

Council Assembly

Wednesday 21 February 2018

7.00 pm

Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Supplemental Agenda No. 1

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2.1.	Policy and resources strategy 2018-19 to 2020-21 update There are three questions on the report.	1
4.	Amendments Any member of the council may submit an amendment to a report or motion on the agenda. There are three amendments to Item 2.1, Policy and resources strategy 2018-19 to 2020-21 update.	2 - 8

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Date: 19 February 2018

Item No. 2.1	Classification: Open	Date: 21 February 2018	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Questions on Reports - Policy and Resources Strategy 2018-19: Revenue Budget	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Responses to questions on reports will be circulated around the council chamber on the evening of the meeting.

1. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM

Can the cabinet member tell us about how council tax collection levels have changed since 2010?

2. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS

In the last few weeks we have seen that Northamptonshire County Council has issued a section 114 notice preventing all new expenditure, and thanks to cuts from the Conservative Government council funding is becoming tighter and tighter. What is the cabinet member's assessment of the council's financial sustainability looking forward?

3. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

Could the cabinet member explain what is being done to keep council tax affordable for residents on lower incomes?

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	15 February 2018

AMENDMENTS

ITEM 2.1: POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2018-19 – REVENUE BUDGET (see pages 21 - 156 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT A

Moved: Councillor Michael Mitchell

Seconded: Councillor Jane Lyons

In Recommendations point 3, after £294.270m add

"as further amended by this amendment attached as Appendix 1".

APPENDIX 1

Dept	Description	Conservative Proposal £'000	Conservative improvement £'000	Reason
Environment & Leisure	Increase proactive maintenance of highways	100	100	The Council must do more to maintain and enhance the highways.
Environment & Leisure	Contribution towards additional policing resources.	300	300	The addition of extra officers in the south west cluster is a significant confidence boosting measure for the Dulwich area and demonstrates the council's commitment to reducing crime and anti social behaviour.
Environment & Leisure	Additional resources to combat graffiti	50	50	The Council must work more effectively with other agencies to reduce the level of graffiti in the south of the borough.
Environment & Leisure	Mitigate the adverse impact on service delivery of the proposed changes to road sweeping and litter picking.	50	50	The proposed changes in the budget are not spelt out and it may be necessary to have additional resources available if the reality proves to be environmentally harmful.
Chief Executive	Cease the publication of "Southwark Life"	(108)	(108)	Cease publication of this superfluous magazine
Housing and Modernisation	Council employees paid for trade union activities	(100)	(100)	The Council needs to take steps to reduce this burden on the council tax payer.
Chief Executive	Savings made from the merging of back office services with other local authorities	(292)	(292)	7 years on and the Council has failed to make the savings enjoyed by other boroughs through more joint working with other agencies.
Total net changes on the budget		0	0	

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AMENDMENT B

Moved: Councillor Octavia Lamb
Seconded: Councillor Kieron Williams

Following recommendation 4, **insert** new recommendations:

Anti social behaviour and crime

5. Council assembly notes that antisocial behaviour, crime, and environmental offences such as fly tipping remain a problem which affects many residents.
6. Council assembly believes that every resident should be able to feel safe and protected from crime.
7. Council assembly notes the excellent work that has been done by the council's CCTV team in increasing the number of arrests from CCTV footage, and further notes that the CCTV team have been awarded 'Best Team Award' at the MET Police CCTV Awards and received two awards for 'Management and Innovation' and 'Best CCTV Team' at the national CCTV user group in acknowledgement of their efforts to tackle the problems of antisocial behaviour and crime.
8. Council assembly therefore resolves to invest £50,000 in 5 new redeployable CCTV cameras as a one off investment in the 2018/19 budget, and invest £80,000 in two new control room CCTV operators to monitor CCTV cameras at the busiest times, a total spend of £130,000.

Single use plastics

9. Council assembly notes that 12m tonnes of plastic enter the ocean each year, killing marine animals and contaminating seafood.
10. Council assembly notes that Southwark Council currently spends around £4,000 annually on disposable plastic cups.
11. Council assembly resolves to cease spending on plastics cups and invest the £4,000 saved on a campaign to encourage businesses across the borough to reduce or eliminate their single use plastics.

Digital innovation

12. Council assembly notes that one of the Council's Fairer Future pledges is to be 'Fit for the Future'.
13. Council assembly notes that the way in which residents want to interact with the council, and access our services are changing and that the council needs to continue to modernise in order to meet the needs of our residents.
14. Council assembly believes that in a changing and increasingly digital world, it is vital that Southwark Council has the ability to adapt and innovate.
15. Council assembly therefore resolves to invest £200,000 in a new digital innovation fund to support teams within the council to innovate, modernise and be truly fit for the future.

Queens Road 1

16. Council assembly notes that Southwark Council currently spends £693,500 on renting Queens Road 1 office (QR1).
17. Council assembly notes that, following an inquiry from the overview and scrutiny committee, an opportunity has arisen to purchase QR1.
18. Council assembly resolves to request that officers enter into negotiations to buy QR1, with a potential annual revenue benefit of £330,000 per annum.

Implications for the 2018/19 budget

Item	Budget Impact (£)
Antisocial behaviour and crime	130,000
Single Use Plastics reduction	- 4,000
Campaign on Single Use Plastics	4,000
Digital Innovation Fund	200,000
Savings from acquiring office building	- 330,000
Balance	0

AMENDMENT C**Moved:** Councillor James Okosun**Seconded:** Councillor James Barber**Insert** new paragraphs 1-3:

1. Southwark Liberal Democrats have found savings of £4m by cutting pet projects, cutting waste and being more creative.
2. This means that different choices can be made.
3. Southwark Liberal Democrats will invest over £1m in youth services and will block Labour's 2.99% council tax hike.

Recommendation 1:**Delete** '...increase the Southwark element of the council tax for 2018-19 by 2.99%'**Replace** with: 'freeze the Southwark element of the council tax for 2018-19'.**Recommendation 3:****Delete** 'Agrees the recommendations of the 6 February 2018 cabinet for a general fund budget requirement (after specific grants and use of reserves) for 2018-19 of £294.27m'**Replace** with: 'Agrees a general fund budget requirement (after specific grants and use of reserves) for 2018-19 of £294.27m subject to the changes detailed in the following schedules (see Appendix B below) being made to appendices of the cabinet report and to make any necessary consequential amendments to the reports and tables in item 2.1 as a result of the above'.

APPENDIX B

Spending

	Item	Description	Revenue
Different choices	Invest in young people	Invest in youth centres and youth work, through consultation with young people and providers	£1,006,000
	Stop Labour's council tax hike	Council tax hits the poorest hardest and should not be increased when the council could be cutting waste and being more creative	£2,900,000
	Free bulky waste collections for residents on low incomes	Labour's charges lead to fly tipping. We need a return to free collections, at the very least for the very poorest	£55,000
Total spending			£3,961,000

Savings and efficiencies

	Item	Description	Saving
Pet projects	Cut council propaganda	Southwark Life is a Labour pet project and a waste of money	-£108,000
	Reduce Councillors' allowances	There has been no reduction in Special Responsibility Allowances since 2010. Councillors should see a reduction of 5.99% as they are trying to increase council tax by this amount	-£35,500
	Scrap golden goodbyes	It is not acceptable that Labour Cabinet members receive pay offs while residents have to pay more in council tax	-£17,500
	Reverse the increase in Labour Councillors' jobs	Labour has increased cabinet posts since taking office. Liberal Democrats would cut two Cabinet posts and all four Deputy Cabinet posts	-£81,500
	Cut Spindoctors	The council shouldn't be spending money on promoting itself whilst cutting front line services	-£201,000
Waste	Cut luxuries at the town hall	Liberal Democrats would stop wasting public money on catering, flowers and plastic cups	-£44,000
	Cut waste on stationery	Impose a cap on stationery use	-£21,500
	Cut polluting perks	End car leases for senior executives	-£209,500
	Cut use of agencies	Reduce costly use of agency workers	-£471,000
	Cut hotel and travel costs	Reduce costs on travel and accommodation and incentivise greener options	-£7,500

Creativity	Enable employees to buy annual leave	Scheme for employees to buy annual leave as happens at many other councils. Good for employees and for council finances	-£145,000
	Smart meters	Install more smart meters in council offices. Create room-by-room incentives for energy saving.	-£6,000
	Cleaning and office hours	Non-essential cleaning 3 days per week. Essential cleaning every day. Close top 4 floors of Tooley St at 18.00 to reduce facilities costs and increase staff productivity. Late working on request.	-£500,000
	Reduce contingency fund	Contingencies of £3.5m are a sensible level to manage risk	-£500,000
Total savings and efficiencies			-£2,348,000

Income generation

	Item	Description	Revenue
Creativity	Licensing for private landlords	Expand property licensing to the entire borough, as in Newham	-£415,000
	Collect council tax properly	Liberal Democrat boroughs are able to collect 99% of council tax. Southwark should be collecting 98% at the very least	-£968,000
	Late night levy	Bars and pubs which create litter and nuisance should contribute to the costs in that community, like they do in Islington	-£130,000
	Workplace parking levy	Pilot a scheme and encourage greener travel where employers (excluding schools or hospitals) with four or more parking spaces pay a levy	-£100,000
Total income generation			-£1,613,000

<i>Efficiencies</i>	-£2,348,000
<i>Income</i>	-£1,613,000
<i>Efficiencies plus income</i>	-£3,961,000
<i>Spending</i>	£3,961,000
<i>Balanced budget delivered</i>	£0

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN) (FULL LIST)
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017/18**

NOTE: Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to
Virginia Wynn-Jones Tel: 020 7525 7055

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Southwark News	1		
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		Last updated:	17 November 2017