



## **Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting)**

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting) held on Wednesday 16 July 2014 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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### **PRESENT:**

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2014/15, Councillor Sunil Chopra

Councillor Evelyn Akoto	Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Jasmine Ali	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Maisie Anderson	Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Vijay Luthra
Councillor Radha Burgess	Councillor Jane Lyons
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Claire Maugham
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Stephanie Cryan	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Catherine Dale	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Jamille Mohammed
Councillor Karl Eastham	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Paul Fleming	Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Tom Flynn	Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Chris Gonde	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Lucas Green	Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Jon Hartley	Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Ben Johnson	Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Eleanor Kerlake	Councillor Bill Williams
Councillor Sarah King	Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Anne Kirby	Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor Sunny Lambe	Councillor Ian Wingfield

## **1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

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

There were none.

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

The Mayor announced that he had agreed that the report entitled Constitutional issues 2014/15 be considered as urgent business for the reasons set out in the report.

The Mayor further explained that the group whips had agreed the format of the meeting. The Mayor advised that this was set out in the programme motion which had been tabled at the meeting. The motion explained how the business of the meeting would be conducted.

#### **PROGRAMME MOTION** (*See white paper circulated at the meeting*)

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

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the meeting be conducted as follows:

#### **Presentations from the public**

- Public question from Shaila Ravindranath.
- Submission by The Right Honourable Dame Tessa Jowell MP, in her capacity of Chair of the Southwark and Lambeth Joint Childcare Commission (up to 10 minutes to present and 5 minutes for councillors questions).
- Submission by Friends of John Donne Primary School (5 minutes to present, question to relevant cabinet member and 5 minute for councillors questions).

#### **Themed debate** (45 minutes):

1. Councillor Victoria Mills, cabinet member for children and schools to present the theme and the motion (7 minutes).
2. Councillor James Okosun, opposition spokesperson for children's services to speak and move amendment (5 minutes).
3. Theme open to debate by all other councillors.
4. Councillor Victoria Mills right of reply to the debate (3 minutes).

#### **Deputation** (10 minutes)

- Deputation from residents in the Rotherhithe area (5 minutes to speak, question to

the relevant cabinet member and 5 minutes for councillors questions).

### **Members question time**

Rotate order of questions to cabinet members on the basis of Labour 3, Liberal Democrat 2 - so the questions to Councillor Mark Williams, cabinet member for regeneration, planning and transport are revised as follows:

- Question 16 Labour - Councillor Kieron Williams
- Question 17 Labour - Councillor Tom Flynn
- Question 18 Labour - Councillor Stephanie Cryan
- Question 21 Liberal Democrat - Councillor Adele Morris
- Question 22 Liberal Democrat - Councillor James Barber

### **General Motions**

To be taken in the order set out in agenda.

It was also agreed that the following council assembly procedure rule would be suspended in order to consider the above:

CAPR 1.14 (4) Order of debate – varying order of business.

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

There were no declarations.

## **1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Rosie Shimell, Renata Hamvas and Martin Seaton. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Gavin Edwards and Karl Eastham.

## **2. MINUTES**

*(See pages 1 – 14 of supplemental agenda 1)*

### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the annual and constitutional meetings held on 7 June 2014 and 11 June 2014 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

## **3. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC**

### 3.1 PETITIONS

There were none.

### 3.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

*(See page 1 of supplemental agenda 2 and lilac papers circulated at the meeting)*

There was one question from the public, the answer to which had been circulated on lilac paper at the meeting. The public questioner asked one supplemental question of the cabinet member for children and schools. The questions and written responses are attached as appendix 1 to the minutes.

## 4. THEMED DEBATE: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (EXCLUDING EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING BUT INCLUDING SCHOOLS)

### 4.1 MOTION ON THE THEME - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

*(See pages 3-5 of main agenda, pages 2 - 3 of supplemental agenda 2 and pages 6 – 10 of supplemental agenda 2)*

#### **Community evidence submissions**

- **The Right Honourable Dame Tessa Jowell MP**

Council assembly heard community evidence from The The Right Honourable Dame Tessa Jowell MP, in her capacity of Chair of the Southwark and Lambeth Joint Childcare Commission. The following members had questions for The Right Honourable Dame Tessa Jowell MP: Councillors Ian Wingfield, Victoria Mills and Anood Al-Samerai.

At the close of the questioning, the Mayor then thanked The Right Honourable Dame Tessa Jowell MP for her submissions.

- **Friends of John Donne Primary School**

Council assembly then heard community evidence from the Friends of John Donne Primary School who had a question for the cabinet member for children and schools. Following the cabinet member's response, the following members had questions of the submissions: Councillors Fiona Colley, Peter John, and Andy Simmons.

At the end of the questioning, the Mayor thanked the Friends of John Donne Primary School for their submissions.

**MOTION ON THE THEME – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE** *(see pages 3 - 5 of the main agenda and page 6 of supplemental agenda 2)*

Councillor Victoria Mills, cabinet member for children and schools introduced her motion on the theme.

Councillor James Okosun, the Liberal Democrat group spokesperson for children's services responded and proposed amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Charlie Smith, Claire Maughan, Hamish McCallum, Stephanie Cryan, Johnson Situ, Lisa Rajan, Jasmine Ali, Peter John, Ben Johnson, Maisie Anderson), Councillors Lisa Rajan and Jasmine Ali made points of personal explanation. Thereafter, the cabinet member for children and schools responded to the debate.

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

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

## **RESOLVED:**

### **Schools**

1. That council assembly recognises that there are real challenges ahead for local authorities to meet demand for school places, with more than one in four councils forecasting a shortage of primary school places this coming September, and nearly half of local authorities facing a places shortage in September 2015.
2. That council assembly welcomes the work of the current administration over the last four years to expand school places to meet demand, by expanding popular local schools and working with partners to open new ones, ensuring that last year every on time applicant in Southwark was offered a reception place.
3. That council assembly acknowledges that there continues to be a shortage of school places in certain areas and that some parents in Southwark feel they have little choice especially when they are unable to secure places at the community schools nearest to where they live.
4. That council assembly recognises that the work being done by the current Labour administration to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet demand in the borough is being done against the backdrop of the Liberal Democrats working with the Conservatives in government making it harder and harder for councils to build new schools in the places they are most needed.
5. That council assembly notes with concern that the coalition government's flagship free schools policy is failing to address the national shortage of school places, with an estimated two thirds of primary school places not in areas of need. Council assembly calls on the government to stop putting politics before the needs of children by diverting money away from areas with a real shortage of places.
6. That council assembly recognises that the current situation in Southwark, where despite increasing demand some schools are struggling to fill places, with 335 vacancies in secondary schools and 201 vacancies in primary schools currently across the borough, is unsustainable.
7. That council assembly calls on cabinet to continue to drive up standards in Southwark schools and to bring forward a programme to work with schools to ensure that over 70% of students in every secondary school in the borough get at least five

good GCSEs. Council assembly also calls for this programme of work to look beyond schools and to what additional support can be given to our looked after children and children from troubled families who all too often achieve well below their potential.

8. That council assembly also recognises the challenge where there are secondary schools in the borough which are rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted, but where parents do not want to send their children.
9. That council assembly therefore calls on the cabinet to work with local parents and the Department for Education to ensure that decisions about new schools are based on the needs of the community.
10. That council assembly calls on the cabinet to ensure that free schools work as part of the educational mix of the borough, by continuing to work with popular local schools who choose to come forward with free school proposals, sponsors who can demonstrate their commitment to working in partnership with both the council and local parents, and committed parents who want to open new schools in their area.

### **Childcare**

11. That council assembly recognises that the increasing cost of childcare is one of the most pressing issues affecting families in Southwark. Childcare prices have risen significantly while real earnings have fallen – contributing to the cost of living crisis – and there are serious gaps in provision for quality affordable childcare, particularly for working parents.
12. That council assembly recognises that the rising childcare costs are particularly detrimental to women and are pricing half a million British mothers out of work. Council assembly welcomes Labour's commitment nationally to increase the provision of free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds from 15 hours to 25 hours a week, but recognises that more needs to be done across the council's services to support mothers back into work.
13. That council assembly welcomes the commitment of this administration to invest in Southwark's children's centres and work with parents to set up two new community nurseries to increase the number of affordable childcare places in the borough.
14. That council assembly recognises the need for real long term solutions to this growing problem and therefore welcomes the establishment of the Childcare Commission, bringing together experts, parents, providers and employers to find ways to secure childcare provision that is accessible and affordable to all parents, supports them to be economically active, and delivers quality education and development for children in the early years.
15. That council assembly calls on the cabinet to implement the recommendations of the Childcare Commission and to look for opportunities for facilitating and encouraging employment through the provision of quality, affordable childcare, particularly for working mothers.

## **Beyond education and childcare**

16. That council assembly recognises that the council's duty towards children and young people goes beyond education and childcare. Therefore, council assembly also welcomes the council's commitment to:

- Ensure a top quality playground in every local area and to introduce "play streets", closing some streets to traffic during school holidays to ensure children have the opportunity to play safely.
- Continue to deliver free healthy school meals for every primary school child in Southwark and extend free fruit to all primary school children as a morning snack.
- Keep young people safe at home and in our community and protect children from abuse or neglect by investing in early support for families.
- Help more people to foster and adopt by paying their council tax, to help give more children a home where they are loved, safe and secure.
- Help young people to get sound financial education by opening a credit union account with a £10 deposit for every 11 year old and helping them get good money advice.

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

## **5. DEPUTATIONS**

*(See pages 4 – 5 of supplemental agenda 2)*

### **Deputation from residents in the Rotherhithe area regarding section 106 funding**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Steve Cornish, addressed the meeting.

Councillors Mark Williams, Kath Whittam and Adele Morris asked questions of the deputation.

Thereafter the deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

## **6. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS**

### **6.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

*(See pages 6 - 11 of the main agenda and the green and yellow papers circulated at the meeting)*

There was one urgent question to the leader, the written response to which was circulated on green paper at the meeting. Two supplemental questions were asked of the leader. All

questions and written responses are attached as appendix 2 to the minutes.

There were 32 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated on yellow paper at the meeting. There were 14 supplemental questions, all questions and written responses are attached as appendix 3 to the minutes.

## 6.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

### **MOTION 1 – EAST DULWICH SECONDARY SCHOOL** *(See page 13 of the main agenda)*

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Charlie Smith, seconded by Councillor Helen Hayes, moved the motion.

Councillors James Barber and Anood Al-Samerai moved and seconded Amendment B.

Following debate (Councillors Fiona Colley, Victoria Mills, Adele Morris, Andy Simmons, Eliza Mann and Nick Dolezal), Councillor James Barber made a point of personal explanation. At 10.07pm, the Mayor announced that the guillotine had fallen.

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

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

#### **RESOLVED:**

That council assembly:

1. Notes that there is clear evidence of the need for a secondary school in the Dulwich area in order to meet local demand and that the Dulwich hospital site has been identified as the only suitable site in the local area.
2. Notes that two providers have put forward proposals for a new secondary school on this site and that both are backed by strong local parental campaigns and have the full backing of the council and local MPs.
3. Notes that the need for primary school places in this part of the borough is being met through a number of new local free school proposals and the expansion of existing primary schools, including Ivydale School, which is the preferred choice of local parents.
4. Supports the view of local parents that what is needed on the Dulwich hospital site is a new secondary school, not another primary school.
5. Believes that it is completely unacceptable for the coalition government to be progressing plans for a primary free school on the Dulwich hospital site without consulting local parents or the local authority.
6. Believes that blocking a new and much needed secondary school in this area would



completely go against the coalition government's own policy of responding to local need and demand, as well as the free school aspiration of parent led schools with a diversity of providers.

7. Calls on cabinet to press the Education Secretary to be open and transparent about his plans for the Dulwich hospital site and to listen to the views of the local community and their elected representatives who have been campaigning for a secondary school on this site.
8. Calls on councillors from all parties to stand firmly with local people who want a secondary school in East Dulwich, rather than supporting another primary school, which would limit rather than increase parental choice, in an area where the council has worked hard with popular local schools to expand places and meet demand

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

**MOTION 2 – ALTERNATING THE ROLE OF MAYOR** *(See page 14 of the main agenda)*

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors David Hubber and Eliza Mann formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Paul Flemming and Eleanor Kerlake formally moved and seconded Amendment C.

Amendment C 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 assembly recognises that the position of Mayor is a civic, ceremonial and non-political position.
2. That council assembly recognises that the current Mayor of Southwark was democratically elected by the majority of councillors in the borough. Council assembly accepts that the decision of councillors to elect as the first citizen a representative of the majority party, which includes representatives from across the whole borough, in recognition of the democratic wishes of Southwark residents.
3. That council assembly therefore supports the continued election of the Mayor by the full council in a democratic vote.

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

**MOTION 3 – TRANSPORT LINKS IN SOUTH BERMONDSEY** *(See page 14 of the main agenda)*

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Leo Pollak and Sunny Lambe formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Eliza Mann and Damian O'Brien 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 assembly calls on the council to improve transport links in South Bermondsey to benefit local residents and boost footfall for local businesses, support the upcoming rejuvenation of the high street and help the Blue fulfil its potential as a major destination.
2. That council assembly calls on the council to:
  - i. Lobby Transport for London (TfL) to deliver new bus connections from Southwark Park Road, to and from London Bridge, the West End and the City, to ensure all of South Bermondsey is fully connected with the rest of London including building on existing conversations about the C10 route.
  - ii. Press the Mayor of London for an extension of the cycle hire scheme into all parts of South Bermondsey.
  - iii. Work with Network Rail and Grosvenor Estates to ensure that a new garden and pedestrian link through the redeveloped Biscuit Factory and railway arches is fully realised, directly connecting Bermondsey tube station to the Blue.
  - iv. Take action to tackle the high number of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) using Southwark Park Road through The Blue.

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

**MOTION 4 – BAKERLOO LINE EXTENSION** (*See pages 14 - 15 of the main agenda*)

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors James Barber and Damian O'Brien formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Kieron Williams and Evelyn Akoto formally moved and seconded Amendment E.

Amendment E 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 assembly applauds Labour councillors' long standing campaign to extend the Bakerloo Line to Camberwell and Peckham, which has included a petition signed by more than 2,750 people, in order to improve public transport for current and future Southwark residents, and to help bring jobs and growth to South London. Council assembly welcomes the fact that the Labour campaign to extend the Bakerloo line to Camberwell now has cross-party support, including from Liberal Democrat opposition councillors.

2. That council assembly welcomes the cabinet's commitment to campaign for the Bakerloo Line to be extended south of the Elephant and Castle to Camberwell, as set out in the cabinet report "Delivering a Fairer Future for all in Southwark".
3. That council assembly recognises that the Old Kent Road is desperately in need of better transport, particularly given its new designation as an opportunity area. Council assembly welcomes the further expansion of the Bakerloo line to the Old Kent Road, which could provide more opportunity for new homes in the area. However, council assembly believes that any expansion of the tube to the Old Kent Road should not be done at the expense of Camberwell, and therefore calls on the cabinet to press the Mayor of London to deliver on his promise to extend the Bakerloo line to Camberwell as well as the Old Kent Road.
4. That council assembly believes there is a strong case for expanding the Bakerloo Line to serve both Camberwell and the Old Kent Road and calls on cabinet to push for a two-branch extension with Transport for London (TfL) and the Mayor of London.

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

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

### **7.1 REPORT BACK ON MOTIONS REFERRED TO CABINET FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**

*(See pages 16 - 25 of the main agenda)*

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

## **8. OTHER REPORTS**

### **8.1 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE - 2013/14 ANNUAL REPORT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS FOR CAPITAL FINANCE AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT**

*(See pages 26 – 36 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.

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

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the 2013/14 outturn report on treasury management and prudential indicators be noted.

2. That the investment in the Municipal Bond Agency of up to £200,000 be noted.

## **9. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES 2014/15**

*(See pages 18 – 26 of supplemental agenda 1)*

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.

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

### **RESOLVED:**

#### **Council assembly – members' question time**

1. That the changes identified in paragraphs 10 – 14 of the report on the rotation of questions to cabinet members be agreed so that questions are taken in the following ratio for political groups i.e. Labour 3, Liberal Democrat 2 and Conservative 1.
2. That it be noted that in future two cabinet members would be moved to the bottom of the list for members' questions (see paragraphs 15 – 16 of the report). The proper constitutional officer to write to all councillors giving notice of the change.

#### **Leader's question time**

3. That the introduction of a council meeting for the consideration of questions from the public to the leader, see paragraphs 17 – 29 of the report, be agreed.
4. That the first leader's question time be held on Wednesday 22 October 2014 to coincide with council assembly, which will now be summonsed as an extra-ordinary meeting of the council assembly to consider any business that cannot wait for decision until the next ordinary meeting in the following month of November 2014.
5. That it be noted the constitutional steering panel considered a broad outline of the event for the leader's question time (see paragraphs 19 – 25 of the report).
6. That the constitutional change formalising this position as set out in paragraph 29 of the report be agreed.

#### **Consequential changes**

7. That the proper constitutional officer be authorised to make any necessary consequential changes to the constitution as a result of the above.

## **10. AMENDMENTS**

The amendments are set out on pages 6 – 10 of supplemental agenda 2.

The meeting closed at 10.12 pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**