



Council Assembly (Council Tax Setting Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Council Tax Setting Meeting) held on Wednesday 29 February 2012 at 7.00 pm at Town Hall, 31 Peckham Road, SE5 8UB

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2011/12, Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE

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 Chris Brown	Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Michael Bukola	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Poddy Clark	Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton	Councillor Helen Morrissey
Councillor Rowenna Davis	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Patrick Diamond	Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor Toby Eckersley	Councillor the Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Mark Gattleson	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Norma Gibbes	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Mark Glover	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 Mark Williams
Councillor Paul Kyriacou	Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- That the leader will be running the London Marathon on the 22 April 2012 to raise money for the Mayor's nominated charity, the King's College Hospital rheumatology department.
- The Mayor reminded everyone that her "Black Tie and Diamonds" Charity Ball is to be held on Saturday 19 May 2012 at Vinopolis at 7.00pm, tickets are £70 each.

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

With the meeting's consent the Mayor announced that she intended to accept Late Amendments B and C from the Conservative group on item 2.1 - Policy and Resources Strategy 2012/13–2014/14 Revenue Budget - and to hold a single debate on that item.

This was agreed by the meeting, which agreed to suspend council assembly procedure rule 1.14(11) (Deadline for receipt of amendments).

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Item 2.1 Policy and Resources Strategy 2012/13–2014/14 – Revenue Budget

Councillor Veronica Ward declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this item as she is a director of Fusion.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillor Patrick Diamond.

1.5 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2012 be agreed and signed as a correct record with the following amendment:

Councillor Chris Brown to be added to those in attendance.

2. REPORT FROM THE CABINET

2.1 POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2012/13-2014/15 - REVENUE BUDGET

(See pages 1 – 78 of the main agenda)

The meeting agreed in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.14(4) to allow for a single debate on the report and the amendments. It also suspended council assembly procedure rule 1.14(11) (Deadline for receipt of amendments) to accept the late amendments.

There were twenty eight members' questions on the report to the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety, the written responses to which were circulated on lilac paper. There were twenty three supplementary questions. All questions and responses are attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11(1), Councillor Richard Livingstone moved the report and the cabinet's recommendations.

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

Councillor Toby Eckersley, seconded by Councillor Michael Mitchell, moved Late Amendment B.

Councillor Michael Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson, moved Late Amendment C.

Following debate (Councillors Michael Situ, Helen Hayes, Paul Noblet, Cleo Soanes, Althea Smith, David Noakes, Rowenna Davis, Catherine Bowman, Gavin Edwards, Robin Crookshank Hilton and Claire Hickson), Councillor Paul Noblet made a point of personal explanation and the debate continued (Councillor The Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole). At this point Councillor Adele Morris made a point of personal explanation and the debate continued (Councillors Mark Williams, David Hubber, Andy Simmons, Columba Blango, Neil Coyle). At this point Councillor Catherine Bowman made a point of personal explanation and the debate continued (Renata Hamvas, Jonathan Mitchell, Parick Diamond, Peter John, Denise Capstick, Mark Gettleson, Fiona Colley, Dora Dixon-Fyle, James Barber, Ian Wingfield, Mark Glover, Veronica Ward, Barrie Hargrove, Catherine McDonald, Helen Morrissey and Nick Dolezal).

At 10.02pm the bell was rang and the Mayor informed the meeting that the guillotine had fallen.

Councillor Richard Livingstone exercised his right of reply.

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

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

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

The recommendations as amended were put to the vote and declared to be 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 and the decision can be implemented with immediate effect.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations of the cabinet held on 7 February 2012 for a general fund budget for 2012/13 of £308.2m and a nil council tax increase for 2012/13, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be agreed except that £18,000 be vired from the cleaner greener safer revenue fund reserved for the Dulwich community council, to the environment and leisure public realm budget for the purpose of retaining school crossing patrol services in the Dulwich Village area.
2. That this council notes that the number one traffic safety priority in Dulwich Village is the retention of school crossing patrols. It further notes that the main demand of the campaigners for the retention of the threatened school crossing patrols is secure long term funding for the patrols and that the Dulwich community council unanimously supported them in that demand. This council concurs with the view that the best way of securing long term funding is to include the budgeted cost within the mainstream core funding of the council.

3. OTHER REPORTS

3.1 SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX 2012/13

(See pages 79 – 91 of the main agenda)

The clerk announced that as part of its consideration of the previous item on the revenue budget, council assembly had agreed the level of council tax for 2012/13. This was set out in the cabinet's recommendation, as amended by Amendment B, and as agreed in the resolution on item 2.1. Council assembly was therefore required to agree formally the council tax resolution in line with the decisions of item 2.1.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That it be noted that the Greater London Authority on 9 February 2012 announced a precept level of £306.72 at Band D.
2. That the council tax for band D properties in Southwark be set at £1,218.86.
3. That a discount of £2.24 will be applied to properties in the former parish of St Mary Newington, funded from the trust fund available for this purpose.
4. That no discount be applied to properties in the former parish of St Saviours.
5. That the council tax for band D properties in Southwark be set for:

	Band D council tax	Discount	Net band D for the area
	£	£	£
The former parish of St Mary Newington	1,218.86	(2.24)	1,216.62
The former parish of St. Saviours	1,218.86	0	1,218.86
The remainder of the borough	1,218.86	0	1,218.86

6. That the formal resolution for council taxes in 2012/13 (shown in Appendix A of the report) be approved.
7. That the existing local war widows schemes for housing benefits and council tax benefits be continued in 2012/13.

3.2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2012/13 INCLUDING ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND ANNUAL MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STATEMENT

(See pages 92 – 117 of the main agenda)

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12(3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11(1), Councillor Richard Livingstone moved the report.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly noted the treasury management strategy 2012/13 to be managed by the finance director under financial delegation.
2. That the annual investment strategy 2012/13 set out in Appendix A of the report, with capital preservation a key objective, in line with government guidance on investments be agreed.
3. That prudential indicators covering capital finance, borrowing and cash management for the years 2012/13 to 2014/15, set out in Appendix B of the report, be agreed.
4. That the annual minimum revenue provision statement 2012/13, which sets aside prudent sums from revenue to reduce debt, set out in Appendix C of the report, be agreed.

5. That a capital allowance of £192m, described in paragraphs 28 – 30 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 No.2.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: