



## **Council Assembly (Council Tax Setting Meeting)**

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Council Tax Setting Meeting) held on Wednesday 26 February 2014 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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### **PRESENT:**

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2013/14, Councillor Abdul Mohamed (Chair)

Councillor Kevin Ahern	Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Linda Manchester
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Chris Brown	Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Michael Bukola	Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Poddy Clark	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton	Councillor Adele Morris
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 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 Mark Williams
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 in relation to several up and coming Mayoral events:

- The Mayor's charity quiz night on 27 February 2014, 7.00pm at the council offices in Tooley Street.
- The 2014 Mayor's charity ball on Saturday 31 May, at 7.00pm.
- On 10 March the Commonwealth Flag will be raised at Tooley Street, this will be preceded by a film showing of 'Divided by Race - United in War and Peace' on 6 March at 6.00pm at Tooley Street.

The Mayor also announced that he would be running in the 2014 Virgin London Marathon.

All the events are to raise funds for the Mayor's chosen charity, the Evelina London Children's Hospital. He encouraged anyone who wished to sponsor him or attend any of the events to contact the Mayor's office for more information.

The Mayor announced the sad death of the Mayor of Lambeth, Councillor Mark Bennett. The meeting sent its condolences to Mark's family, friends and all the people of Lambeth on the loss of their first citizen.

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

There were no late items of business.

At this juncture the Mayor announced

- That he wished to bring to everyone's attention the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government's requirement that the votes on key budget decisions by local authorities should be recorded. This requirement would apply to the final substantive vote on items 2.1 and 3.1.
- That following consultation with the group whips it had been agreed that there would be a single debate on item 2.1: Policy and resources strategy 2014/15 to 2016/17 revenue budget. At the close of the debate a separate vote would be taken on each amendment and a recorded vote would be taken on the substantive recommendations. A recorded vote would also be taken on item 3.1: Setting the council tax 2014/15.
- That a revised Amendment D had been circulated around the chamber.

David Noakes, seconded by Councillor Poddy Clark, moved that in accordance with Council Assembly Procedure Rule 1.13(d) (Refer an item to appropriate body or individual), Amendment E be referred to the Pensions Advisory Panel.

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

The meeting agreed to suspend the following council assembly procedure rules in order to consider the above:

- CAPR 1.14 (4) Order of debate – single debate.
- CAPR 1.16 Recorded vote by roll call
- CAPR 1.14 (15) Alteration of an amendment.

### **1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

The Mayor announced that all councillors had been granted a dispensation by the monitoring officer to vote on the council tax report.

There were no disclosures of interest.

### **1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Denise Capstick and Toby Eckersley. Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillors Gavin Edwards and Lisa Rajan.

### **1.5 MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2014 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

## **2. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION FROM THE CABINET**

### **2.1 POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2014/15 TO 2016/17 REVENUE BUDGET**

*(See pages 1 – 93 of the main agenda)*

There were eleven questions on the report the responses to which were circulated on lilac paper at the meeting. Nine supplemental questions were asked of the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety. All questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

The Mayor reminded everyone that the meeting had earlier agreed that there would be a single debate on the report and Amendments A, B and C.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9), Councillor Richard Livingstone, cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety, moved the report.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9), Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, leader of the majority opposition and shadow cabinet member for finance,

responded to the cabinet member's statement.

Councillor Michael Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson, moved Amendment A.

Councillor Neil Coyle, seconded by Councillor Claire Hickson, moved Amendment B.

Councillor Tim McNally, seconded by Councillor Adele Morris, moved Amendment C.

Following debate (Councillors Mark Williams, Peter John (point of personal explanation by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai), Stephen Govier, Helen Hayes, Michael Bukola, Nick Dolezal (point of personal explanation by Councillor Stephen Govier), Catherine Bowman, Gavin Edwards, Poddy Clark, Fiona Colley, Lisa Rajan (point of personal explanation by Helen Hayes), Ian Wingfield, Jeff Hook (point of personal explanation by Councillor Richard Livingstone), Andy Simmons, David Noakes, Victoria Mills, Graham Neale, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Paul Noblet, Mark Glover, Rosie Shimell, Veronica Ward, Jonathan Mitchell (point of personal explanation by Councillor Peter John), Barry Hargrove (point of personal explanation by Councillor Graham Neale), Geoffrey Thornton and Cleo Soanes; Councillor Dan Garfield, seconded by Michael Situ moved that the question be put.

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

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.

At this juncture the clerk explained that the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, which had come into force on 25 February 2014, required a recorded vote on key budget decisions by local authorities. The regulations required a recorded vote on decisions only. The meeting had earlier agreed to take a roll call recorded vote on the substantive motion on item 2.1 Policy and Resources Strategy 2014/15 -2016/17.

The bell was rung for one minute after which time the doors to the room were closed. The Mayor stated that in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.16(4), a roll call recorded vote would be taken on the substantive motion, the result of which were as follows:

In favour of the substantive motion (33):

Councillors Kevin Ahern, Chris Brown, Sunil Chopra, Fiona Colley, Neil Coyle, Rowenna Davis, Patrick Diamond, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Nick Dolezal, Gavin Edwards, Dan Garfield, Norma Gibbs, Mark Glover, Renata Hamvas, Barrie Hargrove, Helen Hayes, Claire Hickson, Peter John, Lorraine Lauder, Richard Livingstone, Rebecca Lury, Catherine McDonald, Darren Merrill, Victoria Mills, Adbul Mohamed, The Right Rev Emmanuel Oyewole, Martin Seaton, Andy Simmons, Michael Situ, Cleo Soanes, Veronica Ward, Mark Williams and Ian Wingfeid.

Against the substantive motion (23):

Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, James Barber, Columba Blango, Catherine Bowman, Michael Bukola, Poddy Clark, Mark Gettleson, Jeff Hook, David Hubber, Paul Kyriacou, 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 (2):

Councillors Stephen Govier and Althea Smith.

Absent (4)

Councillors Denise Capstick, Robin Crookshank Hilton, Toby Eckersley and Linda Manchester.

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 and the decision can be implemented with immediate effect.

**RESOLVED:**

That council assembly:

1. Noted that the final settlement was announced on 5 February 2014 (subject to approval by Parliament) with no significant change to Southwark's figures.
2. Noted the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept included in the report is the Mayor's proposed precept, as agreed at the London Assembly plenary meeting on 14 February 2014.
3. Agreed the recommendations of the cabinet on 28 January 2014 for a general fund budget for 2014/15 of £314.4m and a nil council tax increase for 2014/15, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.
4. Agreed the 2014/15 – 2016/17 medium term resources strategy, included as Appendix F of the 28 January cabinet report.

**Rotherhithe Festival**

5. That council assembly is shocked that after seven years of funding for the Rotherhithe festival, Liberal Democrat ward councillors have decided not to include funding for the Rotherhithe festival in the community council fund proposals to the Bermondsey and Rotherhite Community Council.
6. That council assembly noted the Liberal Democrats' failure to use these funds in the best way for the community flies in the face of what they have previously said about local decision making.
7. That council assembly noted that the final government settlement includes an

additional £30,000 not included in the provisional settlement.

8. That council assembly agrees that if the Liberal Democrats refuse to fund important community events like the Rotherhithe festival, then Labour councillors will, and therefore it be agreed to provide £1,000 funding from this amount to save the Rotherhithe festival.

### **3. OTHER REPORTS**

#### **3.1 SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX 2014/15**

*(See page 94 – 106 of the main agenda)*

The clerk explained that as Amendment C on item 2.1 had been lost Revised Amendment D Fell. Also that as part of its consideration of the previous item on the revenue budget, council assembly had agreed the level of council tax for 2014/15. This had been set out in the cabinet's recommendation, as amended by Amendment B, which had been agreed in the substantive motion on item 2.1. Council assembly now needed to formally agree the council tax resolution in line with the decisions of item 2.1.

The clerk further reminded the meeting that the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, which had come into force on 25 February 2014, required a recorded vote on key budget decisions by local authorities. The regulations required a recorded vote on decisions only and the meeting had earlier agreed to take a roll call recorded vote on the substantive motion on item 3.1: Setting the council tax 2014/15.

The bell was rung for one minute after which time the doors to the room were closed. The Mayor stated that in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.16(4), a recorded roll call vote would be taken on the substantive motion, the result of which were as follows:

In favour of the substantive motion (33):

Councillors Kevin Ahern, Chris Brown, Sunil Chopra, Fiona Colley, Neil Coyle, Rowenna Davis, Patrick Diamond, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Nick Dolezal, Gavin Edwards, Dan Garfield, Norma Gibbs, Mark Glover, Renata Hamvas, Barrie Hargrove, Helen Hayes, Claire Hickson, Peter John, Lorraine Lauder, Richard Livingstone, Rebecca Lury, Catherine McDonald, Darren Merrill, Victoria Mills, Adbul Mohamed, The Right Rev Emmanuel Oyewole, Martin Seaton, Andy Simmons, Michael Situ, Cleo Soanes, Veronica Ward, Mark Williams and Ian Wingfeid.

Against the substantive motion (23):

Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, James Barber, Columba Blango, Catherine Bowman, Michael Bukola, Poddy Clark, Mark Gattleson, Jeff Hook, David Hubber, Paul Kyriacou, 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 (2):

Councillors Stephen Govier and Althea Smith.

Absent (4)

Councillors Denise Capstick, Robin Crookshank Hilton, Toby Eckersley and Linda Manchester.

The Mayor declared that the substantive motion was carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly noted the Greater London Authority precept of £299.00 at Band D.
2. That the council tax for band D properties in Southwark be set at £1,211.14.
3. That no discount be applied to properties in the former parish of St Mary Newington.
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	1,211.14	0	1,211.14
The former parish of St. Saviours	1,211.14	0	1,211.14
The remainder of the Borough	1,211.14	0	1,211.14

6. That the formal resolution for council taxes in 2014/15 (shown in Appendix A of the report) be approved.
7. That the existing local war disability and war widows schemes for housing benefit be continued in 2014/15.

**3.2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2014/15 INCLUDING ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND ANNUAL MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STATEMENT**

*(See pages 107 – 128 of the main agenda)*

The Mayor reminded everyone that the meeting had earlier agreed to refer Amendment E to the Pensions Advisory Panel.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (2), the report was formally moved by the Mayor.

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

**RESOLVED:**

That council assembly:

1. Noted the treasury management strategy 2014/15 to be managed by the strategic director of finance and corporate services under financial delegation.
2. Noted the treasury management policy set out in paragraph 9 of the report
3. Agreed the annual investment strategy 2014/15 set out in paragraphs 13 to 24 of the report, with capital preservation a key objective, in line with government guidance on investments.
4. Agreed prudential indicators covering capital finance and treasury management for the years 2014/15 to 2016/17 referred to in paragraph 33 of the report and set out in Appendix B of the report.
5. Agreed the minimum revenue provision statement, setting aside prudent sums to reduce debt, referred to in paragraphs 34 and 35 of the report and set out in Appendix C of the report.

**3.3 DATES OF COUNCIL ASSEMBLY 2014/15**

*(See pages 129 – 147 of the main agenda)*

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (2), the report was formally moved by the Mayor.

Following debate (Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, Stephen Govier, Dan Garfield (point of personal explanation by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai), Richard Livingstone, Tim McNally, Peter John and James Barber), the recommendations contained with in the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:**

**Council assembly dates**

1. That the following dates for meetings of council assembly be agreed and that these dates be fixed in the council calendar for the municipal year 2014/15:

**Dates of council assembly meetings 2014/15**

<b>Council Assembly Meetings 2014/15</b>	<b>Type of Meeting</b>



Saturday 7 June 2014	Annual Meeting (Mayor Making) <i>Note: To be held jointly with Civic Association's Civic Awards Ceremony.</i>
Wednesday 11 June 2014	Annual Meeting (Constitutional Meeting)
Wednesday 16 July 2014	Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday 22 October 2014	Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday 26 November 2014	Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday 21 January 2015	Ordinary/Council Tax Base and NNDR Meeting
Wednesday 25 February 2015	Budget and Council Tax Setting
Wednesday 25 March 2015	Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday 20 May 2015	Annual Meeting

**Council calendar**

2. That the calendar of council meetings for the 2014/15 municipal year ahead as shown at Appendix 1 of the report be noted.

**4. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments were circulated in Supplemental Agenda No.2. A revised Amendment D was circulated at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.57pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**