE**

Mr Mayor, the reality is that if we are to accept all the verdicts of the independent inspectorates then the picture in social services in the last year is that we have gone from having one of the best social services departments in the country to one of the worst in the space of twelve months. I would be expecting not just members in this chamber to be raising queries about a sharp deterioration in services and not just local members of parliament to raise concerns about the sharp deterioration in social services but for service



users to be raising concerns about the sharp deterioration in social services. In addition to not having received complaints from members, and in addition to not having received complaints from MPs I have not been receiving complaints and neither, as far as I can tell, has Councillor Noakes or the department. We have not actually been receiving complaints from real people complaining about the deterioration in services. I do not think that the report from the CQC reflects the reality on the ground, I have never been shy in the past about accepting a report which is critical of council services, that have a valuable part to play in helping us to challenge ourselves and challenging our officers and seek to put right what is going wrong. We have learnt valuable lessons from inspections in the past but I think the CQC methodology was flawed, I think the evidence that they present was wrong, I think the report is bad and I do not accept this conclusion because I cannot see any independent corroboration for it. There are some valuable things I think in the CQC report which is so unbalanced and it is so hard to accept the central thrust of its conclusions, that it is hard to know what is good and reliable and requires action and what is not.

#### 8. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

What was the average response time from the council following reports of a) abandoned vehicles; b) graffiti; c) fly-tipping, broken down by month for the last twelve months?

#### RESPONSE

The tables give details of the average response time from the council for abandoned vehicles, graffiti and fly tipping.

For abandoned vehicles the nuisance vehicle unit has a target response of 24 hours.

Please find below a table showing responses within target and the number of vehicles dealt with over the last 12 months.

Month – 2009	No. of vehicles	Percentage responses within target
January	21	95.24
February	14	100
March	48	100
April	15	100
May	15	100
June	16	100
July	15	86.67
August	16	100
September	21	90.48
October	17	100
November	11	90.91
December	9	100

Target times for fly-tipping and graffiti removal is from 24 hours. The table below shows the percentage response times within target. Details are provided by our cleaning contractor for the period from April – November 2009.

Month – 2009	Percentage responses within target (Fly-tipping)	Percentage responses within target (Graffiti)
April	99	85
May	98	82
June	91.5	87
July	98	93
August	98	94

September	99	98
October	98.6	98
November	99	98.4

### SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

Thank you Mr Mayor. Is the executive member concerned that the decision to increase the tonnage charge for commercial organisations to use Manor Place waste disposal depot by 8.3% during an economic downturn will increase the incidence of flytipping?

### RESPONSE

I don't have the answer to that question but I will find out for you.

### 9. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

Can the executive member provide details of how many fixed penalty notices for environmental crime were issued in each of the past five years, broken down by type of offence? Can the executive member provide details of how many individuals and businesses have been prosecuted by the council for environmental crime in each of the past five years, broken down by type of offence?

### RESPONSE

The following table provides details of the number of fixed penalty notices for environmental crime issued in each of the past five years by offence.

<b>2005:</b>		<b>1725</b>
E01	Littering s88(1) EPA 1990	1713
EXX	Historic FPN Code – Archive	12

<b>2006:</b>		<b>3589</b>
E01	Littering s88(1) EPA 1990	3351
E03	Non-compliance litter clearing notice s94B EPA 199	135
E04	Non-production of registration s5B CPAA 1989	50
EXX	Historic FPN Code – Archive	48
E06	Exposing/repairing vehicles on road a6 CNEA 2005	2
E12	Refuse & Disposal Amenity Act s24	2
E10	Unauthorised advertisements s43(1)ASBA 2003	1

<b>2007:</b>		<b>3880</b>
E01	Littering s88(1) EPA 1990	3067
E13	Depositing Litter S87/88	487
E16	Failure to produce waste transfer documents S34(5) 34(6)	101
E03	Non-compliance litter clearing notice s94B EPA 199	94
E04	Non-production of registration s5B CPAA 1989	36
EXX	Historic FPN Code – Archive	29
E25	Dog fouling	26
E22	Unauthorised marks on the highway (Graffiti) S132(1)	13
E10	Unauthorised advertisements s43(1)ASBA 2003	11
E24	Unauthorised display of advertising (fly posting) S224(3)	5
E12	Refuse & Disposal Amenity Act s24	4
E26	Smoking in a smoke free place S7(2) Health Act 2006	2

<b>2007:</b>		<b>3880</b>
E18	Unauthorised distribution of free printed matter S3A	1
E20	Exposing vehicles for sale on a road S3/6(1)	1
E14	Failure to comply with a street litter control notice S94/94A	1
E17	Failure to produce authority to transport waste S5/5B	1
E05	Non-compliance with receptacle notice s47ZA(2) EPA	1

<b>2008:</b>		<b>5355</b>
E13	Depositing Litter S87/88	4147
E01	Littering s88(1) EPA 1990	333
E26	Smoking in a smoke free place S7(2) Health Act 2006	188
E22	Unauthorised marks on the highway (Graffiti) S132(1)	170
E16	Failure to produce waste transfer documents S34(5) 34(6)	151
E25	Dog fouling	118
E35	Highway Obstruction	63
E17	Failure to produce authority to transport waste S5/5B	51
E24	Unauthorised display of advertising (fly posting) S224(3)	48
E36	Illegal Street Trading	31
E12	Refuse & Disposal Amenity Act s24	20
E39	Breach of an abatement - S80(4)	8
E33	Fly Posting	6
E10	Unauthorised advertisements s43(1)ASBA 2003	5
E23	Destroying or damaging property (Graffiti and flyposting) S1(1)	4
E20	Exposing vehicles for sale on a road S3/6(1)	3
E27	Failing to display required no-smoking signs S6(5) Health Act 2006	2
E19	Failure to comply with a waste receptacles notice S46/47/47ZA/47ZB	1
E06	Exposing/repairing vehicles on road a6 CNEA 2005	1
E03	Non-compliance litter clearing notice s94B EPA 199	1
E04	Non-production of registration s5B CPAA 1989	1
E34	Nuisance Vehicle	1
E21	Repairing vehicles on a road S4/6(1)	1
E18	Unauthorised distribution of free printed matter S3A	1

<b>2009:</b>		<b>4298</b>
E13	Depositing Litter S87/88	2708
E01	Littering s88(1) EPA 1990	722
E16	Failure to produce waste transfer documents S34(5) 34(6)	184
E26	Smoking in a smoke free place S7(2) Health Act 2006	163
E22	Unauthorised marks on the highway (Graffiti) S132(1)	145
E36	Illegal Street Trading	129
E24	Unauthorised display of advertising (flyposting) S224(3)	89
E17	Failure to produce authority to transport waste S5/5B	56
E25	Dog fouling	54
E39	Breach of an abatement - S80(4)	26
E21	Repairing vehicles on a road S4/6(1)	7
E10	Unauthorised advertisements s43(1)ASBA 2003	7
E12	Refuse & Disposal Amenity Act s24	4
E15	Failure to comply with a litter clearing notice S92C/94A	2
E19	Failure to comply with a waste receptacles notice S46/47/47ZA/47ZB	1
E05	Non-compliance with receptacle notice s47ZA(2) EPA	1

The number of businesses and individuals that have been prosecuted for environmental crime over the past five years is being collated and will be provided to members in due course.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER**

I would like to thank the member for her answer and look forward to receiving the rest of it in due course. Does the executive member believe that the expansion of fixed penalty notices for environmental crime under Labour's Clean Neighbourhoods Environment Act 2005 – does she see that as a success and would she like to see the use of fixed penalty notices extended further?

#### **RESPONSE**

As far as I can see at the moment we are covering every aspect that is required by the residents of the borough and within the legislation. If the member has a specific thing in mind please let me know.

#### **10. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY**

Southwark appears to be experiencing a worryingly sharp rise in incidents of homophobic hate crime, there was an increase of 58% between September 2008 and September 2009. What discussions has the executive member had with the Borough Commander and other senior police officers about the likely causes and most effective methods to reverse this trend?

#### **RESPONSE**

Earlier this year Southwark Metropolitan Police Service (MPS Southwark) carried out a review of how homophobic and hate crimes were being recorded in 2008-09. The recording required a police officer to place a marker, known as a flag, on the crime report, showing the incident to be a homophobic or hate crime.

The review highlighted that a number of crimes in 2008-09 had not been properly recorded. Senior police officers in MPS Southwark have acknowledged the importance of recording both homophobic and hate crime. As a result this process has been revised and senior police officers have stated to the executive member for community safety that the figures that are now being seen in 2009-10 are at the same level as 2008-09 had proper recording been in place.

Further analysis of both homophobic crime and hate crime has taken place this year and this has not shown any significant hotspots.

Lead officers for MPS Southwark, the council and community representatives are working closely together to identify initiatives to support victims of homophobic and hate crime to generate community intelligence and tackle the problem through a strengthened partnership focus on the borough. This focus will be included in the Safer Southwark Partnership Rolling Plan for 2010-12 which will be published later this year.

The London gay, bisexual and transgender co-ordinator within Southwark Council has been transferred to the community safety and enforcement division within environment & housing with a remit to widen hate crime coverage. The move has been taken in recognition of a greater emphasis in supporting victims of both homophobic and hate crime and this will be a feature of our future plans.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY**

Thank you Mr Mayor. I thank the executive member for her reply. She would be aware that Nick Clegg recently described David Cameron as being very difficult to trust on the issue of gay rights. I wonder if she agrees with the leader's comment and I also wonder if she is concerned as to what a Conservative government in such a nightmare scenario would do in terms of resourcing homophobic crime.

**RESPONSE**

Thank you – I can't speak on behalf of the Conservative government unfortunately.

**11. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH**

Will the executive member welcome the recent proposals from the Secretary of State for Justice to increase the minimum sentence for those convicted of knife crime?

**RESPONSE**

Tackling knife crime remains a priority for our community and is reflected in the work of the council and its partners in tackling serious violent crime. We welcome the proposals from the Secretary of State which will send out a clear message that those committed of knife crime will receive a lengthy custodial sentence. However, we will seek assurances from the National Offender Management Service that structured rehabilitations programmes are included for those convicted of knife crime, to minimise the likelihood to reoffending.

We also have to ensure that our focus of increased sentencing is balanced by sufficient preventative measures which deter knife crime in the first instance and ones that support victims and their families. It is clear from our research and evidence that, in many cases, there is a close association between the victims and offenders of knife crime. To prevent the cycle of knife crime we need to ensure that programmes are in place to work with individuals and families most at risk of becoming involved in serious violence and support them away from that lifestyle. Southwark Council has a long track history of working with our communities to develop such programmes and we are committed to continuing that work in the future.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH**

I would like to thank the executive member for her answer and I would like to ask her – I am as concerned as her over the increase in knife crime in the borough. Could she also tell us what discussion she has had with the Borough Commander on this issue and whether the council has any initiative of its own and when it is intended to be brought forward?

**RESPONSE**

Actually I am quite pleased with the work that we are doing regarding knife crime within the borough with various agencies and with Pathways specifically. I think we are getting on top of it with some of the youths and you know that we took out the anti-social behaviour against, I think it was 7 youths in the middle of Peckham this year which has also caused the number of crimes to drop dramatically.

**12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON MCGOVERN**

Have the council wardens undergone any training in recognising fire risks following the fire at Lakanal House and the fire in Peckham last year? What other work is the member planning with partner organisations to prevent major fires in the borough?

## **RESPONSE**

The council wardens undergo fire safety training as part of the health and safety element of their core training programme. They also receive specific training on risk assessment which also incorporates elements of fire safety. Warden team leaders undergo more detail risk assessment training and fire marshal training.

In addition wardens' briefings were carried out alongside fire officers to identify visible fire risks inside similar blocks, immediately following the Lakanal fire.

We are in the process of developing additional fire safety training for wardens. This is being undertaken with a recognised fire safety expert with a view to be delivered across the service during this year.

Wardens and housing officers have been carrying out estate visits alongside local fire officers to other blocks in the Borough providing advice to residents and home fire safety information.

The council, police and London Fire Brigade have worked together to identify construction sites where timber framed construction is being used. We have worked closely with our partners to provide advice to the contractors on safety and security and Council officers and Police carry out regular patrols of these sites.

We have also provided additional advice through our planning department to contractors on appropriate building safety measures and how to obtain additional advice.

We have started work on revising the tenant's handbook to provide tenants with clear information on fire safety and to highlight their responsibility. This has been supported by the fire service.

Environmental enforcement officers have been working alongside housing officers on specific blocks, taking action against residents who block fire escape routes.

The council is responsible for inspecting and requesting adequate fire safety arrangements in privately rented multiply occupied dwellings. Following the Lakanal fire, environmental health officers had agreed with the fire service a process of increased referrals and joint inspections of high risk cases which has resulted in increased enforcement action.

The council has supported the fire service in the development of the Life Programme. The programme is delivered over one week to young people identified by the youth offending service and anti social behaviour unit as either known to have been or been at risk of fire setting. In 2009-10, 75 Southwark young people will have attended the programme and a total of 300 have been through the life programme over the past four years.

The council is working closely with the police and the National Offender Management Service to identify offenders in the borough who have previously been convicted of arson. We will be working with these partner agencies to identify the current history of these clients and identify further action on a case by case basis.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON McGOVERN**

Thank you Mayor – I would like to thank the executive member for her answer.

I am sure I speak for all of us in thinking that fire safety is an absolute priority for the borough and unfortunately there was another fire very recently in Camberwell, last weekend, but luckily no one was hurt. Unfortunately one of my constituents came to me concerned because post the fire at Lakanal it's taken six months for him to receive fire safety advice from the council. I wondered if the executive member was aware of such delays and whether she can confirm to me what action the council is taking to make sure that all those residents who do contact the council are receiving excellent fire safety advice?

#### **RESPONSE**

I have no knowledge of any tenant not being given the appropriate advice. I am not sure if Councillor Humphreys can expand on that.

#### **RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS**

Yes, in response to that I am surprised and disappointed to hear about that but if Councillor McGovern would like to give me the details, we will address the matter with the relevant office and find out why that has not been done.

#### **13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER**

Just before Christmas she wrote to the Home Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government, among others, calling on them to support the council's initiatives to reduce violent crime. What has been the result?

#### **RESPONSE**

I have received responses from the Home Office, the Department for Communities and Local Government, Caroline Pigeon AM, Chris Grayling MP and Chris Huhne MP. And as a result further meetings are likely to be held with the Greater London Authority and Liberal Democrat and Conservative home office teams.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER**

Thank you Mr Mayor – I thank the executive member for her answer. Whilst I am very pleased with the GLA and the opposition front benchers are keen to hear more about this very important initiative, could I ask whether either Ministry has offered a similar meeting.

#### **RESPONSE**

I have actually received replies as I stated. I also received a letter from the Department for Communities and Local Government and I quote: "I have contacted the Home Office and they have agreed to accept responsibility for this correspondence. I have therefore transferred your letter to them and they will respond to you directly". That was on 2 December and on 9 December I received a letter from the Home Office saying: "I would like to advise you that the matters raised are the responsibility for the Communities and Local Government. I have therefore transferred your letter and its enclosures to that department". If it wasn't so serious it would be funny and the sooner that we rid of these idiots in May the better.

#### **14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN JARDINE-BROWN**

In December the Transport Research Laboratory produced its fourth annual survey of mobile phone and seat belt usage rates in London which showed the illegal use of hand

held mobile phones on the rise. Given this was a London-wide survey with a single sampling point in Southwark (Wyndham Road/Camberwell Road), will she look at commissioning a local survey to get a more detailed picture of what position is in Southwark?

## **RESPONSE**

Intelligence gathering of this nature may assist us in targeting road safety resources to achieve road casualty reductions in line with the council's road safety plan and community safety strategy. I will discuss this issue with officers and look at current priorities and funding availability.

**Note:** The response to this question was provided by the executive member for environment, who answered any supplementary question.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN JARDINE-BROWN**

I would like to thank the executive member for her answer and as a supplementary. The Transport Research Laboratory found that if you drive while using a mobile phone you are 4 times more likely to be involved in an accident and your reaction time is 3 times slower than drink drivers and twice as slow as those driving while under the influence of cannabis. Given the seriousness of this offence does she think that the local drivers should receive an automatic ban if prosecuted?

## **RESPONSE FROM EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU**

Thank you Mr Mayor. I am not convinced that automatic bans are the answer. It is a longstanding principle of English justice that cases should be tried on their merits. But having said that I cannot help comment that Harriett Harman got off lightly. Here we have a serial offender with annual road traffic offences to her name over the last 3 years receiving a small fine and 3 points on her licence for an offence that experts consider more dangerous than being drunk at the wheel. I can't imagine that the court would be so lenient with the vast majority of her residents.

## **15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MACKIE SHEIK**

Could he indicate the number of users of the John Harvard Library before and after its refurbishment?

## **RESPONSE**

Since John Harvard Library reopened on 16 November 2009, December will be the first complete reporting calendar period. As the library was closed in December 2008 for the refurbishment, the comparison below is against the same period in December 2007.

<b>December 2009</b>		<b>December 2007</b>	
Items issued	11,276	Items issued	7115
Visitors	15,316	Visitors	13,750
New borrowers	772	New borrowers	239

The comparative data shows that item issues have increased 58%; visitors to the library have increased by 11% and new borrowers are up by a tremendous 223%.



I am very pleased with the refurbishment works and the new and improved features of the library, which include extended opening hours, increased study space and more public access PCs, an improved stock collection, blu-ray films and a vibrant refreshment area.

At the launch of her consultation on the future of library services, the Culture Minister, Margaret Hodge, even went on to praise the refurbished library as a “stunning exemplar” for the rest of the country. I am pleased to report that Ed Vaizey, who will hopefully be the next Culture Minister, also attended and was equally impressed.

I believe the refurbishment carried out at John Harvard Library represents a successful model for future improvements to other libraries in the borough.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR MACKIE SHEIK**

I want to thank the executive member for his answer and for highlighting some of the improvements in this fantastic refurbished library. May I ask this supplemental question – how does Southwark’s capital spending on leisure facilities compare with other London boroughs?

#### **RESPONSE**

I thank you for the supplementary. I think whilst I don’t have any exact figures to hand, I think it is fair to say that our capital investment over the past 4 years is something that we should be absolutely proud of and we probably are the highest in London. We are probably the only borough that saved two Victorian baths and refurbishing them. We are also reopening the Surrey Docks Water Sports Centre on 10 February. We delivered the John Harvard Library, which I think is a model for refurbishments for other libraries throughout the borough and certainly I feel that whilst I have been managing this service we have invested in the services that people care about and I hope that we will continue to do so.

#### **16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE**

Can the executive member provide details of bonus payments made by the council to officers in the last financial year, broken down by the size and number awarded to officers on each pay scale?

#### **RESPONSE**

The council does not make bonus payments; these were eliminated as part of the council’s remuneration strategy (single status implementation) in 2000 under the previous administration.

The council does however provide performance related pay for senior managers at the top two tiers. This was introduced in 2000 by Labour, replacing the previous scheme and was introduced to reflect the fact that Southwark paid at the lower end of the related market and in order to incentivise top manager performance.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE**

Thank you Mr Mayor, and thanks to the executive member for responding. Given the Audit Commission’s views that Southwark is the worst performing council in inner London, do you think this should be reflected in the performance related pay awards given to senior staff?

#### **RESPONSE**

I think it is excellent that unlike some other authorities that Southwark does have an element of performance related pay in the salaries of senior officers, especially given the salaries that we pay on the third quartile anyway. One only has to look at other authorities such as Westminster who have got twice as many staff earning six figure salaries as we have and with the highest salary bands in the range of £240,000; or Camden with 26 members of staff receiving over £100,000 and a high salary band of £330,000 – it makes Southwark's pay settlement look very small in comparison. I do completely agree that senior officers should be rewarded based on performance and from the most senior officer herself – the chief executive – there are annual targets set, the officers are monitored against those targets and are rewarded accordingly.

**17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY**

The executive member said he was unable to answer questions about the contents of the borough's refreshed capital programme at the beginning of the month. Given the importance of the programme can he assure members of his full involvement in drawing up the programme?

**RESPONSE**

I have been very involved in the refresh of the council's capital programme. Since the agreement of the 2007-16 programme by the executive in February 2007 new bids have been received and new resources identified.

Much work has been, and continues to be done on closing the gap between the new commitments and the available resources. Progress will be reported to the executive at its February meeting.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY**

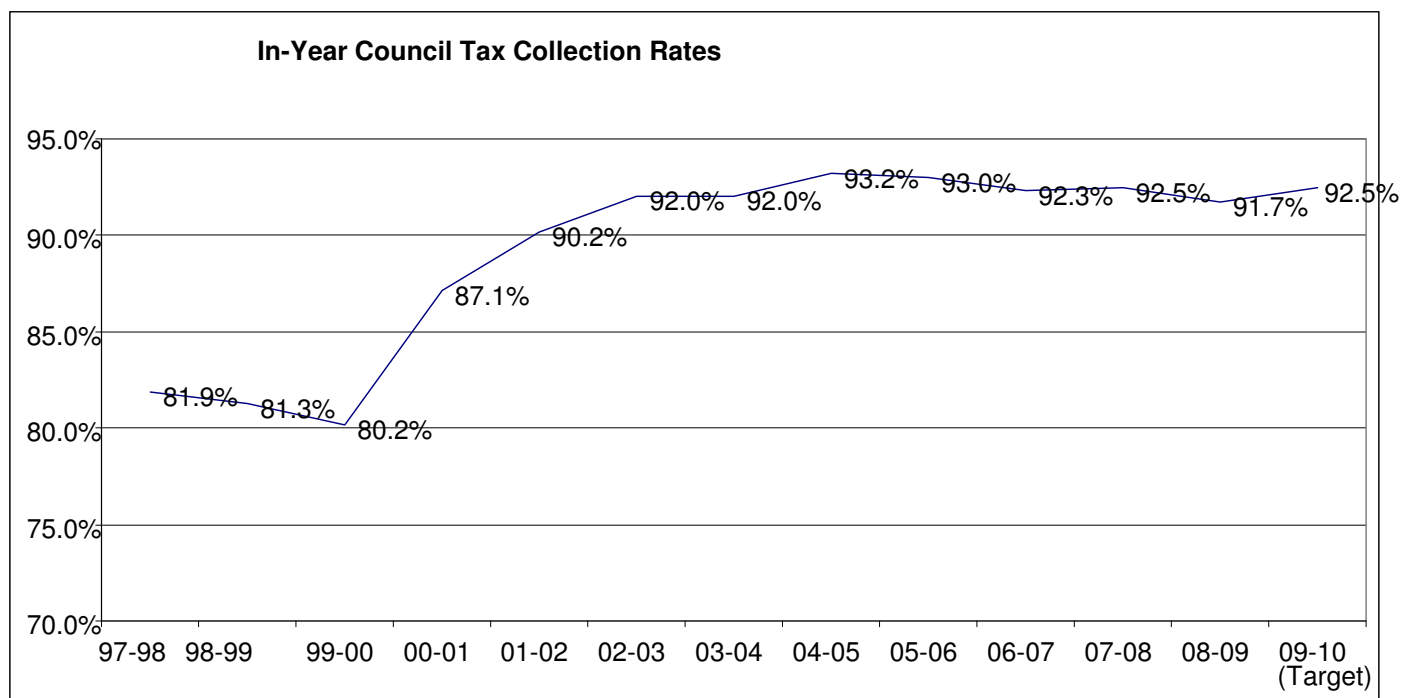
Thank you Mr Mayor. I would like to thank the executive member for his answers. He would recall that members of overview and scrutiny were disappointed that they were unable to see any sort of information about what is coming forward in the capital programme at our scrutiny meeting earlier in the month. Will there be an opportunity for community councils to have their say on what projects go into the capital programme before the refreshed plans are finalised?

**RESPONSE**

Thank you Mr Mayor – I would like to thank Councillor Colley for her supplemental. At the overview and scrutiny committee we weren't able to go into specifics because the report was still being drafted. The report will be coming to the executive on 9 February and is a matter reserved for the executive. It is obviously going to be subject to scrutiny and that committee can obviously call us in should she choose. At the moment the capital programme is not a matter for community council or for council assembly but obviously there is the report of the scrutiny sub-committee C suggesting that the matter could be considered by council assembly and it has therefore been referred by the executive to the constitutional steering panel.

**18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE ZULETA**

What is the current council tax collection rate and how does this compare with each year from 1994?

**RESPONSE**

It is not possible to provide data prior to 1997-98 due to the lack of proper financial records under the previous administration.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE ZULETA**

Thank you Mr Mayor. I would like to thank the executive member for his answer. It seems to me that the first time the in-year collection rate ever exceeded 90% by more than a whisker was when I was the executive member for resources. Moreover, the best year for council tax collection under a Labour administration is still worst than the worst year under a Liberal Democrat administration. What does that say about Labour's financial competence in reality?

**RESPONSE**

Thank you Mr Mayor – thank you to Councillor Zuleta for her supplemental. Yes it is clear isn't it, and the graphs provided to help those members opposite, that the worst year of collection under the Liberal Democrats is about 2% higher than the best ever achieved by Labour. I think that now that we are taking council tax collection back in-house, let's remember that it was Labour who privatised it in the first place back at the end of the 1990s, we are now going to be looking at a much higher percentage than they would ever be able to achieve. Let's remember we entered in 2000 with 80.2% collection rates and six months delays in giving people their council tax benefits. We are now up to projecting a 92.5% outturn and it is taking 16 days to process people's council tax benefit. I think it is clear that the public are better off under Liberal Democrats.

**19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO**

Can he give the figures for the Southwark element of council tax each year from its introduction in 1993-94 to the present and the cash and percentage increase from year to year?

**RESPONSE**

Year	Southwark		Cash difference
	£	%	£
1993-94	460.13	-	-
1994-95	397.13	-13.7%	-63
1995-96	504.00	26.9%	+106.87
1996-97	641.86	27.4%	+137.86
1997-98	646.97	0.8%	+5.11
1998-99	672.97	4.0%	+26.00
1999-00	688.41	2.3%	+15.44
2000-01	705.62	2.5%	+17.21
2001-02	748.62	6.1%	+43.00
2002-03	776.10	3.7%	+27.48
2003-04	809.78	4.3%	+33.68
2004-05	829.21	2.4%	+19.43
2005-06	844.14	1.8%	+14.93
2006-07	844.14	0.0%	-
2007-08	877.06	3.9%	+32.92
2008-09	912.14	4.0%	+35.08
2009-10	912.14	0.0%	-

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO**

Thank you very much Mr Mayor. I would like to thank the executive member for his comprehensive answer. However, given Labour's record and their uncostly spending pledges over the last four years, what is the likely impact on council tax if in the unlikely event they are returned to power in 99 days time?

**RESPONSE**

Thank you Mr Mayor. I would like to thank Councillor Blango for his supplemental. In the past four years we have introduced over £40 million worth of savings to this council. Labour in their budget each year keep rolling out the same trite suggestions and unrealistic estimates for savings year-on-year – they put the same thing in year after year – whilst we have the reality of government here in Southwark and we have to come up with new efficiency savings year-on-year, unlike them. So the effect of each of those £1 million that we have saved – those £40 million – is 1.2% for each million pounds. So I would estimate we would probably have a council tax increase of 15-20% each year if we were to implement a budget under Labour now.

**20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON**

Can the executive member update the council on the cost savings associated with the move of back office staff to Tooley Street, the environmental benefits and income realised from the disposal of former offices?

**RESPONSE**

Moving to Tooley Street is enabling us to save £35m and has given our staff a vastly improved working environment, leading to increases in morale and productivity.

On top of the savings that we will make on our energy bills, the building provides a number of environmental benefits including solar thermal heating, rainwater harvesting, automatic

lighting control and a free flow air system, which helps to make it one of the greenest buildings in London.

In addition, we estimate that £39.5m will be raised from sales of former offices - £3.5m more than originally estimated.

**21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL**

What would be the impact on the council tax if the council hadn't taken tough spending decisions over the past four years?

**RESPONSE**

The council has taken tough and prudent spending decisions balancing priorities and investment at the frontline whilst achieving efficiencies in back office functions. The Audit Commission assess the council as providing good value for money.

Over the four years from 2006-07 to 2009-10, we have budgeted to make savings totalling £48.4m, representing 4.2% of the net revenue budget. Over the same period additional unavoidable service pressures of £42.1m or 3.6% of the budget were funded.

Of course, for every £1m increase in council spending, the council tax would have had to increase by £10.80 per band D property.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL**

I would like to thank the executive member for his response. Given that Labour has opposed every efficiency saving made by the council over the last eight years, including the move to Tooley Street, does he agree that we can safely assume a Labour administration would reverse these decisions meaning a rise of more than £500 under Labour? Either that or they have been hypocritical about their budget proposals. Which is it?

**RESPONSE**

Thank you Mr Mayor. I would like to thank Councillor Mitchell for his supplemental. He is completely right. The move to Tooley Street has saved us a lot of money and has put in place the mechanisms that will allow us to continue to save money going into the future. Labour consistently opposed that and if it had not been for the move to Tooley Street we would be in a much worse position now than we are. If we do have a change of government in May and the spending cuts that are being talked about are implemented, it is likely that we will be able to survive much better than neighbouring boroughs because we have made the move to Tooley Street and because we have put in place the modernisation plan and because we are years into it already. Under Labour I think they would be in the same sort of situation as Lambeth now, who has shown their financial disasters by having to put up rent by dramatic levels; running out of money to do repairs. Again I think residents in Southwark have been much safer under Liberal Democrats.

**22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES GURLING**

Since 2000 by how much has the Greater London Authority precept increased?

**RESPONSE**

Since the formation of the Greater London Authority, its band D precept has risen from £120.19 to £309.82, an increase of £189.63 or 157.8%. From 2000 to 2008 Mayor

Livingstone imposed these year-on-year rises. This is in stark contrast to the 17.5% increase of Southwark's council tax rate, between 2002 and 2010.

GLA precept comparisons – Band D households

Year	Southwark		Precept	
	£		£	
1999-00	688.41	-	120.19	-
2000-01	705.62	2.50%	139.82	16.30%
2001-02	748.62	6.10%	150.88	7.90%
2002-03	776.1	3.70%	173.88	15.20%
2003-04	809.78	4.30%	224.4	29.10%
2004-05	829.21	2.40%	241.33	7.50%
2005-06	844.14	1.80%	254.62	5.50%
2006-07	844.14	0.00%	288.61	13.30%
2007-08	877.06	3.90%	303.88	5.30%
2008-09	912.14	4.00%	309.82	2.00%
2009-10	912.14	0.00%	309.82	0.00%
	32.50%		157.80%	

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES GURLING**

I thank you Mr Mayor and can I thank the executive for his answer. Is he aware, and I have this on extremely good authority, that today the Liberal Democrat group on the GLA have voted for a 2.6% reduction in the GLA precept and could he confirm whether or not the Labour GLA member representing Lambeth and Southwark has voted for every one of these 158% increases in precept?

**RESPONSE**

Thank you Mr Mayor. I would like to thank Councillor Gurling for his supplemental. Yes, under the first eight years of Ken Livingstone, Val Shawcross voted each time for the increases which have resulted in 157.8% increase across those eight years. That is in contrast to – let's look at Labour under their last eight years in power in Southwark – an increase of 95.2%, or eight years under the Liberal Democrats: 17.5%, which drops to 12.6% if you take into account the fact the 2002 figure was set by Labour before they exited from office. So actually it is only gone up by 12.6%; a stark contrast to what the GLA have been doing and I am really pleased to hear that Councillor Pidgeon has been voting for a cut in the precept. It is about time this huge bill to fund the GLA comes down.

**23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE**

The leader and other executive members have spent much time over the past few years rubbishing questions from Labour members about the effectiveness of the council's call centre. How does he react to the findings of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection that older people, carers and support organisations have reservations about the performance of the call centre and are, in some cases, refraining from using it?

**RESPONSE**

The customer service centre (CSC) receives 150,000 calls a month of which 1% (1,500) are in relation to health and social care. We understand that the CQC based their findings on a sample of 2 cold calls, which as a percentage of 1,500 calls a month is statistically insignificant in terms of coming to any judgement about the centre's effectiveness.

Adult social care calls are also dealt with outside the CSC. This was not considered by the CQC when they formalised their judgement. For example, the inspection did not look at the council's SMART service which deals with out-of-hours calls nor consider the dedicated calls that are made to the most vulnerable as part of the standard service offer.

More broadly, the council's regular and statistically significant customer satisfaction research shows increasing satisfaction with the CSC.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE**

Thank you Mr Mayor – I would like to thank the executive member for his answer which clearly shows he is still in denial of the conclusion of the CQC report as is Councillor Stanton as well. Can I remind the executive member that one of the direct quotes in the report was from a resident who had a less than glowing report of the call centre; so is he saying that he actually believes the council figures as statistics, over the actual real life experiences of real service users?

#### **RESPONSE**

Thank you, I would like to thank Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle for her supplementary question. I am not going to deny what an individual person has stated about their experiences of the call centre but it is really not realistic for Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle to rely on one or two examples. The council, as we have indicated in our response, measures much larger numbers of calls and satisfaction rates with those calls. Any centre that is dealing with 150,000 calls a month will have one or two poor experiences. The cold calling that was done by CQC, or what we believe was the cold calling as they won't actually tell us, was based on two calls.

Now I can assure you that we have forums in place, a lot of calls are not centred through the call centre but those that are, are a small percentage of the total number and we also have forums and boards that members of the community, older people, carers and support organisations sit on and this is not an issue that is constantly coming up around the call centre's performances. I as an executive member also attend a number of meetings of the community and bodies in the voluntary sector and I can honestly say to you that I am not getting residents and service users coming up to me and telling me that their main concern is around the call centre and the call centre's performance. So while I would accept of course occasionally the call centre may not provide exactly the service that every single resident wants, the fact is that the monitoring that we are doing is positive and the results we are getting back are positive.

#### **24. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM**

What monitoring is there of home visits provided by the council to older people? How many home visits have been planned and carried out in 2009-10 to date compared with 2008-09 (please break down your answer by month)?

#### **RESPONSE**

Home care packages are regularly and robustly monitored by the council's health and social care commissioning team. This enables the council to quickly identify and act on issues of concern in relation to quality and / or performance.

Where issues of concern are raised directly by service users or social workers, a quality alert will be raised which will be investigated and monitored.

The projected figures for 2009-10 are that the council will commission home care packages for 2,518 clients, providing 989,062 hours of home care overall.

In 2008-09 the council commissioned home care packages for 2,850 clients, totalling 1,075,627 hours of home care. It is not possible to break these figures into months although the pattern is fairly even over the year.

It is not possible to break these figures into months although the pattern is fairly even over the year.

## 25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ADE LASAKI

How many members' questions has he (or his predecessor) dealt with concerning the quality of social care in the last two years?

### RESPONSE

In the last 2 years (January 2008-December 2009) I have been asked 21 members' questions. The questions are detailed below:

When?	Number of questions	Focus of questions
30 January 2008	1	Extra funding to Southwark Pensioners' Centre
9 July 2008	13	Changes in funding to Southwark Carers
		Freedom passes
		Comparing the boroughs for renewing freedom passes
		Applicants not receiving freedom pass renewals
		Issuing of freedom passes for use only in Greater London
		Stress-related sickness absence of social workers
		Action taken to deal with freedom passes
		Consultation on changes to social care eligibility
		Consultation on the merger of day centres
		Host for the LINKs
		Outcomes from the social care funding summit
		Lay inspectors for Southwark care homes
		Changes to client contributions to social care
5 November 2008	2	Changes in numbers to meals-on-wheels users
		Average wait for the installation of minor home aid equipment
28 January 2009	1	Quality of Southwark's Homecare services and the impact on the voluntary sector of contracting out services
23 February 2009	1	Use of improved resources and efficiencies in eligibility for social care
8 April 2009	1	Average charge to residents for adult care services
8 July 2009	2	Work between the Council and voluntary sector
		Discussions on the Aylesbury health centre



An analysis of the quantity and content of the questions I have received from members over the last 2 years does not reflect high levels of concern or dissatisfaction about the quality of adult social services in Southwark.

**26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN**

Can he tell the council what assumptions about social care spending in Southwark are made by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the Audit Commission and are included in the council's local government settlement?

**RESPONSE**

The CQC assumptions are that Southwark is a low spending authority on adult social care.

The Audit Commission judgement is that Southwark is in the highest quartile nationally for adult social care, on the basis of spend per head of adult population.

And the social care component of the council's formula grant as calculated by the Department of Communities and Local Government leaves the council with a potential shortfall in funding of up to £22m.

**27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR JELIL LADIPO**

Does he agree with the government minister, Phil Hope, in his letter of December 2 2009 that the recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) report on adult social care "does not mean that these councils are poor performers"?

**RESPONSE**

I am compelled to say "Yes Minister".

I would also make the point that the rating that Southwark received for safeguarding in the Independence, Wellbeing and Choice Inspection is the same rating that 60% of councils have received who have been inspected.

Furthermore, in the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) Southwark did not receive any poor ratings across the 7 outcomes, and received an overall rating of adequate.

**28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD**

In April 2008 Camberwell Community Council was allocated money under the improving retail environments programme to improve Crossthwaite Avenue, a row of shops in South Camberwell. Different officers and consultants have spoken to the traders, but the council still appears to have made no progress with the project. Could the executive member provide an update and details of when work will begin?

**RESPONSE**

Crossthwaite Avenue has been allocated £81,840 from the Improving Local Retail Environments (ILRE) programme. Initial trader engagement took place in May 2009. The planned completion date for all works is June 2010.

A design consultancy for the site was appointed in October 2009. Consultation on designs was completed in mid-December and the ILRE project co-ordinator has personally visited traders to ensure that they are happy with the work carried out by the designers.

Contractors will be appointed by the end of January 2010, with works starting in February.

**29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS PAGE**

Do the heads of terms agreement signed with Lend Lease meet all the aspirations of the executive member for the regeneration of Elephant & Castle as well as the requirements of the master-plan?

**RESPONSE**

Yes. And in tandem with the release of the revised masterplan, the council will be publishing proposals for improvements to the current leisure and cultural facilities in Elephant and Castle.

**30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR KIRSTY MCNEILL**

What is the executive member's reaction to the Mayor of London's statement earlier this month that there is no money available from Transport for London (TfL) towards the rebuilding of the Northern Line Underground station at Elephant & Castle?

**RESPONSE**

After the failure of the former Labour Mayor of London to follow through on pledges to invest in public transport in Southwark, I'm disappointed, but not surprised that Boris Johnson is not able to make money available for the Northern Line station.

However, the executive and council officers are working hard with Lendlease, Greater London Authority (GLA) and Transport for London (TfL) officers to ensure the successful regeneration of the Elephant & Castle for existing and new residents.

**31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR MARY FOULKES**

Will the executive member condemn the decision by the Mayor of London to hike bus fares by 20% this year, during a period where inflation rates are negative? Does he agree that this will have a particularly heavy impact on the many areas of the borough where bus is the primary or only means of public transport?

**RESPONSE**

If I were to condemn Boris Johnson's 20% bus fare hike this year then I would also have to condemn Ken Livingstone's cash bus fare hikes of 185% (from 70p to £2.00) between 2004 and 2008 and his 28.6% (from 70p to 90p) hike in Oyster single fares in the same period. And I imagine Councillor Foulkes wouldn't want me to do that.

Within Southwark there is a high reliance on the bus network particularly within the core areas of the borough. The underground rail network currently only reaches the north of the borough and, although the second phase of the East London line extension has recently received funding, the majority of our communities are and will remain dependent on the bus network.

In light of this reliance on buses any increases in fares will have a disproportionate impact on poorer communities where people are more likely to use the bus even when underground services are available.

**32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR GORDON NARDELL**

In the article about shamefully high rates of child poverty in this borough in the Southwark News on January 4 2010, a council spokesperson picked out Sure Start centres, Job Centre Plus and Building Schools for the Future as the initiatives that the administration is taking to tackle child poverty. These are all government initiatives. Does the executive member agree that this council has woefully failed to bring forward any measures of its own to assess and tackle child poverty?

**RESPONSE**

I do not agree at all. The council has a strong record of anti-poverty initiatives, going back several years.

Tackling child poverty requires effective joint working by a wide range of agencies. Jobcentre Plus is a lead partner in the development of the Southwark Alliance employment strategy, which has the objectives of removing barriers to work, support sustained entry into the labour market, promoting progression to more skilled and better paid jobs and preventing long term unemployment, all of which contribute to the maximisation of household income.

In 2008, Southwark Council was one of the first London boroughs to develop a Child Poverty Pledge Action Plan.

Standards in both primary and secondary schools have never been higher with our primary schools now above national averages and performing well ahead of our statistical neighbours. Our secondary system has also been identified in the top ten most improved nationally over five years. Over the last decade we have seen a doubling of the numbers of students locally taking A levels (193 to over 400), opening access to university to many more young people.

The development of the new children and young people's plan (CYPP) has taken into consideration through its development, the strategic aim of reducing child poverty by improving life chances for children and young people.

During 2010, the reduction of child poverty will feature prominently in our new children and young people's plan and our new employment strategy. In addition, child poverty is one of the priority actions in the Southwark Alliance work plan agreed last November.

**33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC THORNCROFT**

Please set out what incentives the parking contractor APCOA receives for issuing parking tickets?

**RESPONSE**

No incentive exists within the current on-street parking enforcement contract for the number of penalty charge notices issued. Performance payments are based upon a range of other indicators such as the deployment of staff and the quality of the tickets issued.

**34. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED**

How many cars and motor bikes have been given parking tickets which were vehicles abandoned because of bad weather? Do you consider this fair and will the council be responding positively to appeals from those who were forced to abandon their vehicles?

**RESPONSE**

The civil enforcement officers (CEO) will not necessarily know why any particular vehicle is illegally parked. However, where street furniture (yellow lines, signs or bay markings) are not visible the CEOs have been instructed not to issue penalty charge notices (PCN) (commonly referred to as parking tickets). It is therefore unlikely that any enforcement action has been taken against a large number of vehicles left abandoned due to the bad weather.

If however any cases come to light, the parking team will consider any representations and appeals. All vehicles issued with PCNs are photographed at the time and where there are clear mitigating circumstances a sympathetic approach will be taken.

**35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SANDRA RHULE**

Last February the council ran out of grit following heavy snow. This year the council was reduced to gritting arterial roots after only a few days. What lessons did the council learn after its failure to store adequate grit supplies in February 2009?

**RESPONSE**

During the snowfall in February 2009 the council did not run out of grit.

Following advice from central government we did limit our gritting services to priority roads. During this period the council maintained critical and essential services including social care, meals on wheels and other support to vulnerable residents.

Lessons learned from the February 2009 event included:-

- That in the event of snowfall affecting most of the country replenishing stocks may become difficult due to government / salt cell intervention and directives. With this in mind a decision was made to be more selective regarding routes treated and spread rates.
- That the amount of salt stocked on housing estates needed to be doubled. Stocks were increased from 2,000 to 4,000 tons.
- That schools needed ready access to grit supplies for their premises. All schools were offered such supplies.
- That more hand spreaders were required for footway gritting. The numbers were doubled.
- Early implementation of borough emergency planning procedures would enable better coordination and communication.

During the most recent snowfall, the council once again had sufficient grit to maintain its primary network and other key commercial areas. We were also able to provide supplies to schools in order to keep them open during a key exam period and to housing estate roads where refuse vehicles needed access.

We also received directives from the government and Transport for London regarding the conserving of grit as part of a pan London strategy to conserve stocks across all councils.

**36. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NICK VINEALL**

Please can the executive member for environment publish the number of grit boxes in Southwark and the figures for neighbouring boroughs of Lambeth, Lewisham, Greenwich and Bromley?

**RESPONSE**

Southwark hold 65 salt boxes in addition to a borough salt store, which is held outside London by our suppliers. Bromley, which is a considerably larger borough, have approximately 400 salt boxes.

Lambeth also has 400 salt boxes, however, they do not have any additional in-borough salt storage, hence the high number. Lewisham in contrast, do not hold any salt boxes due to a fear over vandalism and Greenwich have 63 boxes.

The winter service team are currently reviewing the use of salt bins including the use on dedicated sites such as schools, fire and ambulance stations and housing estates.

Salt bins proved to be a useful asset during the recent snow falls and extension of the service is being investigated.

**37. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD**

The council has agreed to continue to pay vast sums to top corporate manslaughter lawyers BCL Burton Copeland for advice on the Lakanal fire. How much has the council spent in total on training housing staff to carry out fire risk assessments since 2006 broken down by year?

**RESPONSE**

The total cost of training housing staff in carrying out fire risk assessments is £74,000.

**38. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES**

How many lifts are currently awaiting repair and not currently in use, as of January 1 2010? What is the timescale for these repairs? Please break down by ward.

**RESPONSE**

There are currently four lifts that are still out of service from 1 January 2010; the wards that are affected are:

**One in Chaucer**

Albert Barnes

The lift car doors and the 4<sup>th</sup> floor landing doors have been vandalised. These are currently being manufactured by our suppliers. Residents have been notified in writing. However there are two lifts within this block so residents have access to a lift until these doors are repaired.

**One in Faraday**

Chiltern House

Water has penetrated the lift shaft causing a failure in the electrics. However upon attempting repairs it was noted that the asbestos within the shaft was in a poor condition. We have now obtained costs for removing the asbestos and this work is to start once leasehold notification and a project plan has been completed. Residents have been notified in writing. There is another lift within the block that residents can use.

### **One in Riverside**

Casby House

The existing drive unit has failed and needs to be replaced. However, this part is obsolete. We are currently sourcing another drive unit that can be adapted to fit. There are two lifts within the block so residents still have access to a lift.

### **One in East Walworth**

Marston House

The motor needs to be re-wound which will be costly. This block is due to be demolished as part of the Heygate project. There are five residents left above the fourth floor. The motor is currently awaiting specialist works to be completed.

There is no alternative lift within this block and the housing office has been notified that this lift is shutdown.

All of these repairs should be complete within a month except Chiltern House where the repair will need to follow the removal of asbestos.

## **39. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER**

Over the festive period, a number of residents on the Aylesbury and Portland estates had problems with loss of heating and hot water. This is now an annual occurrence. What compensation has the council arranged for these outages?

### **RESPONSE**

Every year between 1 October to 1 April all heating repairs where there is a complete loss of service are treated as an emergency and if the whole block is affected this will be responded to within 4 hours. We are aware of no heating or hot water outages on Aylesbury estate or Portland estate over the period from Christmas to New Year.

If residents had individual heating or hot water issues during this period and feel dissatisfied with the service provided, we would expect this to be dealt with under the council's complaints process.



## Council Assembly Council Tax Setting

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Council Tax Setting) held on Tuesday 23 February 2010 at 7.00 pm at Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

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### PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2009-10, Councillor Jeff Hook (Chair)

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Alison McGovern
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Paul Bates	Councillor Kirsty McNeill
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor Gordon Nardell
Councillor Toby Eckersley	Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Mary Foulkes OBE	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor John Friary	Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Olajumoke Oyewunmi
Councillor Aubyn Graham	Councillor Chris Page
Councillor James Gurling	Councillor Caroline Pidgeon
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton	Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Michelle Holford	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Kim Humphreys	Councillor Mackie Sheik
Councillor Helen Jardine-Brown	Councillor Tayo Situ
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Bob Skelly
Councillor Jenny Jones	Councillor Robert Smeath
Councillor Paul Kyriacou	Councillor Althea Smith
Councillor Jelil Ladipo	Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor Adedokun Lasaki	Councillor Richard Thomas
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE	Councillor Dominic Thorncroft
Councillor Richard Livingstone	Councillor Nick Vineall
Councillor Linda Manchester	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Eliza Mann	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Danny McCarthy	Councillor Lorraine Zuleta

## **1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

### **1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Mayor:

- Congratulated Councillor James Gurling on his marriage to Angela on 6 February 2010
- Welcomed back Councillor Denise Capstick from her recent tour in Afghanistan
- Reminded members' that the Mayor's Ball in aid of the 'Help the Heroes' charity will be held on Saturday 15 May 2010 at Vinnopolis.

### **1.2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT**

There were no late items of business.

### **1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no disclosures of interests and dispensations.

### **1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Evrim Laws, Andrew Pakes and Martin Seaton. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Kim Humphreys.

## **2. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION FROM THE EXECUTIVE**

### **2.1 POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY - THE 2010-11 REVENUE BUDGET (THE BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK)**

*Report: See pages 1-58 of the main agenda and lilac paper, pages 1-2, circulated at the meeting*

There were four questions to the report, the answers to which had been circulated around the chamber on lilac paper. Councillors Barrie Hargrove, Richard Livingstone, Fiona Colley and John Friary each asked a supplemental question. Supplemental question one was answered by the executive member for environment, Councillor Paul Kyriacou, supplemental questions 2 and 3 were answered by the executive member for resources, Councillor Tim McNally, and supplemental question 4 was answered by the executive member for community safety, Councillor Linda Manchester. The questions and answers are attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10(1), the executive member for resources, Councillor Tim McNally, presented the report.



Councillor Peter John, seconded by Councillor Richard Livingstone, moved Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Nick Stanton and Lewis Robinson), a procedural motion to move to the vote was moved by Councillor James Barber and seconded. The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Following Councillor Tim McNally's right of reply Amendment A was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

Following debate on the substantive motion (Councillors Ian Wingfield, Barrie Hargrove, Kim Humphreys, Veronica Ward, David Noakes, Peter John, Gordon Nardell, Paul Kyriacou, Chris Page, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Paul Noblet, Richard Livingstone, Michelle Holford, John Friary, David Hubber, Althea Smith, Linda Manchester, Mark Glover, Nick Vineall, Aubyn Graham, Jonathan Mitchell and Nick Stanton), Councillor James Gurling, seconded by Councillor Caroline Pidgeon, moved to the vote.

The procedure motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Following Councillor Tim McNally's right of reply the substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.13(5) the following members requested that their vote against the substantive motion be recorded in the minutes: Councillors Paul Bates, Fiona Colley, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Mary Foulkes, John Friary, Mark Glover, Aubyn Graham, Barrie Hargrove, Peter John, Lorraine Lauder, Richard Livingstone, Alison McGovern, Kirsty McNeill, Gordon Nardell, Chris Page, Sandra Rhule, Tayo Situ, Robert Smeath, Althea Smith, Dominic Thorncroft, Veronica Ward and Ian Wingfield.

The clerk announced that in accordance with the budget and policy framework procedure rule 2 (e), the executive recommendation had not been amended therefore the decision could be implemented with immediate affect.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations of the executive held on 9 February 2010 for a general fund budget and zero council tax increase for 2010-11 be agreed.

## **2.2 SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX 2010-11**

*Report: See pages 59-69 of the main agenda*

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10(2) the Mayor formally moved the recommendations contained in the report.

The clerk announced that as part of its consideration of the previous item 2.1 on the revenue budget, council assembly had agreed the level of council tax for 2010-11 and Amendment B therefore fell.

Councillor Toby Eckersley asked a question of the finance director, thereafter the recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be

carried.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.13(5) the following members requested that their vote against the substantive motion be recorded in the minutes: Councillors Paul Bates, Fiona Colley, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Mary Foulkes, John Friary, Mark Glover, Aubyn Graham, Barrie Hargrove, Peter John, Lorraine Lauder, Richard Livingstone, Alison McGovern, Kirsty McNeill, Gordon Nardell, Chris Page, Sandra Rhule, Tayo Situ, Robert Smeath, Althea Smith, Dominic Thorncroft, Veronica Ward and Ian Wingfield.

The clerk announced that in accordance with the budget and policy framework procedure rule 2 (e), the executive recommendation had not been amended therefore the decision could be implemented with immediate affect.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Greater London Authority precept level of £309.82 at band D, be noted.
2. That the council tax for band D properties in Southwark be set at:
 

(i) the former parish of St Mary Newington	£1,221.96
(ii) the former parish of St. Saviours	£1,221.96
(iii) the remainder of the borough	£1,221.96
3. That the formal resolution for council taxes in 2010-11 (shown in appendix B of the report) be approved.
4. That the existing local war widows schemes for housing benefits and council tax benefits be continued in 2010-11.

**3. OTHER REPORTS**

**3.1 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, INCLUDING - ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS, AND ANNUAL MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STATEMENT**

*Report: See pages 70-97 of the main agenda*

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10(2) the Mayor formally moved the recommendations contained in the report.

Following debate (Councillor Toby Eckersley), the recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly noted the updated Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and formally affirmed its adoption by agreeing the

resolutions set out in Appendix A of the report, which include inviting the constitutional steering panel to consider future arrangements for additional review and scrutiny.

2. That council assembly noted the treasury management strategy will be managed by the finance director under financial delegation.
3. That the annual investment strategy 2010-11 set out in Appendix B of the report be agreed, keeping capital preservation as a key objective, in line with updated government guidance on investments.
4. That the prudential indicators covering capital finance, borrowing and cash management for the years 2010-11 to 2012-13 set out in Appendix C of the report be agreed.
5. That the annual minimum revenue provision statement 2010-11, for setting aside prudent sums from revenue to reduce debt, as set out in Appendix D of the report be agreed.
6. That a capital allowance of £170m, described in paragraphs 25 - 27 of the report be agreed, enabling the council to continue retaining capital receipts for affordable housing and regeneration.

#### **4. AMENDMENTS REPORT**

The amendments are set out in supplemental agenda 1.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**  
**(COUNCIL TAX SETTING)**  
**TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2010**  
**QUESTIONS ON REPORT**

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**QUESTIONS ON ITEM 2.1: POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY - THE 2010-11  
REVENUE BUDGET (THE BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK)**

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**1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE**

Please identify what new commitments have been identified to improve the borough's recycling rate from the sixth worst in the country?

**RESPONSE**

I am sure that the councillor has read the budget in detail, so will be aware of the various initiatives that the council is backing to boost recycling rates. In February 2008, Southwark Council signed a contract with Veolia to increase the recycling rate to 50% by 2020 – fourteen times the figure it was under the previous Labour administration when a pitiful 3.6% of what local people threw away was collected for recycling.

In addition, planning permission for a new recycling facility has now been granted – despite opposition from Labour's former Mayor of London - and the new facility is due to be operational by the end of 2011. In addition, the capital budget includes an additional £5.4 million for phase 2 of the development plans for the new site over the next three years.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE**

Thank you Mr Mayor. Thank you to the executive member for his response. My follow-up question is - I would like to know why under the first two years of the Veolia contract that the recycling targets had fallen below what was expected?

**RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR TIM McNALLY**

Thank you Mr Mayor and I would like to thank Councillor Hargrove for his supplemental the answer to which will be given by the executive member for environment.

**RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU**

I thank you Councillor Hargrove for your supplemental question, I am not too sure what you think the figures were before but once a waste management site comes on board it will be at 30% in 2011. I can get further details and get back to you on that.

**2. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE**

Please report the amounts in the council's current reserves and balances?

**RESPONSE**

The council's revenue reserves and balances as presented in the 2008-09 statement of accounts are as follows:

General Fund		£000
	Modernisation, Service & Operational Improvement Reserve	13,768
	Regeneration & Development Reserve	6,382
	Financial Risk Reserve	8,352
	Capital Contingency Reserve	2,703
	Other Earmarked reserves	40,407
	Collection Fund	3,028
	Schools' balances	14,087
	General Fund balance	18,271
	Total	106,998

As a percentage of our budget we have the second lowest reserve balances in inner London. Only Islington has a lower percentage balance.

Reserves and balances for 2009-10 will be reported as part of the council's statement of accounts to be published in the summer.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE**

I would like to thank the executive member for his answer. Given that we introduced the contingency budget for the first time in the budget that we agreed this time last year of £1.2m, and given that we have a £107m sitting in our reserves and balances, do you really think that a new addition to that contingency budget of £4m is justified this year?

**RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR TIM McNALLY**

Thank you Mr Mayor – I would like to thank Councillor Livingstone for his supplemental. Last year we put aside about £3m into contingency and during this year we have met several challenges such as the response to the Baby P, the Southwark judgement and a much higher call on child protection and children's services. We have also seen a significant uplift in adult care and sure enough we have spent just over £3m we set aside last year. That's why this year on the advice of the finance director we will be setting aside £4m for the contingency.

**3. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY**

The council has recently printed and issued posters boasting of the current administration's 'achievements' in a way that appears contrary to government's Code of Recommended Practice for local government publicity and potentially

falls foul of paragraph 2 of chapter 10 of the Local Government Act 1986. Given this, can maintaining the current level of the council's communications budget be justified?

### **RESPONSE**

All council communications adhere to all relevant guidance on local government publicity, as well as the council's own communications protocol. Statements of this nature are not normally dealt with at council meetings, but through a formal complaints procedure.

Given that the communications budget has been reduced by £1.6 million (25%) over the last three years and Southwark spends less than Labour Lambeth and half of Labour Lewisham on our council magazine/newspaper, it's clear from any reasonable reading of the facts the council's communications budget is entirely justified.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY**

Thank you Mr Mayor. I would like to thank the executive member for his answer and would he not agree with me that £4.8m is still a massive amount to be spending on communications. I am sure that the people of the borough seeing those ridiculous posters going up on bus stops around this borough, which serves no purpose than to try and promote this council and prop-up this failing administration, would he not agree with us that that budget should be slashed?

### **RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR TIM McNALLY**

Thank you Mr Mayor - I would like to thank Councillor Colley for her supplemental. The posters to which she refers, the 'My Council' posters and the 'You Said We Did', follow all the government guidance on local government publicity. And the 'My Council' posters are initiatives from the Local Government Association to encourage local councils to tell people what is going on in their area. The chairs of the community councils have only last month asked us to communicate more about what is going on in their areas and the role of community councils and we are promoting that as well. Over the last 3 years we have actually cut the communications budget by £1.6m, that is 25%, and we have reduced the number of communication staff from about 80 down to the low 20s. So actually we have cut the communications budget year-on-year, we are spending less than Labour Lambeth and we are spending less than half that Labour is spending in Lewisham.

#### **4. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY**

Can you identify what new commitments have been identified to help the police maintain the current staffing levels of safer neighbourhood teams in light of the Mayor of London's decision to cut police numbers in the capital by 455 by 2012?

### **RESPONSE**

The Metropolitan Police Service is funded as part of the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY**

Thank you Mr Mayor – thanks to the executive member for his statement of the blindingly obvious. My question is - can he confirm or otherwise that his colleague the executive member for community safety has written to the Mayor of London to object to the proposed police cuts, if not, why not and is he concerned if the executive are not seen to take a view objecting to the cuts then people in the community might think that you support them?

**RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR TIM MCNALLY**

Thank you Mr Mayor. This supplemental will be answered by my colleague, the executive member for community safety.

**RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER**

I thank Councillor Friary for his question. The Liberal Democrats actually proposed at the London Assembly group that Boris Johnson restore the £16.4m cut that he made and I also have the assurances of the Borough Commander that no frontline staff will be cut in Southwark.

Last Updated:  
January 2010

<b>COUNCIL ASSEMBLY AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN) (MINUTES) MUNICIPAL YEAR 2009-10</b>			
<b>NOTE:</b> Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to Lesley John Tel: 020 7525 7228			
<b>ONE COPY TO ALL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED</b>	Copies	To	Copies
<b>Councillors (All)</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Political Assistants</b>		Shahida Nasim, Audit Commission Central House, Town Hall Complex	1
Dan Falchicov, Liberal Democrat Political Assistant	1		
John Biddy, Labour Group Political Assistant	1		
<b>Libraries</b>	<b>6</b>		
Albion / Dulwich / Newington / Local Studies Library	1 each		
<b>Officers</b>	<b>5</b>		
Annie Shepperd	1		
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<b>Constitutional Team</b>	<b>20</b>		
6 copies to Lesley John , 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hub 4 Tooley Street and 14 copies to Lesley John, Town Hall Peckham)			
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