

Council Assembly

Wednesday 6 April 2011
7.00 pm
Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

Supplemental Agenda No.1

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	To approve as a correct record the open minutes of the council assembly meetings held on 26 January and 22 February 2011	
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Date: 1 April 2011



Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting) held on Wednesday 26 January 2011 at 7.00 pm at Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2010/11, Councillor Tayo Situ

Councillor Kevin Ahern	Councillor Paul Kyriacou
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Michael Bukola	Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Poddy Clark	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Patrick Diamond	Councillor Helen Morrissey
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Toby Eckersley	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor the Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Mark Gettleson	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Norma Gibbes	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Stephen Govier	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Althea Smith
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Claire Hickson	Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor Jeff Hook	Councillor Geoffrey Thornton
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

The Mayor announced the following:

- That a list of people who live or work in Southwark who had received an honour in the Queen's New Year's Honours list had been circulated around the chamber. The Mayor offered the meetings congratulations to all the recipients who had received an honour and to Richard Taylor who had received an Honorary Order of the British Empire.
- That permission had been given to the Liberal Democrat political assistant to film Liberal Democrat councillors when speaking. This was for internal training purposes only.

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

The Mayor agreed to accept the following report as late and urgent for the reasons set out within the report:

- Constitutional issues arising from the Southwark Democracy Commission – Recording at council assembly meetings.

The Mayor announced that he intended to vary the order of business in line with the new procedure rules agreed by 1 December 2011 meeting so that motions would be considered before cabinet and officer reports.

At this juncture Councillor Nick Dolezal, seconded by Councillor Catherine Bowman, moved that under council assembly procedure rule 1.11 (m), the relevant rule be suspended in order that the order of business could be varied to allow the deputation on Tribute to Heroes to be considered first, followed by Motion 3 on the same subject and then the deputation on the educational maintenance allowance, followed by Motion 1 on the same subject. The relevant rule is set out as follows:

- Council assembly procedure rule 1.5(b) - Variation in the order of business in order to allow the relevant motions to be considered after the deputations on the same subjects.

The procedural motion was agreed.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Members made the following declarations:

Item 9.2 – Motion 2: Repayment of major works charges by leaseholders

Councillors Catherine Bowman, Eliza Mann, Wilma Nelson and Tayo Situ declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item as they are council leaseholders.

Item 9.4 – Motion 4: Choices that count

Councillors Dora Dixon-Fyle, Peter John and Veronica Ward declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item as they sit on the local Olympic Delivery Board.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Linda Manchester and Paul Noblet.

2. MINUTES

Report: See Supplemental Agenda 1, pages 1-44

Councillor Fiona Colley, cabinet member for regeneration and corporate strategy, stated that the last paragraph in the response to question 27 in Appendix 2, reported to council assembly on 1 December 2010 was factually incorrect and had been amended by deleting the last paragraph.

RESOLVED:

1. That following a statement from Councillor Fiona Colley to delete the last paragraph of the response to question 27 in Appendix 2 reported to council assembly on 1 December 2010, the amended minutes (as circulated) of the ordinary meeting of 1 December 2010 be agreed and signed as a correct record.
2. That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 1 December 2010 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

4. DEPUTATION REQUESTS

Report: See pages 1-2 of the main agenda and supplemental agenda 1, pages 1-2

Item 4.1 – Deputation request from a group of students in Southwark on the government’s withdrawal of the educational maintenance allowance

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from the students.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Tom Noble, addressed the meeting.

Councillors Michael Bukola, Tim McNally, Peter John, Barrie Hargrove and Anood Al-Samerai asked questions of the deputation.

The meeting then debated the motion on the withdrawal of the educational maintenance allowance (see Item 9.1: Motion 1).

Item 4.2 – Deputation request: Southwark Tribute to Heroes

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from local businesses and residents.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Barry Albin-Dyer, addressed the meeting.

Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, Peter John, Michael Mitchell, Denise Capstick, James Barber, Dora Dixon-Fyle and Paul Kyriacou asked questions of the deputation.

The meeting then debated the motion Southwark Council Tribute to Heroes (see Item 9.3: Motion 3).

Item 4.3 – Deputation request: Save Southwark Adult Learning

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from Southwark adult learners.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Dorothy Love, addressed the meeting.

Councillors Rosie Shimell, Veronica Ward, Lisa Rajan, Anood Al-Samerai and Peter John asked questions of the deputation.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the public.

6. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

Report: See pages 3–9 of the main agenda, page 1 of the blue paper and pages 1–25 of the yellow pages circulated at the meeting

There were two urgent questions to the leader, the written answers to which were circulated on blue paper at the meeting. The leader answered supplementary questions on both questions, the answers to all questions are attached as an Appendix 1 to the minutes.

There were 49 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated on yellow paper. There were 7 supplementary questions, the answers to which are attached as an Appendix 2 to the minutes.

The order of business having been varied earlier in the meeting at 10.05pm the bell was rang and the Mayor announced that the guillotine had fallen.

7. REPORT(S) FOR INFORMATION FROM THE CABINET

7.1 REPORT BACK ON MOTIONS REFERRED TO CABINET FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

Report See pages 10-14 of the main agenda

Following a variation in the order of business earlier in the meeting, this report was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

8. OTHER REPORTS

8.1 THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2011/12

Report: See pages 15-27 of the main agenda

Following an earlier variation in the order of business, this report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12(3) & (4) the report was afford up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

Following debate (Councillors Richard Livingstone and Tim McNally), the recommendations were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

That the council tax base for 2011/12 be set at:

	Number of band D equivalent properties
For the parish of St. Mary Newington	13,521.88

For the parish of St. Saviour's	1,178.33
For the whole of the borough excluding the parishes of St. Mary Newington and St. Saviour's	84,293.74
For the whole borough	98,993.95

8.2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE NUNHEAD AND PECKHAM RYE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Report: See pages 28-29 of the main agenda

Following a variation in the order of business earlier in the meeting, this report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.10 (3) & (4) the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

The recommendation to remove the existing vice-chair of the Nunhead and Peckham Rye community council was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Councillor Nick Dolezal, seconded by Councillor Richard Livingstone, nominated Councillor Mark Glover as vice-chair of the Nunhead and Peckham Rye community council. The nomination was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the existing vice-chair of the Nunhead and Peckham Rye community council be removed.
2. That Councillor Mark Glover be appointed vice-chair of the Nunhead and Peckham Rye community council for the remainder of the municipal year.

9. MOTIONS

9.1 MOTION 1 - EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Report: See page 31 of the main agenda

Councillor Catherine McDonald, seconded by Councillor Patrick Diamond, moved the motion.

Councillor Rosie Shimell, seconded by Councillor Graham Neale, moved Amendment A.

During the debate (Councillors Peter John and Columba Blango), Councillor Peter John made a point of personal explanation. Thereafter the debate continued (Councillors Richard Livingstone, Renata Hamvas, Mark Gettleson, Lewis Robinson, Gavin Edwards,

Anood Al-Samerai, Andy Simmons, Victoria Mills, Nick Dolezal, Lisa Rajan, Helen Morrissey, Mark Glover, Adele Morris, Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole and Michael Mitchell).

A procedural motion to put the question to the vote was moved and seconded. The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Amendment A was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

Councillor Cleo Soanes, seconded by Councillor Helen Hayes, moved Amendment B.

A procedural motion to put the question to the vote was moved and seconded. The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

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

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly notes that over 20,000 young people in Southwark have benefitted from the educational maintenance allowance (EMA) which provides financial support to young people from financially disadvantaged backgrounds and enables them to afford to remain in post-16 education.
2. That council assembly also notes that before the 2010 general election both the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties promised to retain the EMA.
3. That in the circumstances council assembly bitterly regrets the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition government's decision to withdraw the EMA to new students from January 2011 and existing students from July 2011.
4. That council assembly believes that the withdrawal of the EMA will have a significant and disproportionately adverse impact on the educational and life chances of thousands of young people in Southwark and will result in many more young people leaving full-time education at the age of 16.
5. That council assembly also notes and regrets the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition government attacks on young peoples' education through increasing university tuition fees, ceasing Bookstart and the withdrawal of the sport in schools programme and calls on the government to reconsider its approach and to invest in our young peoples' future rather than reduce services to them.
6. That council assembly also notes and regrets that the government's Adviser on Access to High 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.

That council assembly calls upon the cabinet and the relevant cabinet members:

7. To oppose the abolition of the educational maintenance allowance by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government from the 1 January 2011.
8. To lobby the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government and the newly appointed advocate for access to higher education, Simon Hughes MP, to reconsider the abolition of the education maintenance allowance.
9. To secure the support of the three Southwark Members of Parliament to oppose the abolition of the education maintenance allowance.
10. To use all appropriate means to publicise the withdrawal of the EMA to young people in higher education in Southwark, particularly those from low-income families who rely on the allowance to remain in education and to ensure Southwark's young people are informed of any alternative financial provision in place to help them to continue in post 16 education.

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

9.2 MOTION 2 - REPAYMENT OF MAJOR WORKS CHARGES BY LEASEHOLDERS

Report: See pages 32-33 of the main agenda

With the consent of the meeting, this motion was deferred to council assembly on 6 April 2011.

9.3 MOTION 3 - SOUTHWARK COUNCIL TRIBUTE TO HEROES

Report: See page 33 of the main agenda

Councillor Denise Capstick, seconded by Councillor Paul Kyriacou, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillors Ian Wingfield, Jeff Hook, Nick Dolezal, Geoffrey Thornton, Fiona Colley, Anood Al-Samerai, Catherine Bowman, Mark Gettleson and Peter John), Councillor Denise Capstick exercised her right of reply.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That council recognises and thanks the people of Southwark for all they have done to support the armed forces and to raise funds for Help for Heroes and Homes for Heroes.
2. That council notes that currently all servicemen and women who die in Afghanistan, are brought to Bermondsey before making their final journey to their resting places.
3. That council agrees to work with the relevant parties involved to facilitate an appropriate tribute from Southwark to recognise those who lose their lives whilst serving our country and make their final journey from our borough.

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

9.4 MOTION 4 - CHOICES THAT COUNT

Report: See pages 33-34 of the main agenda

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Anood Al-Samerai and Columba Blango, formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Veronica Ward and Mark Glover, formally moved and seconded Amendment D.

Amendment D 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 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. That 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. That 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. That council believes that the community games is important for our young people and for our aspirations for 2012.
5. That 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. That council notes that the authority also faces unprecedented cuts to its settlement from government, forcing serious cuts across all services.
7. That 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.

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

10. AMENDMENTS

The amendments are set out in supplemental agenda 2.

11. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES ARISING FROM SOUTHWARK DEMOCRACY COMMISSION - RECORDING AT COUNCIL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

Report: See report circulated at the meeting

The report had not been circulated seven clear working days in advance of the meeting. The report was accepted by the Mayor as urgent business because consideration of the changes made in response to the recommendations of the Democracy Commission could be incorporated into the revised council assembly procedure rules which were due to be printed following this meeting. The constitutional steering panel had met on 25 January 2011 to consider this report.

Following an earlier variation in the order of business, this report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.10(3) & (4) the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

Following debate (Councillor Anood Al-Samerai), the recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the constitutional change recommended by the constitutional steering panel be adopted to reflect the guidance set out under the heading 'General procedural provisions' (see Appendix 1 of the report) by amending council assembly procedure rule 1.9 as set out in paragraph 9 of the report to make it clear that the Mayor has the discretion to request the termination or suspension of the recording/filming/webcasting if, in the opinion of the Mayor, continuing to record/webcast the meeting would prejudice the proceedings of the meeting.

2. That officers be authorised to undertake any consequential and cross referencing changes arising from resolution 1 above.

The meeting closed at 10.18pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**(ORDINARY)****WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY 2011****URGENT QUESTIONS****1. URGENT QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI**

Please could the leader give an update about the fire at Brawne House and the current position.

RESPONSE

The causes of the fire are still under investigation and we are co-operating fully with the fire brigade.

Of the damaged flats, 59 residents chose to remain in their homes, 1 is staying with relatives and 8 were in temporary accommodation. As at 25 January, of the 9 displaced households, 2 had returned home. We are working toward completing all outstanding repairs by the end of the week, and will be redecorating those flats where there has been damage caused by smoke or water.

Emergency payments have been made to those who lost belongings in the fire - £200 over the weekend, and provision is being made for another £300 to be paid this week.

Surgeries have been held daily for residents, and daily contact is being made with all residents displaced by the fire.

Counselling services have been offered to all residents and those wanting to take up this opportunity have been given a freephone telephone number to call.

A public meeting has been arranged for the evening of 27 January, where officers and the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management will be available to brief residents.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Thank you very much to the leader for his answer. I joined Councillor Bowman at her surgery on Brandon Estate on Thursday and we went and met the director of housing on Friday and I am very pleased to hear that emergency assistant payments have been made and that counselling has been offered - it was particularly difficult dealing with some of the younger children who had been above the fire coming down through the smoke - so I am really pleased about that. There was an issue raised about smoke alarms, whether they were working, whether communal alarms on the landings were needed, so I would be grateful if the leader could assure us that that would also be looked into?

RESPONSE

Well I am grateful for that follow up question, it is important that we do keep on top of issues like this. I was just being reassured by Councillor Wingfield, who is going to be meeting residents tomorrow together with housing management, that the fire brigade has inspected Brawne House and they have confirmed that all fire safety regulations were complied with and that everything was in working order so residents can be assured that every thing is in order this time.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Thank you, the extra question does ring a bell from the democracy commission and Councillor Mohamed is not here to thank him, so please pass on my thanks to Councillor Mohamed. There was a specific issue about fire alarms in people's flats. I appreciate it may tick the fire assessment boxes; but that was something people were very anxious about, so I am sure Councillor Wingfield could follow that up tomorrow and that would be appreciated.

RESPONSE

I absolutely give that reassurance. My understanding is that the fire brigade will provide local alarms for free for any resident in any event – they won't? Well, there we are. I am taken in by the advertising that they put on the TV and cinema. But Councillor Wingfield can address this with residents tomorrow and hopefully give some reassurance there.

2. URGENT QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

Would the leader comment on whether an amnesty is to be offered to unauthorised occupants of council dwellings, and set out any proposed changes to responsibilities or processes for checking that council tenanted dwellings are occupied by the authorised tenants?

RESPONSE

Because there is such a shortage of council housing in Southwark, housing officers are currently drawing up new proposals to crack down on illegal occupancy to ensure that our homes go to those genuinely in need. We are also currently waiting to see what the government's proposals in this area will be.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

Thank you Mr Mayor, I certainly do, because the leader has not answered my original question. I think that many members of the council here tonight, many people on the waiting lists in this borough, many homeless people and many people in temporary accommodation will be extremely concerned to hear that at the audit and governance committee meeting last night it was revealed that the council is considering an amnesty for illegal sub letting in this borough. This answer does not deny that, which it should do, and this is what the council should do now – it should deny that that process is underway, it should also clarify the changes that it is planning to fraud investigations within housing and

reassure us that they have the full confidence of the senior fraud investigation team.

RESPONSE

I can give a more direct reply to Councillor Robinson like he seeks. No, there is no question of an amnesty for illegal occupancy of any Southwark property. We are in the midst of drawing up new proposals to crack down on this problem – that will be through work in the press as well as actually carrying out door to door checks of who is in occupation of the properties. It is a very important issue given the shortage of property in Southwark, that people are not making a quick buck on the back of Southwark's property portfolio. It is not something we will tolerate as a council ever at any stage; the message from this administration goes out loud and clear to that affect. I am sorry that audit and governance committee seems to have been misled about some idea, that's all I can call it, last night but I can give the categorical reassurance he seeks this evening.

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**(ORDINARY)****WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY 2011****MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME****1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES**

Unlike the previous administration, this council recognises the importance of Camberwell to the borough. Can the leader confirm whether there will be a consultation exercise for a new library in Camberwell and what the time frame is likely to be? Can the leader also comment on the response from Transport for London (TFL) on re-modelling Camberwell town centre?

RESPONSE

We will be considering library provision in the borough as part of a strategic review which will be commencing shortly. The current library is well used and much loved but I believe that there is still a strong case for a new library in Camberwell and we are exploring ways in which this may be delivered. We are particularly aware of the lack of space available at the current library, the particular demand for study space, for further developing existing services to children and young people and for improving access to books IT and information for local people.

Officers from the library service are working with officers from other departments to consider innovative ways of improving library provision in Camberwell.

Transport for London have awarded the council, as part of our 2011/12 funding, £200,000 to start work on a Camberwell Scheme, which will look at whether and how the junction can be remodeled. I feel that this is a good first step.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES

Thank you Mr Mayor. I wish to thank the leader for his answer and I am sure the people of Camberwell and all who use this important gateway to the rest of the borough will be pleased to know after years of being off the Liberal Democrat/Conservative administration's radar, Camberwell is now back on this council's radar. Will the leader confirm that this council will continue to investigate and pursue all possibilities of the regeneration of Camberwell?

RESPONSE

I want thank Councillor Gibbes for her supplementary question, and yes I can; it's an issue which Councillor Colley is taking forward within her regeneration portfolio.

I was very heartened, I think it is something I mentioned at the last Camberwell community council, that when we had a conference which we supported as a council called 'Investing in Southwark', a whole section of that which was to developers and those who really had an interest in investing, bringing money into the borough; it was not just about the north of the borough, those prime positions, we had a whole section which we were talking about potential of investing in Camberwell and Peckham, because I do think it is absolutely vital to recognise our borough does not stop at the Elephant and Castle; it carries on down the Walworth Road and carries on right down to Dulwich and we want to see regeneration and investment in all parts of our borough. I think we live in one of the most exciting boroughs,

the most exciting borough in London and therefore in the country and I am very proud to go out and sell Camberwell, sell Peckham, sell every part of Southwark to those who want to come and invest and regenerate our area.

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Please can you give a summary of the responses from the public budget consultation?

RESPONSE

A brief summary is included within the policy and resources report considered by cabinet on 25 January at paragraph 149. A longer summary, which is being given to all community councils, is available on the council's website at:

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/download/2622/budget_consultation_report

This information was supplied in advance.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Thank you very much for your answer, and I have had a look at the further detail and Councillor Livingstone also brought some detail to our community council this week, which was interesting.

I just still am a little bit concerned about the spinning and scare mongering; the cabinet report was very vague, lots of sorts of announcements keep appearing, the one I am particularly asking about this evening is the 400 jobs cuts that the leader referred to. At last council assembly you mentioned, or one of his answers was 1002 vacancies in the council at the moment so rather than scare mongering with people's jobs could he just confirm that he will be looking at those vacancies and that some of those 400 jobs cuts may at least be covered by some of those vacancies so people will not be losing that many jobs?

RESPONSE

I thank Councillor Al-Samerai for her supplementary question.

I think I have been going out of my way not to scare monger actually on the question of jobs and I am sorry if that impression has not got across to any member of this council and any member of staff, because I know how important it is that we are absolutely direct and honest with everybody who is affected by this budget, so what we have been saying or what I have been saying to staff is that at the moment whilst we anticipate 400 posts will be lost, 400 posts under the general fund budget, we are anticipating that translating to about 150 jobs, i.e. people who will have to leave being made redundant. That is 150 too many, I still accept that, but it is not as bad as the 400 figure in terms of post lost. We are looking at redeployment, we are looking at every alternative option to keep people still working for this council because we recognise if you lose a job now it is not going to be easy to go and find another one, particularly with another local authority, so we are trying to minimise and mitigate the impact of the cuts that we having to deal with, but there will be some impact. But as I say, we will be keeping it as low as possible, we think of 150 as the consequence of the general fund. I don't want anyone to scare monger about this and I don't think we in dealing with our budget have been in fairness.

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

In light of local misgivings expressed about the proposal to relocate to Camberwell Green the building currently housing the "One Stop Shop" and reopen it as the "Camberwell Pavilion"

would the leader state whether the council will proceed with the proposals and if so indicate the cost of the move and what further consultation will take place?

RESPONSE

We first made our plans for a Camberwell Pavilion public last autumn and consulted with a small group of stakeholders including the Camberwell Society. Since that time the Camberwell Society has stated that it is opposed to the proposal. I continue to believe that the concept of a Camberwell Pavilion does have some merit and we will be consulting with the wider community over the next few months.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

Thank you Mr Mayor; I always have a supplemental for the leader. I thank him for his answer, which again is not quite an answer, but he may already know that the Camberwell Pavilion is commonly known among parts of Camberwell as the Camberwell Porta-cabin. Now although it may be time for Camberwell – something I heartily agree with, is he prepared to consider the option that perhaps the one stop shop should not be moved to Camberwell if people do not want it, it should be sold off and the money reinvested in Camberwell as an alternative to planting it in the middle of the green?

RESPONSE

I hope I have made clear in my answer, perhaps I failed, I am sorry Councillor Robinson, we will look at all options for the Camberwell Pavilion idea and the Bermondsey One Stop Shop. I think that the issue is that it has minimal value if it is sold on the open market but it could potentially have great value to the people of Camberwell.

We have been talking about the regeneration of Camberwell and our thinking was this would be a very quick and deliverable sign that we are serious about regenerating Camberwell by bringing a new library and a new public meeting space to the heart of Camberwell. Now if the people of Camberwell don't want it I am not going to force it on them, but I do think that its fair that we consult a little wider than we have thus far. I know that the Camberwell Society does not like the prospect, thinks it an ugly building. I think we can make it a much more attractive building but I think it is important that we consult and see whether people would welcome if this is a potentially new library in preference to the library facility which is not very good quite frankly, what we have got currently on Camberwell Church Street, not as a long term solution but we think we can get 10 to 15 years more use out of this if it was moved. So that's where we are at; we are not going to force anything on the people of Camberwell. As a resident of Camberwell I will listen to Councillor Robinson as much as every other resident who has an interest in this.

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS

Do you think that the cabinet has kept to its election pledge to have the most open budget process in the council's history?

RESPONSE

Yes I do. In the autumn we set out the principles which would guide our budget decisions, so that our method was open to all and our approach transparent.

Since then we have visited each community council twice, and will visit each a further time. Each community council has, through those visits from cabinet members, had the opportunity to discuss with cabinet the severity of the council's budget challenge and indicate their priorities for where savings should be made. As well as community councils we have taken this discussion out to many other community groups and council employees.

These conversations have made a genuine impact on our decisions, and I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to get involved.

We have for the first time offered overview and scrutiny the opportunity to pre-scrutinise the budget, and this will take place on 31 January.

Before cabinet recommends a budget to council assembly local groups impacted by the budget recommendations will have the opportunity to make representations to us at our 8 February cabinet meeting.

I believe that, taken together, these measures have not only met our manifesto commitment but also begun to change the council culture, so that it is implicitly more open and transparent. I fully intend that this move towards ever-greater transparency will continue over the course of this administration.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS

I thank the leader for his response. In the interest of openness, will he give a commitment to following the same kind of open approach to the budget consultation that we have seen this year in future years of this administration?

RESPONSE

Yes I can. I think it has been a very worthwhile exercise trying to involve as many members of the public, as many interest groups as possible, as many in the community as we can in this budget process. I think there are things we have learned about the process as we have gone along which perhaps can be tightened and improved. At the moment we are still learning as we are dealing with the draft budget, and I think there are ways in which we can improve that. In the next couple of day we are going to be publishing a budget guide, a plain English guide for the budget if you will, which sets out quite clearly what the implications are of the very difficult choices that we are having to make because of the government cuts, but now I think it is useful and people have appreciated being consulted and it is something which I think any administration should carry on doing in the future and certainly this administration will do in future years.

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK

Will the leader reduce the level of pay of the chief executive by 5%, as suggested by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government?

RESPONSE

I am not going to discuss any individual officer's pay or conditions of employment in a council assembly meeting.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK

Thank you Mr Mayor. I thank the leader for his answer and it's a very specific answer which I respect. I want to make it quite clear and assure the chief executive that I meant no reflection of her undeniable dedication and enthusiasm of her job in Southwark. However I do want to remind the leader of a conversation that we had on 11 October last year when we were at the appointments committee and I pointed out to you in the paperwork the extra package of benefits that applied to senior officers. You did actually assure me that you had not been aware of it before the meeting and that you were going to look into it and so I would like to ask you on this occasion to revisit that question and give us a reply? Thank you.

RESPONSE

Well I want to thank Councillor Clark. Certainly we shall; every aspect and every area of spending which this council undertakes is having to be reviewed as a consequence of these unprecedented cuts from the government and that includes all senior pay and packages and bonuses and things like that, and I would hope and expect that everybody at this time would try and make their contribution to ensuring that front line services continue to benefit the people of this borough. So the short answer is yes I will.

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL

Does the leader of the council share my concern about suggestions that the existing very successful community councils are under threat? Does he agree with me that creating fewer larger community councils takes power away from local people and runs counter to the whole localism agenda?

RESPONSE

Every area of council spending faces reduction following the government cuts. I am confident that community councils can be improved, even on a reduced budget. That is why the democracy commission will be looking at community councils for its next phase.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL

May I thank the leader for his answer and express, I think, a bit of disappointment that he was unable to sign up to the localism agenda that was the second part of the question; and I just wonder what it might be I should conclude from the fact that he was unable to say yes to that, that this reinforces the notion that he wants to use the fig leaf of the cuts to centralise power at the expense of local people?

RESPONSE

Well it is a pretty big fig leaf I have to say; £34 million this year and £20 million next year and rolling on. You know the reality is we are facing unprecedented cuts, as I say, from central government. Every department in every area of the council is having to find savings and in our draft budget proposals we have identified £340,000 to come from community councils. That is because the department on which community councils sits has got to find its 25% of savings as every other department has and that is the proposal that has come from them.

Now, I think it is important to recognise that the democracy commission is the body which will look at how we make those savings in community councils in future, and as I said at Dulwich Community Council on Monday if the democracy commission can come back with proposals which find that £340,000 worth of savings whilst at the same time maintaining community councils in their current shape and form of doing everything they do I would be delighted.

There is no hidden agenda from this administration to cut community councils but they have to bear their share of the reductions, otherwise I think we will have a very difficult job explaining to people who are going to face cuts in their front line services, who rely on children's services, who rely on adult social care, who use our other services, why we are putting our democratic niceties to some extent above them and above their absolutely basic front line needs. I think we have to demonstrate right across the piece that we are committed to making these savings and being intelligent in how we do it, as I say I am not prescribing anything but it does have to find its savings and I invite the democracy commission to come back with their proposals – and as a member I hope, Cllr Mitchell, you will contribute; I am sure you will to that debate.

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH

Given the current financial challenges facing the council does the leader intend to break promises that he has made to the electorate?

RESPONSE

I have no intention of breaking the promises that we made at the last election, despite the massive reductions in spending that we are being forced to make.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH

Thank your Mr Mayor, I would like to thank the leader for his answer, but I have a supplementary. I noticed in the South London Press on Tuesday that the cabinet has been attacked for keeping its pledges, does the leader think that is a better place to be than being attacked for breaking promises?

RESPONSE

It was a curious headline. I cannot remember the exact words but it was you know 'Council under attack for keeping election promises', with our commitment to free healthy school meals, and I was heartened that Councillor Al-Samerai actually mentioned school dinners as a way of which we can help young people in their education, but you know I would much rather be under attack in keeping promises and pledges to the people of Southwark delivering on our manifesto, delivering on our commitment to make a fairer future for all in this borough, because I think that is what they want and that is what they expect of a Labour council and that is what they will get from a Labour council, a council which delivers on its promises and on its priorities; not one which walks away at the first puff of wind and inconvenience.

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON

Does the leader think it was necessary to have 8 community wardens in addition to security staff for the cabinet meeting on 21 December 2010?

RESPONSE

People across London have expressed their anger with the scale of government cuts, and this has in places, from Parliament Square to Lewisham Town Hall, escalated to violence. The police have been concerned about the potential for further violent protests and Southwark is, as all other responsible local authorities are, taking extra precautions to make sure that our residents remain safe.

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER

Can the leader provide an update on the two visits that he has made to Grant Shapps?

RESPONSE

I have made two visits to Grant Shapps in the last two months to discuss the Aylesbury Estate and the council's grant settlement.

In early December Councillors Colley, Al-Samerai and I visited the housing minister to discuss the withdrawal of private finance initiative (PFI) money from the Aylesbury Estate regeneration. We made the case for keeping money for the PFI, given the scale and importance of this scheme not just to Southwark but to London. Mr Shapps was unable to

offer any assurances that this money would not be withdrawn nor to outline any other funding stream.

Earlier this month Councillors Livingstone, McNally and I visited the housing minister to discuss the council's grant settlement, explaining that Southwark is the hardest hit council in London in cash terms and making our case for a reconsideration of the proposed cuts. Mr Shapps listened, but offered no further finance at the meeting.

We are monitoring the position on the new homes bonus (NHB) and as one of the largest home builders in the country, we are optimistic that once consultation is complete that more cash will be forthcoming to support the council through this dreadful settlement. We have received some modest assumptions in the budget report yesterday.

As any further cash is awarded, we will need to take a view on the levels guaranteed and over what period. We will also need to take a view on the priorities to be addressed as we battle to make homes warm safe and dry and to support the housing revenue account (HRA) through the early years of the new subsidy regime.

I am obliged to the minister for listening so carefully to us and look forward to seeing him again and showing him in real terms the potential impacts of recent government cuts on the great work that the council is trying to complete.

On a supplementary point, I have twice since May asked to meet with the Secretary of State for Communities, Law and Governance, Eric Pickles. On the first occasion he said he was too busy. I still have not received a response to the second request for a meeting, which was sent on 20 September.

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR TIM MCNALLY

Will the leader be using reserves and the contingency set aside by the previous administration in order to prevent cuts to front line services?

RESPONSE

The draft budget proposals identify the use of around £4 million from balances across the next two years. Unlike the local government minister Grant Shapps we do not believe it's prudent to commit further reserves at this time as the vast majority of our reserves are already committed and are vital to the future of key programmes like the regeneration of Elephant & Castle and the Aylesbury Estate. In any case, reserves are assets not income, meaning that if we spent reserves in the coming financial year we still have to find the savings in the next financial year.

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON

We are all very concerned that the previous administration accounts relating to the decent homes investment programme highlighted woeful strategic administrative weaknesses coupled with political sleight of hand. Can the leader confirm by ward and how much was spent between years 2006 to 2010 by the previous administration?

RESPONSE

The information is only available by housing management areas rather than by wards. Details of spend over the four year from 2006 – 2010 are set out below.

Decent Homes expenditure by Area

Area	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	Total by Area
Bermondsey	12,795,396	9,994,932	10,665,253	6,746,325	40,201,906
Borough & Bankside	4,874,866	4,300,572	12,879,753	3,775,978	25,831,169
Camberwell	8,558,068	3,098,996	5,433,791	2,123,692	19,214,547
Dulwich	3,033,512	1,313,123	3,293,568	3,495,037	11,135,240
Nunhead & Peckham					
Rye	4,571,559	1,619,647	7,632,175	3,943,462	17,766,843
Peckham	5,235,735	4,633,195	5,409,532	11,219,188	26,497,650
Rotherhithe	3,325,042	6,413,296	4,960,721	7,019,196	21,718,255
Walworth	7,317,628	12,450,969	5,479,776	3,203,994	28,452,367
Misc borough-wide	0	61,179	46	1,929,001	1,990,226
Decent Homes allocation total	49,711,806	43,885,909	55,754,615	43,455,873	192,808,203

Notes

Spend against main decent homes (DH) allocation only. Does not include works contributing to DH through e.g. rewiring, minor voids budgets. Tenant management organisation spend shown within area.

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

As quoted in question 17 at the last council assembly, can the leader tell me the location of additional CCTV cameras he has installed, not including the link up with Transport for London (TfL) which was agreed with TfL under the last administration?

RESPONSE

The following new cameras have or will shortly be installed:

The parking services have purchased three new re-deployable cameras for traffic management this financial year. Two have been deployed at the junction of Camberwell Road and Wyndham Road to manage issues at the Box Junction. The third is waiting for a suitable deployment location.

Three standalone cameras were purchased for use in the Dulwich area and are currently sited along Norwood Road.

We have not purchased any new cameras in Burgess Park, but have relocated four Sentriescope cameras.

Four new cameras are to be purchased for the new road layout at the Elephant & Castle Southern Roundabout. This project is under way and due to be completed before the end of this financial year.

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL

Does the leader believe that the Conservative/Liberal Democrat government's decision to scrap the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) will have an effect on social mobility in Southwark?

RESPONSE

Yes. Over 3,600, a third of Southwark's 16-19 year olds received the EMA this year, which helped young people from less affluent backgrounds stay in education. The payment was

designed to help with the day-to-day costs of staying on in education, like buying lunch or paying for transport, for those who might not otherwise be able to afford it.

Without this payment I am deeply concerned that some young people in Southwark will decide that further education is a luxury they cannot afford. I believe that further education, which provides young people with the qualifications to go on to university or equips them with the skills to get a good job, should not be seen as a luxury, but should be open to all.

14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GETTLESON

What will the leader do to support the development of 'community plans' set out in the Localism Bill and maximise these opportunities for local residents?

RESPONSE

In December the cabinet member for regeneration met with representatives of a new community forum eager to develop a neighbourhood plan for parts of Bermondsey. The group is currently working to establish its constitution and to determine their preferred boundaries of the area for their plan.

We are working constructively with this group and actively considering the possibility of applying to be a Vanguard Council – that is, piloting the development of a neighbourhood plan ahead of the Localism Bill making its passage through both Houses of Parliament. Officers are exploring the implications of this, including the likely costs and the implications for other parts of the Borough, Bankside & London Bridge supplementary planning document (SPD) area. They have also met with officials from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Greater London Assembly (GLA) to discuss the matter.

I understand that Councillor Colley emailed you on 4 January to ask for your views on the proposal, but that to date she has received no response.

15. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

Does the leader believe residents of Southwark value community councils?

RESPONSE

Yes. I also believe they value social care for the young and old, our environmental services and refuse collection, local libraries and leisure facilities, measures to tackle anti-social behaviour and early years services.

16. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Does the leader agree that increased use of the River Thames could make a significant contribution to improving the travel services available to many residents of Southwark and has he pressed the Mayor and Transport for London to treat the river-bus service as public transport, rather than a tourist facility?

RESPONSE

I met earlier in the year with the London Port Authority to discuss the potential for extra stops on the river in Southwark. I am happy to take forward the councillor's concerns about the river-bus service to the Mayor of London. However, this service may not be given a high priority by TfL in the light of the investment required to bring the service in line with other public transport and stresses on its budget.

17. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL

Please will the leader provide attendance for Southwark citizens at all council assembly meetings and all of the community council meetings in Southwark since 1 May 2006? Please can he provide a breakdown by community council?

RESPONSE

The council does not collect details of residents who attend council assembly meetings. In relation to community councils we have figures for 2006, 2007 and 2010 to date. These are as follows:

Community Council Attendance 2006, 2007 and 2010

Community Council Area	2006	Number of mtgs & (Ave)	2007	Number of mtgs & (Ave)	No* data 2008	No* data 2009	2010	Number of mtgs & (Ave)	Total
Dulwich	444	7 (63)	472	8 (59)			220	6 (36)	1135
Camberwell	358	6 (59)	296	7 (42)			269	6 (44)	923
Walworth	470	7 (67)	364	6 (60)			352	6 (58)	1186
Borough & Bankside	374	6 (62)	483	8 (60)			233	6 (38)	1090
Bermondsey	464	8 (58)	353	9 (39)			359	6 (59)	1176
Rotherhithe	449	8 (56)	378	9 (42)			303	6 (50)	1130
Peckham	428	6 (71)	324	8 (40)			267	6 (44)	1019
Nunhead & Peckham Rye	392	6 (65)	571	8 (71)			263	6 (44)	1226
Total	3379		3241				2266		8885

*Data for 2008 and 2009 unreliable or missing due to system/database fault

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES (BOROUGH AND BANKSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Would the cabinet member for environment support a bid for Borough High Street for LIP funding in 2012/13, as both an important strategic road and as an identified local priority by residents and ward councillors for improvements?

RESPONSE

I share residents', ward councillors' and local workers' concern about Borough High Street, as both a major thoroughfare and a pleasant environment for pedestrians.

There are very particular complexities with this street associated with its gateway to the City of London position, the fact that the entrance to a major rail station is sited along its route and now the future development of the European Union's tallest building located on its periphery and accommodating thousands more people.

The questioner is right in so far that to resolve the range of public realm problems Borough High Street presents, a large scale solution supported by significant funding is vital.

Council assembly will need no reminding that Borough High Street is part of the Transport for London Road Network. TfL have final authority responsibility for this road.

Since its introduction, LiP funding (and predecessor scheme) has provided funding for transport and improvements on council maintained highways infrastructure. There is no doubt that if improvements to Borough High Street were to be funded from this funding stream this would be to the detriment of investment in the borough road network.

As part of the development surrounding London Bridge station, a study of pedestrian movement is currently being undertaken by Network Rail and partners. In addition, development funds from nearby London Bridge developments will provide funds for improvements to Borough High Street.

I am more than ready to commit the council's support, to lobby and to work with TfL to provide ways for much needed improvements for Borough High Street.

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK (ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Can the cabinet member for children's services advise how many pupils living in the Rotherhithe Community Council area are having to travel to secondary schools outside the Rotherhithe area due to acute shortage of secondary school places in the north of the borough? How many of these need to travel outside the borough?

RESPONSE

There is no acute shortage of secondary school places in the north of the borough. In addition, the reasons for families choosing one school over another are not recorded and may be varied.

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU (BERMONDSEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Please will the cabinet member for resources please provide the number of people who have visited the Bermondsey One Stop Shop since it was opened? Please can he provide a breakdown by year?

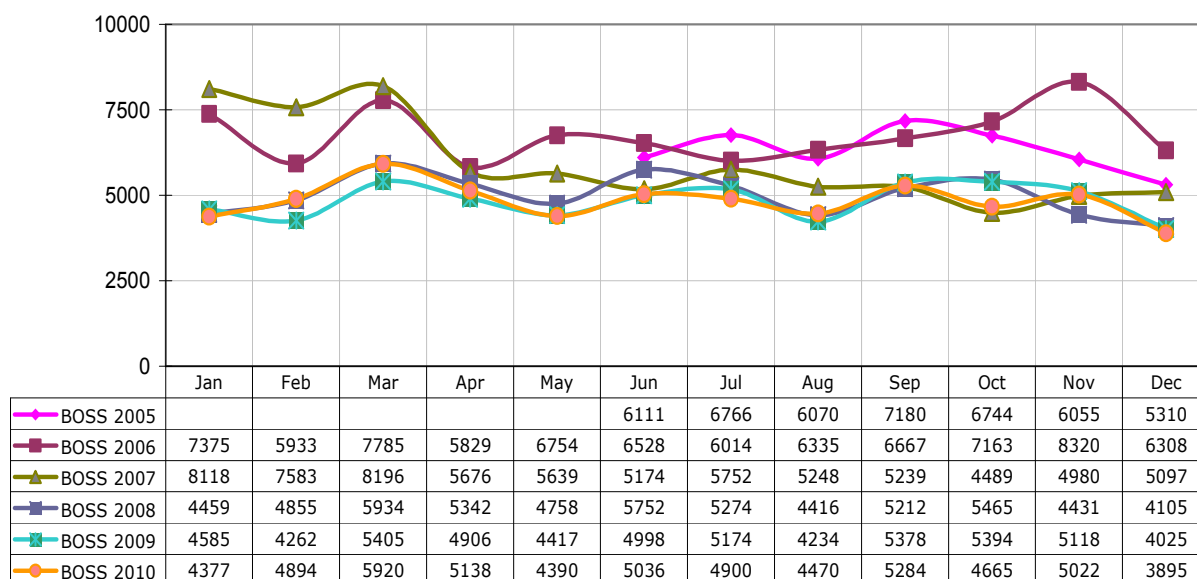
RESPONSE

Below is a graph showing the numbers of people visiting the Bermondsey One Stop Shop since it was opened in June 2005. The breakdown indicates that there has been a year on year fall in residents choosing to visit the one stop shop over the last 5 years.

The figures below demonstrate an overall fall in the number of visits of 28.4% between 2006 and 2010. In the same period, the number of visits at the Peckham One Stop Shop increased by 55.5% and those at the Walworth One Stop Shop increased by 31.4%.

The proposed plan to move the existing customer office to the new Canada Water Library, which is has greater transport links, is expected to increase access to council services and customer satisfaction.

of visitors BOSS



21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Please can the cabinet member for children's services please inform me how many primary school applications for Southwark schools have been received from Dulwich residents, which schools she would expect to have bulge classes and what percentage of applicants she anticipates to have their 1st or 2nd choices?

RESPONSE

The application and allocation process is still underway for this year (2011 admissions). The application closing date was on Saturday 15 January and the results have yet to be analysed.

22. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

Has the cabinet member considered evidence given on free school meals by an expert panel to children's services scrutiny sub-committee on 16 November 2010 for the pilot?

RESPONSE

Two members from the expert panel that gave evidence to the scrutiny meeting are members of the free healthy school meals project board. Their expertise has been informing the project's direction and supporting the evaluation process of the programme.

23. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Please can the cabinet member provide the number of children who are currently eligible for free school meals for each of the following schools:

- a) Dulwich Church of England Infant School
- b) Oliver Goldsmith Primary School
- c) Southwark Park Primary School

Please can she provide what percentage of the total population of each school this equates to?

RESPONSE

Data from January 2010 census:

School	Percentage	Number
Dulwich Church of England Infant School	4.5%	12
Oliver Goldsmith Primary School	37.4%	215
Southwark Park Primary School	32.2%	127

24. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN

How many young people have a) visited and b) are members of Brandon Library?

RESPONSE

Visitor data is not collected by age range. There are 587 members up to the age of 17 at Brandon Library

25. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

Does the cabinet member think that stigma is an issue in the uptake of free school meals in primary schools?

RESPONSE

Research from the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) states that nationally one in every five children, who is entitled to a free school meal does not claim it, in part because there can be a stigma attached to eating a free school meal.

26. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET

Please will the cabinet member list all the primary schools that require capital investment in their kitchens to provide universal free school meals? If she is unable to provide a complete list, please can she provide a list of schools that she knows require capital investment?

RESPONSE

An audit is in progress to determine which primary schools require capital investment to bring in free healthy school meals.

27. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU

Will the cabinet member ensure that she will not make any cuts to the youth service in order to fund universal free school meals?

RESPONSE

The government's cuts are deeper and quicker than necessary. This has a large impact on the children's services budget. We will prioritise our statutory services and the commitments

on which we were elected and are looking at how we can make savings in youth services whilst enhancing provision where possible.

28. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

What will the cabinet member do to ensure that every meal eaten by primary school children outside school are healthy and nutritious?

RESPONSE

Our free healthy schools meals policy concerns meals provided at school not outside school.

29. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON

How will the cabinet member measure the success of her teenage pregnancy strategy?

RESPONSE

In line with our manifesto pledge I have set up a teenage pregnancy commission, composed of representatives from across the community, who will be reporting to me in the spring with recommendations, with the aims of delivering a step-change in levels of teenage pregnancy.

30. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA

Following the abolition of the previous government's shameful policy on detaining children in asylum centres, would the cabinet member congratulate the coalition government and further would she confirm how many of our residents are affected locally in Southwark?

RESPONSE

Data on the number of residents affected locally in Southwark is not available.

31. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS

Can the cabinet member provide an update on the progress made to bring in free healthy school meals and any early findings from the pilot schemes that are now underway?

RESPONSE

The pilot for the free healthy school meals programme began in ten primary schools, of varying characteristics, at the beginning of January, for reception and year 1 pupils. The pilot is a vital phase of a programme of this size and complexity, to ensure that it provides best value for money and improves the outcomes of our children and young people.

The intention is to begin rolling out the programme next academic year, starting with specific year groups in all primary schools. The roll out will be informed by the findings from the pilot phase.

An audit of primary schools' capacity to deliver the full programme is currently ongoing, and work is underway to evaluate the pilot phase. This will include a number of areas including take-up of school meals, supporting healthy lifestyles, sustainability and logistics.

32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Southwark winters appear to be trending towards colder more extreme weather – so far a very snowy third winter in a row. Recently stocks ran very low and we witnessed people being sent out litter picking in the snow due to running out of salt.

Does the cabinet member agree with me that 1,000 tonnes of salt in stock at the winter start no longer seems adequate and would he please consider a proper salt barn that can hold more salt in ideal condition rather than in an open yard and hold sufficient salt such that side roads and pavements can be salted during snowy periods?

RESPONSE

By far the biggest negative impact this winter on our salt supply resulted from government intervention and prioritisation of salt supply based on the current size of the stock. In this context, it is beholden on me to pay a fulsome tribute to our street and estates sweeping staff for their dedication in providing a very considerable manual effort towards our snow and ice clearing operation.

In terms of a salt barn the main advantage would be the lessening of water absorption which forms a crust and can make dispersal rates from gritting vehicles more difficult to regulate. Based on the experience of the two previous winter periods and the proposed additional network coverage we would need to consider a facility in excess of 3,000 tonnes and requiring a site size far in excess of the existing site at Latona Road. The cost of a timber covered structure, for example, would be approximately £175,000 plus investigations, plus groundwork, plus services, plus planning application, plus fees and charges. This is without the location of an alternative site.

I have agreed that officers explore the possibilities for purchasing stock and holding it in storage out of the borough. This could allow for an uninterrupted supply, but of course also needs to be considered within the current financial climate, which is a very harsh one due to coalition government cuts.

Moreover, whilst holding additional stock at the outset of the winter period may seem advantageous and allow for the gritting of all footways, weather conditions will still dictate service levels. Should the weather be sufficiently intense to need footpath gritting then engineers will weigh this fact against the likelihood of it being for a sustained period. Experience has shown that where the weather is likely to be bad for a sustained period, salt stock must be conserved and the maintenance of the resilience carriageway network will take precedence.

33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

The council's travel plan prioritises pedestrians and public transport over car use. Do you therefore agree that pavements, particularly bus stops, should be gritted during snowy/icy periods in response to residents' requests to grit pavements to reduce risk of injuries caused by slips and falls?

RESPONSE

It goes without saying that I would like this council to grit as many pavements as possible. However, there are constraints as to the salt stocks we can hold, order with guaranteed delivery safe from central government re-allocation, and what percentage of the salt stock we have at any one time that we can commit to gritting footways. To put this in perspective we

would need approximately 300 tonnes of salt to grit all pavements in the borough in a day. This would represent 30% of our total storage capacity.

To make effective use of available resources the following issues are considered developing our treatment strategies in the winter service plan:

- Where do people need to go?
- How many people would need to go there?
- Are there any hills or other conditions that will make it difficult for people to go where they need to go?

With these in mind the following have been prioritised for pavement gritting:

- Accident and emergency centres
- Bus, train, rail stations and other transport hubs and links
- Access to schools
- Access to police, fire and ambulance stations
- Shopping areas.

The above notwithstanding, I am happy to consider bus stops with high levels of patronage that may have been left out of our current list of vulnerable sites. However, let me say that this is against a background of extremely harsh cuts that the coalition government is making to the council's funding.

34. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR GEOFFREY THORNTON

Please will the cabinet member provide an update on the MUSCo?

RESPONSE

A report on the MUSCo was received at the cabinet meeting of 25 January and this sets out our position in some detail. In summary I can confirm that we have not been able to conclude the MUSCo project with our preferred bidder. This is regrettable but we had to be absolutely sure that their proposal represented best value for the council was a workable model with which to proceed, and that it presented no material risks to the regeneration projects going ahead. Unfortunately, we were not satisfied that this was the case.

However, we remain committed champions of sustainable development and remain confident that the schemes which will be put in place for the Elephant and Castle, the Aylesbury, and those existing elsewhere across the housing stock incorporate really robust measures to achieve the same results.

We retain our zero carbon growth strategy for the Elephant and Castle development and in accordance with the London Plan, a major part of this must be through the use of renewable sources of energy and low-carbon technology.

Elsewhere the council continues with other major carbon reduction schemes such as the proposed SELCHP scheme, the only 'waste into power' facility of its kind in London, which aims to capture the heat currently wasted at the plant to heat up to five nearby estates. The Peckham Low Carbon Zone, which is one of only 10 in London, has an overall target of reducing CO₂ emissions across homes, schools and businesses by 20.12% by 2012.

While the termination of the MUSCo process is disappointing I remain confident we can meet our targets through alternative means.

35. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK

Why are commuters allowed to use Southwark Park as a free car park while local residents around the corner have to pay to park outside their homes?

RESPONSE

Car parks in the major parks in Southwark exist to ensure that those who want or need to travel to use the park by car are able to. We are aware of issues of commuters parking for free in car parks in Southwark's parks. Parks are free at the point of access and to date we have resisted implementing pay and display or controlled parking.

However it would be possible to implement parking control systems that did not require payment by the customer but were ticketing systems and patrolled by our existing parking contractors. This is a system that we are considering for other parks in the borough where the issues are so extreme that disabled park users are not able to park in the car park. It is important to be aware that this system will incur costs for the parks business unit i.e. cost of marking, signage, ticketing machines and extra patrols and will not lead to extra income. To date officers are not aware of incidents of genuine park users not being able to park in Southwark Park and therefore are not currently considering implementing this system there due to the cost that would be incurred.

The situation in Southwark Park differs from on-street (highway) parking where there is a controlled parking zone (CPZ) in operation. CPZs are introduced where there is public support for a scheme and the aspects of cost are always made clear. Legislation states that CPZs must be self-financing and therefore the cost of enforcement, maintenance, signs, lines and machines must be borne by those who wish to park in a CPZ. Those charges include resident's permits, business permits, visitor permits, pay and display and penalty charge notices.

Legislation requires that we keep a separate parking account and that all parking schemes are self-financing. Therefore, it is not possible to introduce, enforce, maintain or review parking regulations without making a charge to permit holders.

Charges are set at a level which covers the cost of administration and achieves the objectives of parking controls: that is prevention of waiting where there is a risk to road safety or potential for congestion, and to manage parking space in areas where demand exceeds supply.

36. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON

How many trees have died over the past three years due to salt damage from gritting exercises, how much have the replacement costs been, and what is being done to make contractors and the public aware of the costs incurred by the unfortunate application of salted grit in tree pits on the pavements during inclement weather conditions?

RESPONSE

Unfortunately records from previous years are not conclusive and we will not know the extent of salt deaths from this winter until the coming spring as salt damage can only be positively identified after tests have been carried out.

Therefore whilst it is not possible to say the total cost for the reasons, the cost of replacing a highway tree is approximately £280 for felling a dead tree and £400 for planting a replacement tree.

Officers are investigating all reports of alleged damage as they are reported. Officers are liaising with public realm on this to revise guidelines on the positioning of salt bins and spreading. Guidance for salt spreading in proximity to trees is outlined in Southwark's winter services plan.

The tree team is currently working on developing information for residents about how to spread salt on the pavements while avoiding damaging the trees i.e. not to pile salt in pits.

37. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

Would the cabinet member for the environment care to advise what response has been issued, or is being prepared, to the Civil Aviation Authority's current consultation entitled "Future Airspace Strategy"?

RESPONSE

In line with Heathrow Association for Control of Aircraft Noise (HACAN) response, we welcome the basic thrust of this consultation: a willingness to think radically and flexibly to develop a new airspace strategy with due attention to environmental noise issues. In view of the far-reaching nature of the document we would encourage the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to seek at this early stage from a wide range of stakeholders including environmental pressure groups. The review presents a real opportunity to improve the noise climate for a very significant number of people in London and the Home Counties, particularly those living or working under the arrivals flight paths. As such, we will be asking for a policy to use dispersion, eg by using alternation of routes within the airspace allocation, to reduce the impact on particular communities where ever reasonably possible.

We support the removal of stacks and the adoption of more direct routes to the airport.

We suggest that the operation of continuous descent approach is reassessed alongside this review, and would ask that the impact of the steeper take-off procedures recommended be assessed carefully before any final decision is taken.

In order to be able accurately to assess the impact on noise of any flight path changes, we will be suggesting that actual noise measurements be taken across all the key areas where noise disturbance occurs (rather than rely on computer models).

We would ask that there be a requirement that all environmental factors (in addition to greenhouse emissions) are included when assessing the impacts of change from an efficiency perspective.

38. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

Could the cabinet member provide leaf collection amounts for the years 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11?

RESPONSE

	Streets & Estates	Parks	Total Leaf-fall composted
Autumn 2008	1,398	385	1,783
Autumn 2009	1,507	335	1,841
Autumn 2010	1,339	355	1,693

The tonnages of leaf-fall collected by Southwark Cleaning and Quadron (our Parks Contractor) from our streets, estates and parks are shown in the table above. These figures do not include leaves collected by residents in their own gardens and presented for collection.

Composting leaves is more environmentally friendly than sending them to landfill, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and producing a useful end product. There is also a financial saving to the council of approximately £140,000 per annum and a contribution to our recycling rate of approximately 1.2%.

39. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN MORRISSEY

Can the cabinet member update council assembly on plans to increase the number of intelligent speed adaptors (ISAs) used on the council fleet?

RESPONSE

Southwark has recently been selected by Transport for London (TfL) to take part in a research project involving ISAs which will entail 50 new units being fitted in our fleet vehicles. The purpose of the research is to establish how ISAs will effect vehicle emissions, vehicle safety, vehicle wear and tear and driver technique. We are presently awaiting written confirmation from TfL to confirm the start date.

Currently the council has four fleet vehicles fitted with intelligent speed adaptation (ISA) units.

40. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR DAN GARFIELD

Has the cabinet member made any requests for the extension of the Mayor's cycle hire scheme into new parts of our borough?

RESPONSE

Transport for London (TfL) has recently announced the phase 2 expansion of the Barclays Cycle Hire scheme.

In essence their intention is to expand the scheme by summer 2012 further into the London Boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Hackney covering an additional area of approximately 20km² which will include 2720 new docking points, and providing access to the Olympic Park.

I have made representations at London Councils and officers have met with TfL and requested that they look at the possibility of expanding the scheme, currently without success. I will continue to lobby for the scheme to be expanded further into our borough as new phases are considered.

41. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS

How has the car club scheme contributed to reduced car usage in the borough and how well is the scheme used locally?

RESPONSE

Southwark launched its on-street car club scheme in March 2010 and has rolled out nearly 90 car club bays over 9 months, the fastest launch of any London borough.

Streetcar, our car club operator, report membership and vehicle usage figures on a monthly basis. Since the launch, we've seen membership increase by 42% and now have over 6,500 Streetcar members in Southwark. Car club usage has been excellent across the borough, indicating that members are making good use of the council partnership with Streetcar.

Southwark do not collect data on whether members say they have reduced their private car usage on becoming members. This is monitored and surveyed by the national charity, Carplus, who report on overall national trends for car sharing and car clubs; the results of which are published on an annual basis in conjunction with the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL). The 2009/10 report identified that:

- A quarter of respondents have reduced the number of vehicles owned by their household since joining a car club
- 30% of respondents reported that they would have bought a car had they not joined a car club
- Each car club car is estimated to result in an average of 11 private vehicles being sold. Inclusion of those who might otherwise have purchased suggests that each car club vehicle is potentially displacing more than 20 private vehicles
- On average London car club members are report making 4-5 trips of less than 25 miles each month, compared to 33 for the average London license holder.

We will in time be looking at the impact that car club bays have on parking permit issuance but at this stage it is too early to evaluate this data.

The council is also about to commence a research project, with a University College London researcher into member profiles and their car club experience. The report will also look at how the car club service can be improved and how we can increase awareness and usage of car clubs, especially, with those who are not currently members.

42. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DARREN MERRILL

Please can the cabinet member tell us how the newly formed housing department plans to make changes to improve the repairs and maintenance department to ensure that where possible we have a improved quality and response times for repairs?

RESPONSE

Repairs are one of the top priorities for council residents and the director of the new housing services department has been charged with delivering a step change in performance. The recent scrutiny report on the repairs and maintenance service clearly sets out the urgent need to improve resident satisfaction and the contract management of repairs contractors.

I am committed to a stronger performance management regime which holds contractors to account for poor performance, including applying the full range of financial penalties. We will work with contractors to ensure that high calibre staff are employed who are passionate about delivering an excellent service to residents. A meaningful suite of key performance indicators will be put in place that measures performance by what residents tell us first-hand rather than relying on contractors' feedback.

Individual repairs will be followed through to successful completion, rather than repeat repairs being ordered for appointments not being kept, call backs for incomplete work or cancellations when repairs become overdue. There will be a strong emphasis on post-inspection of repairs with an independent check to ensure that contractors' work is up to scratch. Our aim is to deliver better value for money with the council paying once for repairs that residents are happy with.

The new housing services department will also have responsibility for the customer contact centre. The majority of calls to the contact centre concern repairs and my expectation is that alignment of call answering with service delivery should improve ownership and responsibility for the successful completion of residents' repairs.

43. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR CLAIRE HICKSON

Can the cabinet member outline how he has worked to undo the legacy of the previous administration and what steps he is taking to make sure that every council home is warm, safe and dry?

RESPONSE

Since May 2010, we have finalised the council's stock condition survey and carried out a robust review of all of the available options to make sure that every council home is warm, safe, and dry by 2014/15.

A report was considered by cabinet in December 2010 which set out in detail the current funding gap, which ranges from £64 million to £314 million depending upon the level of standard to be achieved.

We are looking again at the decent homes programme and what we need to do in Southwark to deliver warm, safe, and dry homes for residents. The recent stock condition survey has given us certainty over the funding gap and the scale of the challenge.

The cabinet in December agreed a programme of work for officers to look at how additional resources can be brought in to meet this high level of investment need.

In January 2011, we submitted a bid to the government for £148 million for funding to support the council's decent homes programme.

There is a limited pot of available government funding, however, we believe that we have made a persuasive case based on Southwark's particular stock profile. Even if our bid is successful, due to the number of local authorities bidding into this central resource, we cannot bank on this funding alone to plug the gap.

We are currently looking again at the commitments within the decent homes programme and whether there is scope to redefine the standard to enable us to deliver decent homes to all of those which require investment in the borough. If we remain at the current Southwark Standard we will have less decent homes overall by 2014 at a cost of £520 million.

In February 2011, we will be sending out a survey to all tenants and leaseholders to ask them for their views on priorities and how we should put future programmes together.

In March 2011, cabinet will be considering proposals on the targeted sale of empty homes to fund additional investment.

Also, in March 2011, we expect to have begun consultation on an interim developer premium policy to help fund decent homes investment needs.

Officers have been asked to consider all of the available options and we will be coming back to cabinet in the summer with a final report which recommends the way forward following wider public consultation.

44. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR PATRICK DIAMOND

The government has broken its election pledge of automatic jail terms for criminals caught carrying knives. What message does this send to the small minority of people in Southwark who think it is acceptable to carry a knife?

RESPONSE

We are keen to work closely with the Home Office and Ministry of Justice to ensure that the criminal justice system has an appropriate response to ensure that the threat caused by knife and weapon crime is reduced. The Southwark Violent Crime Strategy provides a valuable framework to how, where and with whom we can intervene in the most effective way to ensure that responses, including criminal justice, are effective and proportionate.

Sentencing provides a useful deterrent, but the greatest deterrent to knife crime is our communities, our families and peers. Knife crime does not have to be a feature of our society. To be successful we have to ensure there is a common voice that violence is not acceptable and ensure that we provide the support to our communities to take a positive step. We must ensure that we universally say no to knife crime and, as a result, address the fear of knife and weapon assaults. This is one of the reasons that we actively support the Borough Commander's initiative, "Stand up for Southwark".

45. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR SUNIL CHOPRA

Concerns have been expressed for the future of adult learning in Southwark by some users due to changes in funding and rules through the creation of the Skills Funding Agency, the existing funder. What steps is the cabinet member taking to ensure Southwark continues to provide sustainable learning opportunities for residents in Southwark?

RESPONSE

I would like to reiterate my commitment to adult learning and my support for provision from the Thomas Calton Centre. As you know, in addition to £750,000 external funding secured for refurbishing the building, the council has itself contributed £250,000 from its capital programme to complete the planned works. The refurbishment programme is nearly complete and a new, modern learning centre is about to be re-launched. The Adult Learning Service is vital to the well being of many Southwark residents and in relation to strategies for maximising employment opportunities.

Our Adult Learning Service now has significantly more learners than for the past several years and for the first time in a number of years we have not just met but exceeded our contractual targets. In addition to this, the service is reaching out to local people through schools and through working with the voluntary sector in a number of locations across the borough.

The Adult Learning Service is entirely funded by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) which replaced the Learning and Skills Council and has itself suffered cuts. We are waiting for confirmation of our funding allocation from the Skills Funding Agency for academic year 2011/12.

I will be writing to the relevant minister to enquire what plans are being put in place to ensure adequate resources for Adult Learning are in place for the future and what direction the government is likely to take on this very important service.

46. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR KEVIN AHERN

What will the effects of the budget settlement be on culture and arts in Southwark?

RESPONSE

The Department of Environment and Housing is, alongside all other council departments seeking to find a 25% saving over three years. Detailed budget proposals will be set out in the council's overall budget paper.

The Arts Council of England faces a 29.6% cut to be implemented over the next four years. The majority of arts organisations will be given an equal cut which has been kept to 6.9% for 2011/12. Over the four-year period 2011-2015, the percentage budget cut for funded arts organisations will be 14.9%. This will impact on arts organisations that are jointly funded by the council, and a number of organisations that have their base in the borough.

The Arts Council also has a budget for strategic opportunities for artistic work - this will be reduced by £21m (64%) next year. This supports work such as touring, the Cultural Leadership Programme and the Manchester International Festival. In the future the Arts Council will be asking funded organisations to take on more responsibility for furthering their strategic goals, particularly in the areas of touring and audience development. This will apply to some Southwark organisations.

A new funding structure for the arts was launched in November 2010, with priorities determined by 'Achieving great art for everyone'. 2011/2012 will be a transitional year. Whilst the funding pot will be reduced, for the first time national arts funds will be open to new organisations, and there may be defunding of some existing ones. Organisations will be informed of their funding for 2012/13 at the end of March 2011, and the new funding structure will be in place in April 2012. The five long-term goals are:

- Talent and artistic excellence are thriving and celebrated
- More people experience and are inspired by the arts
- The arts are sustainable, resilient and innovative
- The arts leadership and workforce are diverse and highly skilled
- Every child and young person has the opportunity to experience the richness of the arts.

The Grants for the Arts scheme will remain as a useful funding pot for key arts projects, and from which many Southwark organisations have benefited.

There are a number of national and regional organisations that support arts, heritage, film and architecture that are being disbanded, or amalgamated. The key ones are: the transfer of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council to the Arts Council in 2012; disbanding of the UK Film Council, with the distribution of lottery funding for film being transferred to the British Film Institute in 2011/12. Film London will however remain to support the industry, location work in the capital and support for new film-makers. Whilst English Heritage remains, its funding is reduced by half. The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) will close on 31 March 2011.

The Heritage Lottery Fund will remain as the key source of public funding for sustaining and transforming heritage, with an increase to national lottery funding for heritage. National Lottery funding for the arts, heritage and sport will increase from 2012 and receive a 20% share of the total £25 billion again and funding for the voluntary and community sector will rise from 2013. Southwark organisations have been beneficiaries of this funding and will continue to benefit.

Creative Partnerships, managed by the charity Creativity, Culture and Education has had its funding removed. A cluster of Southwark Schools benefited from this programme where artists and creative practitioners worked within the curriculum. Other programmes that

benefited children and young people's learning and participation in the arts were curtailed in the summer, Find Your Talent and the free theatre tickets scheme 'A night less ordinary'.

Arts and Business, the national organisation for encouraging private sector support for the arts will have its funding removed in 2011/12, to be replaced by new schemes and training for arts organisations in developing private sector support. There is a new focus on strengthening joint public and private sector for the arts through endowments and philanthropic giving and the council with businesses and cultural partners will have an important role to play in ensuring that Southwark's organisations benefit from the new series of 'match fund' schemes. An £80 million scheme to boost philanthropic giving for the arts was announced in December, and there is strong directive for the sector to build on the mixed economy funding (public/private) model. It is acknowledged that few organisations are currently equipped with the skills to develop private sector and individual giving.

National museums and galleries, including the Imperial War Museum, are facing a 15% reduction in their budgets from Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) from 2011/12 to 2014/15. National organisations in the Southbank and Bankside Cultural Quarter are considering ways of minimising the impact of reductions through shared back office functions.

It will be necessary for organisations to work together to deliver services for local areas as part of regeneration and area development programmes.

47. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO

How will the cabinet member make the monthly list of expenditure over £500 more user friendly for members of the public? Will he ensure that it is made clear exactly what each item was spent on?

RESPONSE

I am glad to reiterate that Southwark was the third inner-London council to publish a monthly list of expenditure over £500, and in the first seventh of councils nationally to do so. We understand that currently less than half of councils publish this information, despite government's deadline to do this by this month.

Unlike some other boroughs that do publish their expenditure, Southwark details all expenditure over £500, with the exception of payments to individuals. This means that whilst other boroughs could avoid publication of what it pays a firm in a month by making a number of payments of £499.99, Southwark would publish the total payments in the month to that firm and so have a fuller level of disclosure to the public. This is a level of openness and transparency that is beyond that sought in government's draft guidance.

The government published a consultation paper on guidance in November, but has yet to publish its final guidance. Once they do, I will be asking officers to ensure that we are fully compliant with that guidance.

However, it must be noted that fuller explanations of expenditure would require more officer time to input the data into the system at a time when we are trying to reduce expenditure on back office functions. It is also likely to necessitate updating our systems, and it is therefore prudent to await the final guidance before committing to such an upgrade. As we publish on the basis of expenditure per supplier, rather than by individual payment, we would also need to combine data where a number of payments have been made to the same company.

It should also be noted that the council has responded quickly to any requests by the media for further information on payments. Members of the public are also free to request

information on any of the suppliers listed, under the freedom of information legislation, in which case the details of the payment would be fully investigated and reported.

48. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

Where does Southwark rank in terms of cuts to its formula grant compared to other London boroughs?

RESPONSE

On 20 October 2010 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the spending review for 2010 which would cover the period from 2011/12 to 2014/15. He announced that funding to local government will be reduced by 7.1% for each year to 2014/15. The Chancellor also announced a reduction in the number of grants to local government from 90 to less than 10 as part of the government's intention to lift the ring-fencing of all local government revenue grants from 2011/12, with the exception of local health and schools grants.

On the same date the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (CLG) wrote to all councils explaining that 'councils will face an average loss of grant of 7.25%, in real terms, in each of the next four years'.

We received the provisional 2011/12 grant settlement on 13 December and the figures show that Southwark's formula grant will reduce from £262.446m to £232.790m: a reduction of £29.656m or 11.3%. The government also set out the provisional 2012/13 formula grant of £214.821m, a further reduction of £17.167m or 7.4%. Southwark is therefore facing the largest reduction in formula grant, in cash terms, in London.

These cuts are at the upper end of our expectations and will necessitate extensive budget reductions for 2011/12 and 2012/13. Despite having the largest cut reduction in London, Southwark has not been allocated the transition grant that has been offered to a number of other authorities.

In 2011/12 the total level of provisional formula grant funding to local government nationally will be £29.4 billion, a reduction of 9.9% against the 2010/11 position.

Southwark is a Band 1 authority in that it is one of those councils most dependent on formula grant. 72% of the council's net budget is funded through formula grant. Nationally, there are 38 single-tier councils in this band, 17 of which are in London. The floors are self-financing. This means that those councils within a particular class that are above the floor will have the resources from their formula grant scaled back. The resources made available are then used to bring the councils which are below the floor up to their 'band' levels.

The government has introduced a transition grant to manage the impact of spending reductions. Whether a council receives the transition grant or not is dependent on the extent to which their overall 'revenue spending power' has decreased as a result of the provisional grant settlement.

Nationally in 2011/12 there are 36 councils that will see their revenue spending power reduced by the maximum 8.9%. Only one authority will experience an increase in revenue spending power, which is Dorset at 0.25%. A further 8 authorities will see their revenue spending power reduced by less than 1%. In London, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Hackney have experience more than the maximum reduction in revenue spending power and therefore will be in receipt of transition grant totalling £15.3m. No other council in London will receive the transition grant. Richmond-upon-Thames experiences the least reduction in revenue spending power at 0.6%. Inner London boroughs will lose revenue spending power of 7.5%. This compares with 4.3% in outer London boroughs.

The attached appendices show the effect of these cuts on London boroughs.

London Boroughs Cash Reduction

Local Authority	2011/12 cash Reduction £m	2012/12 cash Reduction £m	Total cash Reduction £m
England	-3,243.426	-2,136.737	-5,380.163
Inner London boroughs incl. City	-281.050	-164.878	-445.928
Outer London boroughs	-254.089	-155.944	-410.034
London boroughs	-535.139	-320.823	-855.962
Southwark	-29.656	-17.167	-46.824
Tower Hamlets	-29.259	-16.929	-46.188
Hackney	-28.656	-16.594	-45.251
Lambeth	-28.128	-16.282	-44.410
Camden	-23.538	-13.636	-37.174
Westminster	-23.383	-13.773	-37.156
Lewisham	-22.050	-13.744	-35.794
Islington	-21.001	-12.158	-33.159
Greenwich	-20.696	-12.226	-32.921
Wandsworth	-19.451	-11.251	-30.702
Hammersmith and Fulham	-15.862	-9.184	-25.046
Kensington and Chelsea	-15.185	-9.072	-24.257
City of London (Excl Police)	-4.183	-2.863	-7.046
	-281.050	-164.878	-445.928
Newham	-28.017	-16.202	-44.219
Brent	-21.136	-12.214	-33.351
Ealing	-20.386	-12.137	-32.522
Haringey	-19.520	-11.285	-30.805
Croydon	-15.571	-10.127	-25.698
Waltham Forest	-13.695	-9.161	-22.857
Hounslow	-13.711	-8.357	-22.068
Barnet	-13.283	-8.017	-21.301
Enfield	-11.450	-7.786	-19.236
Hillingdon	-11.305	-7.337	-18.642
Bromley	-11.233	-6.922	-18.155
Redbridge	-10.086	-6.635	-16.720
Merton	-10.219	-6.221	-16.440
Barking and Dagenham	-8.991	-6.386	-15.377
Bexley	-9.249	-5.482	-14.731
Sutton	-8.476	-5.146	-13.623
Harrow	-8.034	-4.946	-12.980
Havering	-8.021	-4.578	-12.600
Kingston upon Thames	-6.574	-3.842	-10.416
Richmond upon Thames	-5.131	-3.161	-8.293
	-254.089	-155.944	-410.034
	-535.139	-320.823	-855.962

London Boroughs 2011/12 Reductions In Spending Power

Local Authority	'Revenue Spending Power 2010-11'	Estimated 2011-12 Revenue Spending Power	Change in estimated 'revenue spending power' 2011-12 £m	Change in estimated 'revenue spending power' 2011-12 %	Transition grant - cost of bringing reduction to 8.9%	'Revenue sending power if reduction limited to no more than 8.9%	Total Change in estimated revenue spending power 2011-12 £m
	£m	£m	£m	%	£m	£m	£m
Newham	368.186	329.687	-38.499	-10.46%	5.731	-32.769	-8.90%
Hackney	370.105	331.390	-38.715	-10.46%	5.776	-32.939	-8.90%
Tower Hamlets	376.025	338.791	-37.233	-9.90%	3.767	-33.466	-8.90%
Islington	305.297	278.495	-26.802	-8.78%	0.000	-26.802	-8.78%
Southwark	398.907	365.250	-33.657	-8.44%	0.000	-33.657	-8.44%
Haringey	307.767	283.439	-24.328	-7.90%	0.000	-24.328	-7.90%
Greenwich	296.568	273.677	-22.891	-7.72%	0.000	-22.891	-7.72%
Lambeth	388.304	358.423	-29.881	-7.70%	0.000	-29.881	-7.70%
Westminster	290.911	269.898	-21.013	-7.22%	0.000	-21.013	-7.22%
Hammersmith and Fulham	224.982	210.223	-14.759	-6.56%	0.000	-14.759	-6.56%
Camden	331.317	309.646	-21.672	-6.54%	0.000	-21.672	-6.54%
Lewisham	335.886	314.083	-21.803	-6.49%	0.000	-21.803	-6.49%
City of London	116.106	108.585	-7.522	-6.48%	0.000	-7.522	-6.48%
Wandsworth	246.757	230.841	-15.915	-6.45%	0.000	-15.915	-6.45%
Barking and Dagenham	193.848	182.317	-11.531	-5.95%	0.000	-11.531	-5.95%
Brent	319.872	301.145	-18.727	-5.85%	0.000	-18.727	-5.85%
Kensington and Chelsea	217.417	205.973	-11.444	-5.26%	0.000	-11.444	-5.26%
Waltham Forest	256.284	242.904	-13.379	-5.22%	0.000	-13.379	-5.22%
Croydon	328.030	311.492	-16.538	-5.04%	0.000	-16.538	-5.04%
Ealing	318.551	303.046	-15.505	-4.87%	0.000	-15.505	-4.87%
Hounslow	220.093	209.760	-10.333	-4.69%	0.000	-10.333	-4.69%
Merton	176.029	169.270	-6.758	-3.84%	0.000	-6.758	-3.84%
Hillingdon	227.077	220.005	-7.073	-3.11%	0.000	-7.073	-3.11%
Sutton	175.892	170.959	-4.933	-2.80%	0.000	-4.933	-2.80%
Bexley	186.530	181.323	-5.208	-2.79%	0.000	-5.208	-2.79%
Enfield	289.672	281.604	-8.067	-2.78%	0.000	-8.067	-2.78%
Redbridge	227.101	221.182	-5.919	-2.61%	0.000	-5.919	-2.61%
Barnet	295.184	287.502	-7.682	-2.60%	0.000	-7.682	-2.60%
Kingston upon Thames	140.519	136.912	-3.607	-2.57%	0.000	-3.607	-2.57%
Bromley	233.285	227.556	-5.729	-2.46%	0.000	-5.729	-2.46%
Harrow	196.305	192.571	-3.733	-1.90%	0.000	-3.733	-1.90%
Havering	189.469	186.222	-3.247	-1.71%	0.000	-3.247	-1.71%
Richmond upon Thames	167.700	166.681	-1.019	-0.61%	0.000	-1.019	-0.61%
Total London	8,715.975	8,200.851	-515.123	-5.91%	15.274	-499.850	-5.73%

49. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

What work has the council done with Thames Water to find an alternative site for the sewage tunnel?

RESPONSE

On 14 December 2010 the cabinet considered the council's response to the current consultation being carried out by Thames Water as follows:

1. As a borough with around 4.5 miles of River Thames frontage, we have a strong interest in reducing the amount of sewage which overflows into the river each year.
2. We are united in our opposition to Thames Water's proposals to use the Alfred Salter Playground as a combined sewer overflow (CSO) shaft with two years of construction work, King's Stairs Gardens as a reception shaft with seven years of construction work

and their plan to leave permanent servicing and ventilation structures behind on both sites

3. We strongly object to these disgraceful proposals, which we believe will have an unacceptable impact on local residents and are contrary to a wealth of planning policies.
4. This report sets out our draft response to Thames Water's consultation on the site selection. Work is continuing with an engineering consultant due to provide an expert overview of the engineering constraints. The final version of the response to the consultation has been signed off by the leader and reflected the rationale for the objections made, pertaining to:
 - a. The site selection methodology and our concerns that the means Thames Water used to elect a preferred site was not clear;
 - b. Clarity sought on the size required for the erection of the shaft/tunnel;
 - c. The objection to King's Stairs Gardens as a potential site due to its designation as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL), a site of regional importance as well as being a revered amenity for local people, the fact that it is within a priority zone and the works will be detrimental to the views and setting of the listed buildings and its heritage features; and
 - d. The negative social, economic and environmental impacts related to the construction of the tunnel at any site.

We will continue to oppose Thames Water's proposals to use the Alfred Salter Playground as a CSO shaft, King's Stairs Gardens as a reception shaft and their plan to leave permanent servicing and ventilation structures behind on both sites due to the significant impact on local residents.



Council Assembly (Council Tax Setting Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Council Tax Setting Meeting) held on Tuesday 22 February 2011 at 7.00 pm at Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2010/11, Councillor Tayo Situ

Councillor Kevin Ahern	Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Linda Manchester
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Michael Bukola	Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Poddy Clark	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Patrick Diamond	Councillor Helen Morrissey
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Toby Eckersley	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor the Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole
Councillor Mark Gettleson	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Norma Gibbes	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Stephen Govier	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Althea Smith
Councillor Claire Hickson	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Jeff Hook	Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Geoffrey Thornton
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Paul Kyriacou	Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- He encouraged everyone to attend the Mayor's Ball in aid of the Macmillian charity on Saturday 14 May 2011, at the Hilton Tower Bridge. Tickets cost £70 and the ball will start at 7.00pm and finishes at 1.00am.
- He reminded everyone that UK census day on 27 March 2011 was less than 4 weeks away. An accurate census is crucial to the borough as it affects the funding the council gets from the government. The Mayor encouraged members to work closely with residents and partners to make sure all households in Southwark send in their responses. At the last census, 1 in 4 households in Southwark did not respond and it is estimated that this caused a funding reduction of up to £60 million over 10 years.
- That permission had been given to the Liberal Democrat political assistant to film Liberal Democrat councillors when speaking. This was for internal training purposes only.
- That the press were present and that permission had been given for a photographer from the Evening Standard to take pictures during the meeting.

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

The Mayor had agreed to accept the following items as late and urgent for the reasons set out within the reports:

- Item 2.1: Policy and resources strategy – 2011/12 – Revenue budget (The budget and policy framework)
- Item 2.1: Policy and resources strategy – 2011/12 – Revenue budget: Cabinet recommendations of 15 February 2011

At this juncture Councillor Catherine Bowman, seconded by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, moved that under council assembly procedure rule 1.11(m), the relevant rules be suspended in order that four deputation requests could be considered.

The relevant rules are set out as follows:

- Suspend council assembly procedure rule 2.6(1)) - to allow deputations at the council tax setting meeting
- Suspend council assembly procedure rule 2.6(7) - deadline for receipt of deputations
- Suspend council assembly procedure rule 2.6(8) - to consider the deputations in order of receipt

- Suspend council assembly procedure rule 2.6(11) - to allow four deputations (limit is three)
- Suspend council assembly procedure rule 1.5(b) - to vary the order of business in order to allow the deputations to be consider before item 2.1.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

At this juncture Councillor Nick Dolezal, seconded by Councillor Cleo Soanes, moved that under council assembly procedure rule 1.11(m), the relevant rule be suspended in order that Late Amendment C could be considered. The relevant rule is set out as follows:

- Council assembly procedure rule 2.11(3) - notice for amendments to be delivered.

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

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Members declared interests regarding the following agenda item:

Policy and Resources Strategy - 2011/12 - Revenue Budget (The Budget and Policy Framework)

Councillor Andy Simmons declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this item as he has an employment contract with SLAM and is a parent who sends his children to primary school in Southwark.

Councillor Dan Garfield declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this item as an employee of the Local Government Information Unit.

Councillor Neil Coyle declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this item as he is chair of the Coalition on Charges, which looks at how councils apply their charging policies across England.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION FROM THE CABINET

2.1 POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY - 2011/12 - REVENUE BUDGET (THE BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK)

Report: See pages 1-107 of supplemental agenda 1 and pages 1-10 of supplemental agenda 2

The report had not been circulated seven clear working days in advance of the meeting. The report was accepted by the Mayor as urgent business because the council has an

obligation to set a lawful budget by the statutory deadline of 11 March 2011.

The Mayor referred everyone to the recommendations from the cabinet meeting held on 15 February 2011, which were contained within supplemental agenda 2.

There were seven questions from members, the written responses to which were circulated on yellow paper. There were five supplementary questions, the answers to which are attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

The cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety, Councillor Richard Livingstone, presented the report.

Councillor Tim McNally, seconded by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, moved Amendment A.

During the debate on Amendment A (Councillors Peter John and Fiona Colley), Councillor Tim McNally made a point of personal explanation. Thereafter the debate continued (Councillors Poddy Clark, Abdul Mohamed, Nick Stanton, Gavin Edwards, Helen Morrissey, Graham Neale, Nick Dolezal, Mark Gettleson, Ian Wingfield, Columba Blango, Andy Simmons, Lisa Rajan, Catherine McDonald, Rosie Shimell, Claire Hickson, Catherine Bowman, Helen Hayes, Adele Morris, Victoria Mills, Denise Capstick and Veronica Ward).

Councillor Cleo Soanes, seconded by Councillor Althea Smith, moved that the question be now put. The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.15(5) the following members requested that their vote in favour of Amendment A be recorded in the minutes: Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, James Barber, Columba Blango, Catherine Bowman, Michael Bukola, Denise Capstick, Poddy Clark, Robin Crookshank Hilton, Mark Gettleson, Jeff Hook, David Hubber, Paul Kyriacou, Linda Manchester, Eliza Mann, Tim McNally, Jonathan Mitchell, Adele Morris, Graham Neale, Wilma Nelson, David Noakes, Paul Noblet, Lisa Rajan, Rosie Shimell, Nick Stanton and Geoffrey Thornton.

Councillors Michael Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson, moved Amendment B.

During the debate on Amendment B (Councillors Lisa Rajan, Renata Hamvas, Dan Garfield and Councillor Nick Stanton), financial advice was sought on Amendments B and C. The finance director advised that both amendments were arithmetically correct and would provide for robust budgets. Thereafter the debate continued (Councillors Michael Bukola and Peter John).

Councillor Nick Dolezal, seconded by Councillor Mark Glover, moved that the question be now put. The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Following Councillor Richard Livingstone's right of reply Amendment B was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

Councillor Neil Coyle, seconded by Councillor the Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole, moved Amendment C.

Following debate (Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, Patrick Diamond and David Noakes), Councillor Nick Dolezal, seconded by Councillor Peter John, moved that the question be now put. The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.15(5), Councillor Toby Eckersley requested that his vote against the procedural motion be recorded in the minutes.

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

During the debate on the substantive motion (Councillors Toby Eckersley, Peter John, Tim McNally, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Lisa Rajan and Abdul Mohamed), the bell was rang and the Mayor announced at 10.05pm that the guillotine had fallen.

The clerk advised that in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12(3 & 4), the meeting had 15 minutes in which to conclude the debate on this item, thereafter a vote would be taken.

Following the continued debate on the substantive motion (Councillors Jonathan Mitchell, Barrie Hargrove, Paul Noblet, Althea Smith and Anood Al-Samerai), Councillor Neil Coyle exercised his right of reply.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.16(2), 45% of those members present requested a recorded vote by roll call on the substantive motion, the result of which were as follows:

In favour of the substantive motion (33)

Councillors Kevin Ahern, Sunil Chopra, Fiona Colley, Neil Coyle, Patrick Diamond, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Nick Dolezal, Gavin Edwards, Dan Garfield, Norma Gibbes, Mark Glover, Stephen Govier, Renata Hamvas, Barrie Hargrove, Helen Hayes, Claire Hickson, Peter John, Lorraine Lauder, Richard Livingstone, Catherine McDonald, Darren Merrill, Victoria Mills, Abdul Mohamed, Helen Morrissey, the Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole, Martin Seaton, Andy Simmons, Michael Situ, Tayo Situ, Althea Smith, Cleo Soanes, Veronica Ward and Ian Wingfield.

Against the substantive motion (28)

Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, James Barber, Columba Blango, Catherine Bowman, Michael Bukola, Denise Capstick, Poddy Clark, Robin Crookshank Hilton, Toby Eckersley, Mark Gettleson, Jeff Hook, David Hubber, Paul Kyriacou, Linda Manchester, Eliza Mann, Tim McNally, Jonathan Mitchell, Michael Mitchell, Adele Morris, Graham Neale, Wilma Nelson, David Noakes, Paul Noblet, Lisa Rajan, Lewis Robinson, Rosie Shimell, Nick Stanton and Geoffrey Thornton.

In abstention (nil)

Absent (1)

The Mayor declared that the substantive motion was carried.

The cabinet recommendation had been amended, therefore in accordance with the budget and policy framework procedure rule 2(g), the leader gave his consent to the amendment thus enabling the decision to be implemented with immediate effect.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations of the cabinet on 15 February 2011 for a general fund budget for 2011/12 of £323.0m and a nil council tax increase for 2011/12 be agreed (see Appendix 1 of the report which had previously been circulated on Supplemental Agenda No. 1).
2. That the draft indicative balanced budgets of £308.3m for 2012/13 and £311.6m for 2013/14, based on a council tax increase of 2.5% for 2012/13 and 2.5% for 2013/14 subject to formal budget reports to council assembly for each of these years, be noted (see Appendix 1 of the report which had previously been circulated on Supplemental Agenda No. 1).
3. That the savings required to deliver a balanced housing revenue account for 2011/12 be noted along with the recommendation of the cabinet for the proposals to deliver the savings (see Appendix 2 of the report which had previously been circulated on Supplemental Agenda No. 1).
4. That council assembly notes that the voluntary sector transition fund allows for day care and lunch club providers to bid for funds to sustain their activity through a period of transformation.
5. That council assembly invites the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety to instruct the finance director to earmark from the contingency fund for 2011/12 a sum of £500,000 directly in support of those contracts with day care and lunch club providers due to end on 19 April 2011 to allow these providers to engage with the council on developing a model of delivery within future resources available.

3. OTHER REPORTS

3.1 ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL TAX SETTING COMMITTEE

Report: See pages 1-7 of the main agenda

The Mayor stated that in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11(2), this being an officer report, the recommendations set out in the report were deemed to have been moved and were subject to amendment only.

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

The Mayor stated that he had received the following nominations for the council tax setting committee membership:

Labour: Councillors Peter John, Richard Livingstone, Fiona Colley and Althea Smith.
Reserves: Councillors Barrie Hargrove, Ian Wingfield and Veronica Ward.

Liberal Democrat: Councillors Tim McNally and Graham Neale. Reserve: Councillor Jeff Hook.

Conservative: Councillor Michael Mitchell. Reserve: Councillor Toby Eckersley.

No further nominations were forthcoming, therefore the nominations were agreed.

The Mayor stated that nominations had been received for the positions of chair and vice-chair of the council tax setting committee, Councillors Peter John and Richard Livingstone respectively. No further nominations were forthcoming, therefore the nominations were put to the vote and council assembly appointed Councillor Peter John as chair of the council tax setting committee and Councillor Richard Livingstone as vice-chair of the council tax setting committee.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Greater London Authority (GLA) proposal to set a precept level on 23 February 2011 be noted.
2. That a council tax setting committee be established in accordance with section 67 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, to set the council tax for the year 2011/12, with the role and functions, matters reserved and political composition as set out in Appendix A of the report.
3. That the following councillors be appointed to the council tax setting committee:

Labour: Councillors Peter John, Richard Livingstone, Fiona Colley and Althea Smith. Reserves: Councillors Barrie Hargrove, Ian Wingfield and Veronica Ward.

Liberal Democrat: Councillors Tim McNally and Graeme Neale. Reserve: Councillor Jeff Hook.

Conservative: Councillor Michael Mitchell. Reserve: Councillor Toby Eckersley.
4. That Councillor Peter John be appointed chair and Councillor Richard Livingstone be appointed vice-chair of the council tax setting committee.
5. That the existing local war widows schemes for housing benefits and council tax benefits be continued in 2011/12.

3.2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2011/12, INCLUDING - ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS, AND ANNUAL MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STATEMENT

Report: See pages 8–31 of the main agenda

The Mayor stated that in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11(2), this being an officer report, the recommendations set out in the report were deemed to have been moved and were subject to amendment only.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That it be noted that the treasury management strategy 2011/12 is to be managed by the finance director under financial delegation.
2. That the annual investment strategy 2011/12 set out in Appendix A of the report be agreed, keeping capital preservation as a key objective, in line with government guidance on investments.
3. That prudential indicators covering capital finance, borrowing and cash management for the years 2011/12 to 2013/14 as set out in Appendix B of the report be agreed.
4. That the annual minimum revenue provision statement 2011/12, which sets aside prudent sums from revenue to reduce debt, as set out in Appendix C of the report, be agreed.
5. That a capital allowance of £168m, as described in paragraphs 22–24 of the report, enabling the council to continue retaining capital receipts for affordable housing and regeneration be agreed.

4. AMENDMENTS

Amendments are set out in supplemental agenda 3.

The meeting closed at 10.40pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(COUNCIL TAX SETTING)
TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2011
QUESTIONS ON THE REPORT

ITEM 2.1: POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY - 2011/12 - REVENUE BUDGET (THE BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK)

1. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL

Would it be prudent to use more of the council's reserves and balances in this financial year?

RESPONSE

Our budget proposals will be removing £6.3m from the council's reserves and balances and it would be unwise to take even more. This is in response to the dreadful grant settlement received by the council. Southwark's reserves and balances are already considerably less than the inner London average.

The current general fund balance stands at £18.2m. As one of London's largest and therefore highest spending authorities, this working balance represents just 1.92% of 2009/10 general fund spend, an even lower proportion were we to include the capital programme. This is well below the inner London average of 2.36%. Increasing to the Inner London average would mean increasing balances by £4.2m to £22.4m.

The target level for the general fund working balance has been set at £20m over the medium term, as recommended to this assembly by the previous administration.

This target has been supported by the district auditor over a number of years. Although the council has made progress to achieving this level of balances, there have been insufficient surplus resources over the years to be able to achieve this target. Maintaining an adequate level of reserves and balances are therefore key factors in the finance director's assessment of the robustness of the budget.

Other reserves are funds set aside from proposed budget contributions and unexpected or unplanned windfall savings. These are to meet contractual commitments or future expenditure plans, including financial risks or liabilities that may arise at a later date.

The council's general fund earmarked reserves at the end of 2009/10 totalled £68.6m. This represents 17.9% of our general fund spend, compared to an inner London average of 30.4%. In contrast, Kensington & Chelsea has earmarked reserves of 84.6% of its spend, the Corporation of London 49.4% and Wandsworth 48.3%. It is unfortunate that the secretary of states' call for councils to use their reserves are based on these extreme examples and not the cases of the majority of local authorities who carry more modest reserves.

These earmarked reserves, by their nature, are reserves set aside and earmarked for spending plans. Many of those spending plans were already in progress as at the end of

2009/10, especially around the council's modernisation agenda and major regeneration projects. The reserves also include balances that the council cannot freely reallocate, for example dedicated schools grant unspent or PFI credits received in advance to meet future years' costs on the waste PFI scheme. Progress on the Elephant and Castle and on proposals for the Aylesbury rely on reserves put aside for regeneration purposes.

The council has a number of pressures which fluctuate over time and are unpredictable in nature. These could include winter maintenance (such as pot holes and road gritting for highways) and/or meeting the upkeep of older buildings that the council operate from. Reserves are the most effective way in which to mitigate these pressures. Looking ahead, another example of real but unquantifiable pressure is one-off redundancy costs. It may be that these costs cannot be met from existing revenue budget provision. Therefore and, subject to an appropriate business case, reserves may have to be used to support these costs and to relieve pressure on council tax payers in particular years.

This cabinet remains committed to maintaining the general fund balance at an appropriate and prudent level and to maintain the financial standing of this council through some very difficult times ahead. At the same time, we will be seeking to sustain the regeneration and modernisation programmes that are so important to the health and prosperity of our residents.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL

I think there is always that question about what would be the impact of the Liberal Democrat budgets on the reserves should that path be followed?

RESPONSE

I would like to thank the member for his supplementary question. Clearly the state of our reserves at the moment are well below the inner London average, our project proposals here are reducing them still further, I think that's the right thing to do in the current climate. The great danger with the Liberal Democrat amendment today is that they are not taking account of the fact that the government is likely to make further cuts in the money that we get in 2013/14, and have no solution to that. So the real danger is that we would be in a catastrophic financial situation with no reserve at all if we were to accept their amendment tonight.

2. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN MORRISSEY

The budget indicates that the housebound library service is due to be cut 2013/14. This will affect vulnerable residents who rely on this service. Is there a plan to try and ensure the continuation of this service?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS

We know that the home library service is a lifeline for many people. It is with great regret, therefore, with the expectation of further cuts in Southwark's settlement from the government, that we will stop funding the service in the third year of our budget.

However, over the next two years we will look fully at alternative ways of providing an alternative home library service. As part of the library review we will consider the possibility of providing the service in partnership with other organisations including the potential for volunteers to be involved in service delivery.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN MORRISSEY

I would like to thank the cabinet member for their reply and I would like to ask how confident are you in that an alternative way of providing the house bound library service will be found?

RESPONSE

Thank you very much for your question. To reiterate, the home library service is not closing in the coming year or the year after, and that gives us time, as we have not been given enough time to look at other ways of providing services with the few short weeks we have had with this very, very serious cut in our settlement. But we will have time to look at the whole situation of the future of the library service. It will form part of the review of library services which we plan to start straight away and we will look at alternatives and actually already have some leads.

3. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR CLAIRE HICKSON

Should the council press ahead with its promise to introduce free school meals for every child in the borough?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

In line with our commitment, we will deliver free healthy school meals for primary school children in the borough.

This administration inherited one of the highest levels of childhood obesity in the country, affecting children from across our borough - free healthy school meals for all primary school children will help to tackle this.

We also inherited a borough with significant areas of high levels of deprivation - a third of our children are in poverty. There is also a significant 'cliff edge' issue for parents who are earning just above the government's free school meals eligibility threshold. On the whole, parents of children in our maintained primary schools are not well off. This issue is more pressing for families in Southwark now, given the changes to welfare will impact on many families earning just above the government's free school meals threshold following the local spending settlement. Our free healthy school meals policy means that every primary school child in Southwark will be able to eat at least one nutritious meal a day in term time.

4. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES

Could you give some details of how far the £300,000 set aside for Community Games will maintain the programme and what plans are in place to ensure funding beyond 2012/13?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS

With government cutting funding to sporting bodies and the end of the working neighbourhoods fund, the previous funding level of over £800,000 for the community games is not sustainable. We have secured at least £300,000 for the years 2011/12 and 2012/13 and are still researching opportunities for further funding. This will provide continuation of the sports development function including:

- Continued involvement in London Youth Games
- Delivery of the Disability Sports Programme
- Continuing work on club liaison and pursuing external funding opportunities
- Ongoing schools uptake of 2012 opportunities and an Olympic year event for young people in Southwark
- Up to 7,000 young people involved in community games activity

We will in the next two years investigate all funding opportunities, working in collaboration with sports bodies nationally, business, the wider voluntary sector and community and with local sports organisations in order to continue to secure a community games beyond the Olympic year.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES

I wish to thank the cabinet member for her answer. Does the cabinet member think that the community games provided on such a level of funding as proposed in the budget over the next two years will be good and worth while?

RESPONSE

Thank you very much for your question. I think it will be good and it will be worth while, because the thing that I have been talking about - we must collaborate and maximize resources - because of course we have had to make a very serious reduction to the budget for community games because it was over £800,000 and with the working neighborhoods funding going and other sports funding being reduced by this government we know we could not keep that level of budget up. But I am very grateful to officers for all the hard work they have done in thinking through what I am confident we will have an agreed and effective partnership as well of taking this service forward. I am also confident with these partnerships we may well be able to attract more funding for the games.

5. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR DAN GARFIELD

Can you give further detail regarding what the council's transformation of youth services will look like?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

We are redesigning the youth service to provide a service which meets young people's needs in a cost-effective way. The future youth service will include strong universal provision across the borough as well as targeted interventions for vulnerable young people.

Designs are not yet finalised but we are working to ensure there will be more youth workers visible on the streets and in local communities; and activities and services in the right places and at the right times to best suit young people's needs.

Historically the MORI poll of residents told us that many people were dissatisfied with the youth service provision. We will be co-designing the new youth service with young people, to ensure their views are heard.

6. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES

Can you provide an update on the situation regarding lunch clubs and day centres?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

The government's decision to make deep cuts to Southwark's budget over the next two years means that we can no longer afford in the long run to subsidise lunch clubs and day centres at the current levels. We are currently consulting on how these services will change in the future.

However, in light of the appeals made by these organisations for more time to look for alternative funding I will be supporting the late and urgent amendment on the budget this evening from Councillor Neil Coyle.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES

I thank the cabinet member for her response. I would like to ask can she give some sort of indication as to what the extended length of consultation will be and what are some of the innovative ideas that are coming forward?

RESPONSE

Thank you for that question. I would like to say first of all some ideas coming forward are to share premises amongst luncheon clubs, to actually also apply for our transition fund which we have got started - a million pounds transition fund and we also have a innovation fund for adult and social care of £200,000. There is also a national transition fund as well. On the timing of consultation - we are going to have an amendment later on this evening so I will be pleased to support that amendment, which will actually see the consultation period extended.

7. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR THE RIGHT REVD EMMANUEL OYEWOLE

What do you intend to do about double-swiping of taxi cards?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

We will be reintroducing double-swiping from 1 April 2011 and we will consult with stakeholder groups beforehand on steps to make this affordable within the limited resources from Transport for London. This may include reviewing the number of trips users are entitled to or finding ways of focusing resources where they are most needed.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR THE RIGHT REVD EMMANUEL OYEWOLE

I would like to thank the cabinet member for the written answer. Does the cabinet member think that this would go some way to addressing the concerns of taxi card users?

RESPONSE

Thank you for your question Councillor Oyewole. Yes I do think it goes some way to address the concerns of users of this service. The representations I have received from people that use the service and also our assembly members, Val Shawcross and our finance member have received representations that say that this is a very, very valuable service. I have been out and about talking to people and they have said they want to keep this service and keep this particular double-swiping. Now sadly our Tory London Mayor

said the he will not fund it any longer, that is why we are in this position of having to dig deep, to find more funding to actually keep double-swiping going. But before we introduce it let me say we have got a very limited amount of money and what we will have to do is to consult with stakeholder groups to find ways of actually managing to keep this scheme, to keep double-swiping going, and yet work within the limited amount of money we have so we will be consulting very soon.

Item No. 4.1	Classification: Open	Date: 6 April 2011	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members' Question Time – Additional Question	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

50. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL

Why has the announcement of the allocation of grants for youth work been so delayed that youth workers across the borough have had to be put on notice of redundancy?

Note: The question above was received within the deadline for receipt of members' questions but was not included in the members' question time report circulated on the main agenda.

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