

Council Assembly

Tuesday 28 January 2020

7.00 pm

Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Supplemental Agenda No. 1

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Contact

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constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk
Webpage: <http://www.southwark.gov.uk>

Date: 24 January 2020

Item No. 3.1	Classification: Open	Date: 28 January 2020	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Community Evidence on the Themed Debate	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Introduction

1. On 6 June 2019, the council assembly business panel met to agree the theme for the 23 January 2020 meeting of council assembly. The panel agreed that the theme for council assembly should be 'Homelessness and housing needs'.

Community evidence on the theme

2. The deadline for community evidence was 12 midnight, 22 January 2020.
3. The following requests have been received by the deadline for consideration by this meeting and they are listed in the order received below.
4. Which community evidence shall be considered and the length of each submission will be established by way of a programme motion at the start of council assembly. Community evidence shall be conducted under the existing rules for public participation.

Submissions

1. Marc Mora, Robes Project

My name is Marc Mora, I am an advice worker for the Robes Project, a Homelessness Shelter based in Southwark that provides shelter during the winter months, for people facing homelessness.

Homelessness is currently one of the topics on many agendas, unfortunately it has been neglected for too long and currently still under budget.

The outreach teams that are the ones entitled to approach the rough sleepers, are just a few for a borough of the size of Southwark, and their criteria imprecise, as they would not consider homeless, people sleeping in buses, 24 hour restaurants or trains, as they just consider people sleeping on the floor during night time as rough sleepers. These realities leave small charities as ours in charge of the impossible task of supporting and guiding all the people that found themselves in wintertime without a place to call home.

The reason for me to be willing to address the council assembly is to expose this briefly, with the demographics of the people that we have been supporting and still supporting this winter season, sharing from first hand the reality to the council.

2. Rhiannon Hughes, Southwark Group of Tenant Organisations

Southwark Group of Tenant Organisations (SGTO) is a housing federation in Southwark. Daily we see tenants who live in properties that are no longer suitable, due to overcrowding, relationship breakdown, risk of serious violence or medical condition. This often renders people homeless with limited options. Housing need is not only access to housing, it is also suitability of housing. This is affecting many of our neighbours and disproportionately impacting on our vulnerable neighbours. We would like to provide community evidence on the limitations unsuitable housing is placing people under. Our evidence includes unsuitable medical assessments and fire safety risks as people are unable to vacate properties alone.

3. Shelter UK

We would like to give a brief presentation outlining Shelter's service provision in Southwark including the co-located service within Housing Solutions and the outreach services we offer as well as providing a brief summary of the emerging patterns and trends we notice in this area of work in Southwark.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Constitution	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk 020 7525 7228

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	23 January 2020	
Key decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	23 January 2020	

Item No. 4.	Classification: Open	Date: 28 January 2020	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Deputation Requests	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly considers whether or not to hear a deputation from the groups listed in paragraph 5 of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Council assembly procedure rule 2.6 (11) states that no more than three deputations shall be considered at any one meeting. However the meeting can decide to suspend this rule in order to hear more or vary the order.
3. When considering whether to hear the deputation request, council assembly can decide:
 - to receive the deputation at this meeting or a future meeting; *or*
 - that the deputation not be received (if the matter is not dealt with by council assembly, the matter shall be referred without debate to the relevant cabinet member who shall after consideration, respond with an open reply to the sender); *or*
 - to refer the deputation to the most appropriate committee/sub-committee.
4. A deputation shall consist of no more than six people, including its spokesperson. One member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the meeting for no longer than 5 minutes. The deputation spokesperson or any member of the deputation nominated by him or her shall be invited to ask a question of the leader or relevant cabinet member. After this time councillors may ask questions of the deputation for up to 5 minutes. At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation will be shown to the public seating area where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Deputation requests

5. The following deputation requests have been received:

1. **Elephant and Castle Traders**

The deputation request states:

"Traders operating within in the red line drawn up by Southwark Council have concerns in relation to the relocation strategy, developed following the approval

of Delancey's plans to redevelop the Elephant and Castle shopping centre site, and how it is being applied in their individual cases.

Overall there are concerns about the disparity between the different relocation options offered as we have noticed from the database of opportunities run by Southwark Council that the terms and conditions of the leases for the three main relocation sites (Elephant One, Castle Square and Perronet House) are very different, and the potential future tenants of Perronet House/Elephant Arcade see themselves as disproportionately affected in comparison to our neighbours and fellow traders in the Shopping Centre moving into the other two main relocation sites.

There are also on-going serious concerns about the inadequacy of the relocation fund amount offered given the costs borne by small and medium enterprises within the redline being much higher than the amount they could withdraw from the relocation fund. There is a real concern that traders are being cleansed out of the area as no trader has been offered a retail space in Elephant Park, despite there being an affordable retail strategy agreed with Lendlease in respect of this development."

2. Southwark Borough of Sanctuary

The deputation request states

"Southwark Borough of Sanctuary was formed in October 2018 to campaign for Southwark to become a recognised Borough of Sanctuary. We work with all the main refugee and migrant support and advice organisations in the borough. We have held two public meetings and regular planning meetings, attended local community events to raise awareness and to date have collected over 400 pledges of support from individuals living or working in Southwark, and 30 pledges of support from local organisations. We have worked on the basis that it is important to build up grassroots support for the campaign first before the Council formally declares itself a Borough of Sanctuary. We welcome the spirit of the motion going to the Council Assembly tonight but feel more groundwork still needs to be carried out. In particular we feel the Council should work with us to identify an action plan based on measures that would make the Borough of Sanctuary a reality and that any declaration by the Council to be a Borough of Sanctuary should contain meaningful and practical commitments."

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Deputation Request File	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055
Council Assembly Procedure Rule 2.6, Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	23 January 2020	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		23 January 2020

AMENDMENTS

ITEM 3.2: THEMED DEBATE - HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING NEEDS

(see pages 21-23 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT A

Moved: Councillor Hamish McCallum

Delete all and replace with:

1. Council assembly notes that Southwark is facing a housing crisis:
 - a. 1 in 47 people in Southwark are homeless, with 11,000 on the waiting list for a council home;
 - b. Approximately 2,500 Southwark households are currently housed in temporary accommodation, with 2,000 children growing up without a permanent home and 1,000 families placed in temporary housing outside the borough;
 - c. The number of people seen by outreach teams sleeping rough in Southwark between April 2018 and March 2019 was 435, an increase of 40% from the 309 people seen the previous year.

2. Council assembly further notes that this crisis has been exacerbated during 10 years of this Southwark Labour administration's buck-passing, incompetence and inaction, including by:
 - a. Selling and demolishing more than 3,900 council homes since 2010, while building or buying less than 900, a net loss of over 3,000 Council Homes in our borough on their watch;
 - b. Failing to take action on empty homes in Southwark, resulting in a doubling to nearly 7,000, making Southwark the borough with the most empty homes in London;
 - c. Spending more time talking to developers than engaging with residents about planning applications;
 - d. Housing families with children in temporary accommodation outside of the borough, isolating them from their support networks, and forcing them to spend up to 3 hours a day travelling to and from school;
 - e. Making selective use of statistics to claim that rough sleeping in our borough is falling, when the official figures from the Greater London Authority Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) data make it clear that rough sleeping in Southwark is on the rise;
 - f. Refusing to vote for innovative and fully costed Liberal Democrat proposals to provide support for the significant proportion of people sleeping rough who, because of the complexity of their personal circumstances, are either not eligible or not able to access the support currently available for rough sleepers in Southwark;
 - g. Failing to meet the council's own carbon neutral targets on any of the new council homes sites.

3. Council assembly therefore calls upon cabinet to:

- a. Guarantee at least 50% of all new homes delivered across Southwark are affordable for those in local housing need;
- b. Prioritise getting empty homes back into use and commission an independent investigation into why Southwark has the highest number of empty homes in London;
- c. Guarantee quality homes within Southwark for all families with children requiring temporary accommodation;
- d. Work with the voluntary sector to establish a permanent hub for rough sleepers, offering immediate respite from rough sleeping as well as access to multidisciplinary, wrap-around support to help people move away from life on the streets on a more permanent basis, which is free at the point of access for people sleeping rough in Southwark who are not eligible or able to access existing support;
- e. Reaffirm their 2018 manifesto commitment to “build at least 1,000 more council homes” during this term by committing to resign en masse if they fail to deliver that net increase by 2022.

ITEM 5.2.4: MEMBERS' MOTIONS - SAFE MEETING SPACES (see pages 34-35 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT B

Moved: Councillor Michael Situ
Seconded: Councillor Alice Macdonald

Delete points 2 a. b. and c. and **replace** with:

2. Council assembly further notes that:
 - a. Local neighbourhood police teams currently use a variety of spaces to meet members of the public within their areas. These include businesses, libraries and community venues, and are advertised on social media and through local police panels. More confidential one to one meetings are also arranged at a range of suitable locations with the date and time agreed with the community members.
 - b. The council is currently working to ensure that the ways in which the police and the public interact is tailored to meet the needs of the community, and recognises the need for sensitivity, given that members of the public can be concerned about inviting the police into their homes, being seen to enter a police station, or being seen speaking to police officers near to where they live.

Delete point 3 and **replace** with:

3. Council assembly therefore calls on cabinet to:
 - a. Direct officers to continue to work with the police and other partners to offer a range of spaces which local people and policing teams can use to meet to discuss a range of issues that concern them the most, recognising that these arrangements will need to be flexible and tailored to local areas and include faith establishments, youth centres, TRA halls.
 - b. Work with partners to establish more permanent community contact points for police to ensure a long term solution to the issue.
 - c. Work with the police and other partners to ensure that communication of these community contact points is robust.

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN) (FULL LIST)
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/20**

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

ONE COPY TO ALL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	Copies	To	Copies
<p>Councillors (1 each) Councillor Jasmine Ali Councillor Radha Burgess Councillor Sunil Chopra Councillor Nick Dolezal Councillor Tom Flynn Councillor Renata Hamvas Councillor Peter John Councillor Lorraine Lauder Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall Councillor Eliza Mann Councillor Darren Merrill Councillor David Noakes Councillor Damian O'Brien Councillor Leo Pollak Councillor Sandra Rhule Councillor Martin Seaton Councillor Andy Simmons Councillor Cleo Soanes Councillor Kath Whittam</p> <p>Electronic Versions (No hard copy) All other councillors</p>	19	<p>Press</p> <p>Southwark News 1 South London Press 1</p> <p>Group Offices</p> <p>Eleanor Law, Labour Group Office 1 Tamsin Hewett, Liberal Democrat Group Office 1</p> <p>Officers</p> <p>Eleanor Kelly 1 Duncan Whitfield 1 Doreen Forrester-Brown 1 Chidilim Agada 1 Caroline Bruce by email David Quirke-Thornton by email Michael Scorer by email Kevin Fenton by email</p> <p>Constitutional Team 12</p> <p>(Copies to Virginia Wynn-Jones, 2nd Floor, Hub 2, Tooley Street)</p> <p>Others</p> <p>Matt Dean, Grant Thornton 1 Ground floor audit office, Tooley Street</p>	
		Total:	40
		Last updated: 4 July 2019	