

# Council Assembly

Wednesday 26 January 2011

7.00 pm

Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

## Supplemental Agenda No.2

### List of Contents

Item No.	Title	Page No.
4.	<b>Deputation Requests</b>	1 - 2
	This item includes the comments of the Strategic Director of Environment and Housing on the adult learning service in Southwark following receipt of a deputation from Save Southwark Adult Learning (SSAL).	
9.5.	<b>Amendments</b>	3 - 6

#### Contact

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Date: 25 January 2011

<b>Item No.</b> 4.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 26 January 2011	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Deputation Requests - Save Southwark Adult Learning	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

## Save Southwark Adult Learning

1. A deputation request has been received from Save Southwark Adult Learning (SSAL), the deputation request states:

'We are extremely concerned about the future of adult learning in Southwark following large fee rises, cuts in concessionary access and 'new learner' targets which are almost certain to herald the closure of many arts, crafts and well-being courses. As students who cannot now afford to continue with our studies, we would like to highlight the devastating loss these closures mean for people who rely on their classes for maintaining well-being, keeping active, maintaining community contact, and developing job-related skills. We would like to appeal to the council to designate all these course as three-term courses, to allow those on benefits to continue at concessionary rates, and to investigate all options to save this service.'

## Comments of the Strategic Director of Environment & Housing

2. The Adult Learning Service is funded entirely through the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) with budgets being allocated on an annual basis. Because of the way we are funded we do not receive funding for learners who wish to repeat a course or do additional courses in the same year – funding being received for individual learners to do one course only per year.
3. The focus on recruiting new learners is extremely important as our funders set strict learner number targets and if these are not achieved, can, and do clawback money from service providers.
4. Learners are welcome to return to do repeat or additional courses but will need to pay the repeat learner fee. It is important to note that courses aimed at some of our most vulnerable people remain completely free of charge to eligible learners. These include literacy, numeracy and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL). Many family learning courses are also offered free of charge.
5. 85% of our learners last year were in receipt of concessionary rates and we do not expect this to substantially change this year. We are not proposing to increase concessionary or repeat learner fees next year. In addition to this, we have achieved the individual learner number targets given to us by the SFA for the first time in many years.

6. We remain committed to the provision of good adult learning opportunities in Southwark. The Thomas Calton Centre, the home of Southwark's Adult Learning Service is being invested in and re-furbished with a grant of £750,000 from the Skills Funding Agency and match funding of £250,000 from the council in order to improve the learning environment. It is our intention to offer additional learning opportunities once the work at the centre is complete.

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Deputation Request File	Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

#### AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager		
<b>Report Author</b>	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer		
<b>Version</b>	Final		
<b>Dated</b>	24 January 2011		
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No		
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Comments sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>	
Strategic Director of Environment & Housing	Yes	Yes	
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No	
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>			25 January 2011

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## 9.1 EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (see page 31 of the main agenda)

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### AMENDMENT A

**Moved:** Councillor Rosie Shimell  
**Seconded:** Councillor Graham Neale

**Delete all and insert:**

1. Council assembly notes that 3,729 young people in Southwark in 2009/10 are in receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and is concerned about the effects of withdrawing EMA on these young people and their families.
2. Council supports every young person who wants to stay in education after their GCSEs and believes that support should be targeted on those from deprived backgrounds, especially when available support is limited due to the previous government bringing our country to the brink of bankruptcy.
3. Council recognises the need to support disadvantaged young people in education and will only support the removal of EMA if it is replaced by a more effective alternative system which delivers targeted support for young people from deprived backgrounds.
4. Council welcomes the enhanced Discretionary Learner Support Fund and the government's plans to increase educational places for 16 to 19 year olds.
5. Council believes that helping the most disadvantaged children out after GCSEs isn't enough and we need to support children at a young age too, therefore welcomes the Pupil Premium which will help to ensure that children from disadvantaged backgrounds are given the best possible educational opportunities.
6. Council welcomes the new role for one of our borough's MPs, Simon Hughes, as Special Advocate for Access to Higher Education, and the opportunities which this creates for the borough's residents.
7. Council encourages Southwark residents, students and councillors to work constructively with Simon Hughes MP in designing a fairer scheme which best helps young people on low incomes obtain the support, equipment and means to further their education.

### AMENDMENT B

**Moved:** Councillor Cleo Soanes  
**Seconded:** Councillor Helen Hayes

In paragraph 1 **delete** "Council assembly notes that over 33,000 young people" and **insert** "Council assembly notes that over 20,000 young people"

After paragraph 5 **insert** new paragraph:

"Council assembly also notes and regrets that the government's Adviser on Access to Higher Education, Rt Hon Simon Hughes MP, avoided the chance to prevent this attack on young people's education by voting with the government to abolish the EMA and by failing to vote against the trebling in university tuition fees."

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**9.2 REPAYMENT OF MAJOR WORKS CHARGES BY LEASEHOLDERS** (see pages 32 – 33 of main agenda)

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**AMENDMENT C**

**Moved:** Councillor James Barber

**Seconded:** Councillor Linda Manchester

In paragraph 7 after “48 months” **insert** “and capped to £10,000”.

Revised paragraph 7 to read as follows:

That where exceptional circumstances occur, and the council is required to carry out more than one programme of major works on an individual estate in one financial year, the current repayment schedule of 36 months will be extended to 48 months and capped to £10,000 so that those affected leaseholders are better placed to budget for the additional financial burden.

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## 9.4 CHOICES THAT COUNT (see pages 33 – 34 of the main agenda)

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### AMENDMENT D

**Moved:** Councillor Veronica Ward

**Seconded:** Councillor Mark Glover

**Delete all and insert:**

1. Council notes that London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics are now only a few months away. It notes that 2012 offers our residents and particularly our young people a unique opportunity to become involved - from volunteering at a big art institution or theatre to sports and dance events and learning new skills. It believes that 2012 is about London as a world city and that Southwark reflects the world in our communities. It believes it is an opportunity not to be missed.
2. Council notes that the administration has recognised the importance of 2012 and set up a modest structure to coordinate the priority areas we have identified:
  - Engaging young people
  - Getting active, being healthy
  - Promoting volunteering and providing opportunities for business and employment
  - Offering the Southwark experience - our world class arts and culture centres linking with the community
  - Communications
  - Public services operations.
3. Council believes that to succeed in setting up specific memorable projects, key organisations in the borough should be involved and that these relationships are important for the promotion of Southwark and its economy. It notes that the Olympic Legacy Fund is being set up with the intention of raising further outside money to fund capital projects which will improve access to and increase participation in physical activity and keep Olympic values alive after 2012. It notes that the community will be asked to submit ideas for high profile projects.
4. Council believes that the community games is important for our young people and for our aspirations for 2012.
5. Council is determined to maximise the benefits of 2012 against a backdrop of Government cutbacks to sport – which it believes are incredible in themselves as we build up to the Olympic year. It notes that the cuts include:
  - Working Neighbourhood Fund which funded part of the community games
  - The Schools Sports Partnership
  - The end of free swimming for young people
  - Cuts to sporting bodies.
6. Council notes that the authority also faces unprecedented cuts to its settlement from government, forcing serious cuts across all services.

7. Council notes, however, that a substantial sum has been identified to secure the games and to build up young peoples' sports for 2012 events. It notes that the administration will seek funding sources to secure the games for the future beyond 2012.

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN) (AMENDMENTS)  
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/11**

**NOTE:** Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to  
Lesley John Tel: 020 7525 7228

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