

Council Assembly

Wednesday 24 March 2010

7.00 pm

Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

Supplemental Agenda No.2

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Date: Tuesday 23 March 2010

ITEM 7.1 – PROPOSED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S PLAN 2010-13 (pages 9-50 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT A

Moved: Councillor Althea Smith
Seconded: Councillor Aubyn Graham

On page 27 in Appendix 1 **insert** new items to table as below:

In first column:

“Give young people a substantial say in how youth provision in the borough is shaped, by working towards giving power over 20% of the youth services budget to young people by 2014.”

In second column:

“Youth service, activities and provision which reflect the needs and priorities of the borough’s young people.”

On page 26 in Appendix 1 **insert** new items to table as below:

In first column:

“Reconfiguring existing communication budgets and activities to improve communication with young people and parents including improved web site and accurate and widely distributed materials coupled with targeted outreach.”

In second column:

“Relevant information reaching all young people and parents in the borough.”

On page 38 in Appendix 1 **insert** new items to table as below:

In first column:

“Reconfiguring existing communication budgets and activities to improve communication and information which supports and channels young people to identify training and work experience which they are motivated to pursue.”

In second column:

“Young people satisfied with the choice they have made and which maximises their potential.”

AMENDMENT B

Moved: Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Seconded: Councillor Gordon Nardell

On page 29 in Appendix 1 **insert** new items to table as below:

In first column:

“Help more young people to take up cycling as a healthy mode of transport through the provision of secure cycle parking on estates and in other residential areas, improved information and working across the authority and with Transport for London to improve safety for cyclists on Southwark’s roads.”

In second column:

“More young people cycling and reduced obesity rates as a result.”

AMENDMENT C

Moved: Councillor John Friary

Seconded: Councillor Robert Smeath

On page 41 in Appendix 1 **insert** new items to table as below:

In first column:

“Work with young people, community groups and the police to produce and deliver effective strategies for tackling youth and violent crime.”

In second column:

“Fewer young people victims of crime, including violent crime.”

In first column:

“Ensure that young people feel safe on Southwark’s streets by working across the authority and with young people and communities to identify locations for the expansion of CCTV coverage.”

In second column:

“Lower rates of youth crime and youth victims of crime, and greater numbers of offences against young people being resolved.”

AMENDMENT D

Moved: Councillor Ian Wingfield

Seconded: Councillor Martin Seaton

On page 31 in Appendix 1 **insert** new items to table as below:

In first column:

“Working across the authority to bring every council home up to decent homes standard to ensure that babies, infants and mothers live in an environment that is healthy, warm, safe and hygienic; working across the authority to ensure that regeneration schemes include a high proportion of high-quality socially-affordable homes suitable for families with children.”

In second column:

“More children and parents enjoying good health.”

On page 32 in Appendix 1 **insert** new items to table as below:

In first column:

“Working across the authority to ensure that vulnerable children living in council housing are growing up in an environment that meets decent homes standards.”

In second column:

“Improved health, well-being and educational outcomes for children living in improved homes.”

ITEM 9.1 – LABOUR’S FAILURE IN TACKLING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY (pages 85-86 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT E

Moved: Councillor Peter John
Seconded: Councillor Fiona Colley

Delete paragraphs 2-11 and **insert:**

2. That the current Labour government has worked hard, with significant success, to turn around the burden of poverty and inequality left to it by the previous Conservative administration.
3. That the vast majority of households with incomes in the bottom 5 deciles have benefited from an increase in their incomes over the period 1997-98 – 2007-08, averaging a 22.6% increase. It notes that work remains to be done to ensure that the very poorest group benefits alongside those on slightly higher incomes.
4. Welcomes the publication of the report of the National Equality Panel, set up by Camberwell & Peckham MP Harriet Harman, the commissioning of which reflects the Labour government’s continuing commitment to tackling inequality, as has been reiterated by the response of ministers to the report.
5. Notes that figures in the report show that the term in office of the current Labour government has seen no significant rise in inequality in London, despite this including a period of significant economic growth. Notes that, by comparison, the period of Conservative administration from 1979 to 1997, saw levels of income inequality in London almost double.
6. Welcomes the fact that the Labour government has lifted more than half a million children out of relative poverty.
7. Welcomes the fact that the Labour government has lifted around 900,000 pensioners out of poverty.
8. Welcomes the significant improvement in GCSE attainment since 1997, and notes particularly that the gap in attainment between schools with the highest and lowest proportion of free school meal recipients has narrowed significantly, which has the potential to break cycles of inequality that have been prevalent for far too long.
9. Welcomes the range of initiatives and policies adopted by the Labour government to help tackle poverty, including:
 - the minimum wage
 - tax credits for children, working families and pensioners
 - the minimum income guarantee
 - the winter fuel payment
 - free television licenses for pensioners over 75
 - the educational maintenance allowance

- the re-introduction of grants for students in higher education
- doubling the amount spent on every child in state education
- the September guarantee to help prevent young people becoming NEETs (Not in Employment, Education or Training).
- national free bus travel for pensioners
- free bus travel for young people and those on income support in London
- record investment in the NHS
- the creation of Sure Start
- the national roll-out of Bookstart
- increasing the numbers of pupils eligible for free school meals
- the Child Trust Fund
- measures to keep unemployment lower now than in the recessions of the eighties and nineties.

and inequality, including:

- increased maternity leave and the introduction of statutory paternity leave
 - repealing Section 28
 - the introduction of civil partnerships
 - legislation to outlaw incitement to gay hatred
 - widening and strengthening the Race Relations Act
 - aggravated sentencing for race hate crimes
 - the first black cabinet minister
 - legislating to allow all women shortlisting for political selections
 - the reduction of the gender pay gap across both the public and private sectors
 - introduction of legislation to dramatically increase the rights of disabled people and introduce a duty on public bodies to promote equality of opportunity
 - the imminent introduction of the Equalities Bill which will place a duty on public bodies to promote equality and end discrimination based on pregnancy and maternity, sexuality, gender reassignment, age and religion or belief.
10. Council assembly further notes that most of these measures were actively opposed by one or both of the Liberal Democrat and Tory parties.
 11. Council assembly believes that 'a change in direction' as called for by the leader of the council can only mean the election of a Tory party whose hard-line Thatcherism is only barely disguised. It believes that such a government would introduce tax cuts for the wealthiest, push through immediate and ideologically-driven cuts to public spending, remove thousands of families from eligibility for tax credits, put at risk the future of Sure Start and the education maintenance allowance (EMA).
 12. Council assembly firmly agrees with the leader of the Liberal Democrats, Nick Clegg MP, when he said that: "[People] don't want the same old Tories. And make no mistake they are exactly the same."
 13. Council assembly believes that local authorities are capable of contributing significantly to fighting inequality and poverty. Council assembly therefore:

- regrets the abject failure of the current Liberal Democrat-Conservative administration in Southwark to bring the homes of its tenants up to a decent standard
 - regrets that its adult social services is one of the eight worst in the country
 - regrets the decision to hike charges for meals on wheels, after-school and holiday clubs, and for social care services
 - regrets that it has placed the needs of developers before those of local communities in major regeneration projects.
14. Council assembly notes that Southwark Liberal Democrats have had eight years to formulate a strategy to tackle poverty and reduce inequality using the considerable powers and budget of the council. It therefore regrets the administration's failure to ever formulate such a plan or to take steps, as neighboring councils have, to soften the impact of the recession on the poorest in our borough.
- 15 Council assembly believes that a change of administration and direction in Southwark is now long overdue.

ITEM 9.2 – TACKLING THE FEAR OF VIOLENT CRIME WITH CCTV (pages 86-87 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT F

Moved: Councillor Caroline Pidgeon

Seconded: Councillor Jonathan Mitchell

Delete all after “year” in line 2 and **insert:**

2. Council assembly notes that the strategy takes account of the Home Office’s national CCTV strategy best practice recommendations and will mean better coordinated, more modern and flexible cameras that meet the latest standards and regulatory requirements.
3. Council assembly believes that the fight against crime is being hampered by excessive legislation and bureaucratic red tape emanating from the Labour government that has spread confusion among police officers, judges and other professionals and gets in the way of detection and prosecution of crimes for which effective CCTV is a vital part.
4. Council assembly further notes that the Labour government has created 4,289 new criminal offences, between 1997 and 2009 - approximately one for every day Labour have been in office including such ludicrous offences as:
 - 1) Disturbing a pack of eggs when directed not to by an authorised officer. (SI 2007/2245, Eggs and Chicks (England Eggs for Hatching and Chicks) 13.1c&8a. and SI 2008/1718).
 - 2) Causing a nuclear explosion. (Nuclear Explosions (Prohibition and Inspections) Act 1998).
 - 3) Sells or offers for sale a bird of game killed on a Sunday or Christmas Day. (SI 2007/2007 Regulatory Reform (Game) Order 2007, amendment to Game Act 1831 s. 3A).
 - 4) To wilfully pretend to be a barrister.
 - 5) Obstruct workers carrying out repairs to the Docklands Light Railway.
 - 6) Land a catch of unsorted fish at a harbour without permission.
5. Council assembly calls for a halt to this compulsive obsession with unnecessary legislation which is simply about ministers posturing on penalties and wishing to be seen to be tough on violent crime.
6. Council assembly calls for a change of direction in crime and disorder policy making the focus on catching criminals, increasing the number of police and other enforcement officers on the street, a reduction in red tape and more efficient use of technology such as CCTV, as outlined in the CCTV strategy agreed by the executive in February.
7. Finally, council assembly notes that between 1997 and 2009 the Labour government built 19,983 prison cells and just 2,710 council homes. Notes these cells are full of petty offenders with around 60,000 prisoners jailed for less than 12 months and often violent criminals go free. Notes short term prison sentences do not work with more

than 60% of those jailed for less than 12 months reoffending and that the National Audit Office estimates the cost of this to be in the order of £10 billion.

ITEM 9.3 - HUMAN RIGHTS, RACE AND EQUALITY (see page 87 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT G

Moved: Councillor Adele Morris
Seconded: Councillor Mackie Sheik

Delete paragraph 2.

Delete paragraph 4 and **insert:**

“Council assembly welcomes the recent launch of the council’s expression of interest document for local organisations to provide this service, and notes its aim of having a service funding agreement in place by July 2010.”

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