

Council Assembly (Ordinary)

Tuesday 26 January 2016
7.00 pm

Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2Q

Councillors are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to consider the business contained herein

Eleanor Kelly
Chief Executive

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information

You have the right to request to inspect copies of minutes and reports on this agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Babysitting/Carers allowances

If you are a resident of the borough and have paid someone to look after your children, an elderly dependant or a dependant with disabilities so that you could attend this meeting, you may claim an allowance from the council. Please collect a claim form at the meeting.

Access

The council is committed to making its meetings accessible. Further details on building access, translation, provision of signers etc for this meeting are on the council's web site: www.southwark.gov.uk or please contact the person below.

Contact

Lesley John on 020 7525 7228 or 020 7525 7222 or email: lesley.john@southwark.gov.uk;
andrew.weir@southwark.gov.uk; constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk

Date: 12 January 2016



Council Assembly (Ordinary)

Tuesday 26 January 2016
7.00 pm
Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
	PART A - OPEN BUSINESS	
1.	PRELIMINARY BUSINESS	
1.1.	ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE	
	To receive any announcements from the Mayor, members of the cabinet or the chief executive.	
1.2.	NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT	
	In special circumstances an item of business may be added to an agenda within seven working days of the meeting.	
1.3.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS	
	Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
1.4.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
1.5.	MINUTES	
	To approve as a correct record the open minutes of the council assembly meeting held on 25 November 2015 (to be circulated separately).	
2.	ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC	

Item No.	Title	Page No.
2.1.	PETITIONS	
	To formally receive any petitions lodged by members of the council or the public which have been received in advance of the meeting in accordance with council assembly procedure rules.	
2.2.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
	The deadline for public questions is Midnight, Wednesday 20 January 2016. Questions can be emailed to constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk .	
	Questions from the public will be distributed in a supplemental agenda.	
3.	THEMED DEBATE - ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC REALM AND REGENERATION	
3.1.	COMMUNITY EVIDENCE	
	The deadline for community evidence on the theme is Midnight, Wednesday 20 January 2016. Submissions can be emailed to constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk .	
	Submissions from the public will be distributed in a supplemental agenda.	
3.2.	MOTION ON THE THEME	1 - 3
	The cabinet member for regeneration and new homes and the cabinet member for environment and the public realm to present the theme for the meeting.	
4.	DEPUTATIONS	
	The deadline for deputation requests is Midnight, Wednesday 20 January 2016. Deputations can be emailed to constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk .	
	Deputation requests will be distributed in a supplemental agenda.	
5.	ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS	
5.1.	MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME	
	To receive any questions from members of the council.	

Item No.	Title	Page No.
-----------------	--------------	-----------------

5.2.	MEMBERS' MOTIONS	4 - 7
-------------	-------------------------	-------

To consider the following motions:

- Transport in Rotherhithe
- The power to set a real living wage
- Blacklisting.

6. OTHER REPORTS

6.1.	COUNCIL TAX BASE AND NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES BASE 2016/17	8 - 23
-------------	--	--------

7. AMENDMENTS

Any member of the council may submit an amendment to a report or motion on the agenda. The amendments will be circulated to all members in a supplemental agenda.

ANY OPEN ITEMS IDENTIFIED AS URGENT AT THE START OF THE MEETING

EXCLUSION MOTION (IF NECESSARY)

The following motion should be moved, seconded and approved if the council wishes to exclude the press and public to deal with reports revealing exempt information:

“That under the access to information procedure rules of the Southwark constitution, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in section(s) 1 – 7 of paragraph 10.4 of the procedure rules.”

PART B – CLOSED BUSINESS

ANY CLOSED ITEMS IDENTIFIED AS URGENT AT THE START OF THE MEETING

Date: 12 January 2016

Item No. 3.2	Classification: Open	Date: 26 January 2016	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motion on the Theme: Environment, public realm and regeneration	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The theme for this meeting is environment, public realm and regeneration.

The relevant cabinet member shall submit a motion on the theme. All other political groups on the council are allowed to submit one amendment to the motion. The cabinet member's motion and the amendments do not need to be seconded. The cabinet member will present the motion to the meeting, followed by the lead opposition spokesperson's response and moving of their amendment. Following this the subject matter of the theme will be open to debate. Amendment(s) from other opposition groups on the council can be moved during this part of the meeting.

MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MARK WILLIAMS, CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES AND COUNCILLOR DARREN MERRILL, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM

Regeneration

1. Council assembly recognises that Southwark is one of the most exciting boroughs in the country in terms of regeneration, with significant investment in the borough delivering new affordable homes, jobs and community benefits.
2. Council assembly commends this administration's approach to regeneration, which has secured the second highest level of affordable house-building in the country, with 3,760 new affordable homes built in Southwark between 2010-11 and 2014-15.
3. Council assembly welcomes this administration's commitment to ensuring regeneration benefits local people by delivering affordable homes to rent and for low cost home ownership, building new community facilities and creating jobs and opportunities for Southwark residents.
4. Council assembly notes that Southwark also has the most ambitious council house building programme in the country - 11,000 new council homes built by 2043, with the first 1,500 by 2018, with every one of the new homes available to Southwark residents at council rents.
5. Council assembly calls on other London boroughs to play their part in solving London's housing crisis by following Southwark's lead and building new affordable homes.

6. Council assembly condemns the previous Liberal Democrat and Conservative Coalition government's cut to the affordable housing grant, which has made it more difficult for local authorities to build new council homes.
7. Council assembly also condemns the government's proposals to limit new affordable housing and to force the sell off of council homes through the Housing and Planning Bill, which will significantly reduce council housing in Southwark, damage our ability to build much needed new homes and lead to an increase in homelessness and overcrowding.
8. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:
 - Work with partners across the borough to increase local employment in construction so that Southwark residents are able to take advantage of opportunities from regeneration programmes
 - Lobby the government to reconsider it's disastrous proposals on the forced sale of council homes
 - Lobby the government for an exemption for local authorities on council house building programmes from 'starter home' quotas, which will be unaffordable for the majority of Southwark residents, to ensure new homes in the borough are genuinely affordable to households on lower incomes.

Environment and public realm

9. Council assembly recognises the importance of ensuring development in our borough is sustainable and welcomes this administration's commitment to the environment, including:
 - Reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill to less than 1%, with Southwark now the best recycling borough in inner city London
 - Committing to run entirely on green energy by 2050
 - Delivering a new energy hub that will deliver zero-carbon, affordable heat and hot water to residents and businesses across Elephant Park.
10. Council assembly recognises that poor air quality is a significant problem for Southwark and that 28,800 children in our borough breathe poor air and approximately 110 people die in Southwark prematurely every year from poor air quality. Council assembly therefore calls on Transport for London (TfL) to take action on air quality and to extend the ultra low emissions zone to cover the whole borough and the rest of inner London.
11. Council assembly reaffirms the council's formal objection to TfL's plans for the new Silvertown Tunnel due to the negative impact increased congestion will have on air pollution levels in Southwark, particularly on approaches to the Rotherhithe tunnel, and calls on TfL to address the council's concerns and recommendations in its proposals.
12. Council assembly welcomes this administration's commitment to sustainable transport, to promote active journeys, minimise the environmental impact of transport and improve the public realm to make the borough a safer, cleaner and healthier place to live and work.
13. Council assembly welcomes the 2.7 miles of quietways that have already been introduced in the borough and the commitment to deliver 21.26 more miles, as

well as the introduction of the Southwark Spine, which will improve cycling in the borough and help increase the number of people choosing to cycle.

14. Council assembly welcomes the steps being taken to improve the public realm, including at Canada Water, Peckham and the Aylesbury, to clean up the borough's high streets, such as Rye Lane and Walworth Road, and to invest in the social infrastructure of our borough, including new libraries, a new leisure centre and new parks, such as the new Camberwell library, the new Castle leisure centre and a £6m investment in 6 parks around Elephant and Castle.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet members motion	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Andrew Weir 020 7525 7222

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	11 January 2016

Agenda Item 5.2

Item No. 5.2	Classification: Open	Date: 26 January 2016	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motions	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The councillor introducing or “moving” the motion may make a speech directed to the matter under discussion. This may not exceed five minutes¹.

A second councillor will then be asked by the Mayor to “second” the motion. This may not exceed three minutes without the consent of the Mayor.

The meeting will then debate the issue and any amendments on the motion will be dealt with.

At the end of the debate the mover of the motion may make a concluding speech, known as a “right of reply”. If an amendment is carried, the mover of the amendment shall hold the right of reply to any subsequent amendments and, if no further amendments are carried, at the conclusion of the debate on the substantive motion.

The Mayor will then ask councillors to vote on the motion (and any amendments).

IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution allocates responsibility for particular functions to council assembly, including approving the budget and policy framework, and allocates to the cabinet responsibility for developing and implementing the budget and policy framework and overseeing the running of council services on a day-to-day basis. Therefore any matters that are reserved to the cabinet (i.e. housing, social services, regeneration, environment, education etc) cannot be decided upon by council assembly without prior reference to the cabinet. While it would be in order for council assembly to discuss an issue, consideration of any of the following should be referred to the cabinet:

- to change or develop a new or existing policy
- to instruct officers to implement new procedures
- to allocate resources.

Note: In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10 (7) & (8) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which motions appear in the agenda may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

¹ Council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9)

1. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM** (Seconded by Councillor Bill Williams)

Transport in Rotherhithe

1. Council assembly recognises that there are significant traffic problems on the Rotherhithe peninsula, with the high demand for river crossings making the Rotherhithe area particularly susceptible to congestion from tunnel related traffic, which is detrimental to the local environment, particularly air quality, and can make local trips difficult.
2. Council assembly further recognises that the significant growth planned in the Canada Water area, including an increase in new homes and job opportunities, will require a significant investment in transport infrastructure.
3. Council assembly therefore calls on Transport for London and the Mayor of London to:
 - Upgrade the existing public transport network, including increasing capacity on the overground, tube and buses
 - Take action to tackle congestion on Jamaica Road
 - Enhance pedestrian and cycle links and bring forward plans for a pedestrian and cycling bridge from Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf to alleviate congestion
 - Extend the cycle hire scheme to Rotherhithe
 - Explore means of integrating river transport into the network to make sure that residents in Rotherhithe get the full benefit from the river as a mode of transport
 - Address in a full and proper manner the concerns and recommendations raised by the council in relation to the proposals for the new Silvertown Tunnel, which will impact negatively on the quality of life of a vast number of people who live and work in the borough.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

2. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH MCCALLUM** (Seconded by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai)

The power to set a real living wage

1. Council assembly welcomes the cross-party support for the London Living Wage since the motion agreed by council in November 2008.

2. Council assembly notes the progress in implementing the London Living Wage policy in Southwark and the proposal for a Living Wage Zone as part of the Canada Water regeneration area.

3. Council assembly further notes that Preston City Council in partnership with 'Unlock Democracy' is considering submitting the following proposal to government under the Sustainable Communities Act:

'To delegate power to local authorities to compel all private and public sector employers within their area to pay the Living Wage. The rate of the Living Wage to be determined in accordance with the rates set by the Living Wage Foundation for London and outside London.'

4. Council assembly believes that this power could reduce in-work poverty in Southwark and benefit the local economy through a multiplier effect in each local authority area it is introduced.

5. Council assembly further believes that as part of the negotiating process with the relevant Secretary of State, all or some of the benefits to government through increased income tax revenue and reduced welfare spending be used to enforce the new power and help local businesses which may struggle to move to the new rate.

6. Council assembly therefore calls on the cabinet to express its interest in joining Preston City Council in any collective submission to the government under the Sustainable Communities Act, and to work together with the Unlock Democracy campaign to gain support for the proposal from other councils in London and across the country.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE (Seconded by Councillor Mark Williams)

Blacklisting

1. Council assembly is aware of the destructive practice of blacklisting that occurred for decades in the UK construction industry and the disastrous effects it had on many of the workers that were included on the blacklist.

2. Council assembly notes that most of the workers on the blacklist of The Constructing Association were trade unionists, many of them were blacklisted for raising legitimate health and safety concerns with their employer.

3. Council assembly recognise that because of this administration's commitment to new affordable housing, lots of new homes are being built in Southwark, which is also providing opportunities for local people in construction work. We take the safety of our residents, staff and contractors very seriously and believe strongly that people who raise health and safety concerns should not be blighted for their working life through blacklisting.

4. Council assembly notes that the council already has a process in place for Major Works contracts to identify any companies that have made use of the blacklist in the past to ensure that they have put in place actions to prevent such behaviour recurring and to compensate those victimised by the practice. Council assembly believes that this good practice should be adopted in its other contracts.
5. This council is determined that blacklisting should never occur again and calls on cabinet to:
 - Make provision in Southwark Council's public tendering procedures to exclude blacklisters from public contracts if they are either still blacklisting or have not put into place genuine actions agreed by the blacklisted workers or their representatives concerning past blacklisting activities
 - Make provision in the council's terms and conditions for public works that provide for the termination of the contract if a supplier is found to engage in blacklisting activities during the course of that contract
 - Make provision to include blacklisting and trade union membership in the pre-qualification questionnaire for new construction contracts.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Member Motions	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Andrew Weir 020 7525 7222

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	11 January 2016

Item No. 6.1	Classification: Open	Date: 26 January 2016	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		The Council Tax Base for 2016/17	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		The Whole Borough	
From:		Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That council assembly note that in accordance with the decisions of council assembly about council tax on 28 November 2012:
 - 1) That the local discretionary premium for homes counted as long-term empty (over 2 years) shall remain unchanged and be set at 150%, this premium is statutory and is the maximum that can be charged.
 - 2) That the discount for second homes shall remain unchanged and be set at 0%.
 - 3) That the discount to replace class A exemptions shall remain unchanged and be set at 0%.
2. That the local discount for empty and unfurnished properties be set to zero with effect from 1 April 2016, as discussed in paragraphs 16 to 17.
3. That the council tax base for 2016/17 be set at 91,231.00 band D equivalent dwellings, as shown in paragraph 41.
4. That the assumed council tax collection level should be increased to 97.00% noting the risks outlined in paragraph 31.
5. That the council tax base for 2016/17 for St. Mary Newington be set at 10,978.81 band D equivalent dwellings.
6. That the council tax base for 2016/17 for St. Saviour's be set at 1,174.07 band D equivalent dwellings.
7. That the council tax reduction scheme (CTRS) for both working and pensionable age claimants shall remain unchanged in 2016/17, and note the consequential reduction in tax base of 17,997 band D equivalent dwellings as shown in paragraph 50.
8. Note that:
 - Any minor and consequential amendments to the CTRS written policy are to remain delegated to the strategic director of finance and governance, in consultation with the monitoring officer.

- No changes were made under the strategic director of finance and Governance's authority during 2015/16.
9. Note that, as for 2015/16, the NNDR1 (National non-domestic rates) return showing the national non-domestic rates base will be signed off by the council's section.151 officer (strategic director of finance and governance).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

10. Regulations require the council to inform its preceptors of the council tax base by 31 January 2016.
11. This report sets out the statutory information that members need in order to set the council's council tax base for 2016/17. A further report will be presented to council assembly in February 2016 setting out the level of council tax needed to meet the council's expenditure for the year 2016/17.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Council tax discounts

12. In November 2012 council assembly agreed a discount and exemption scheme to apply from 2013/14. This is in accordance with the statutory requirements or local discretion as granted under the Local Government Act 2003. No changes are proposed to the scheme for 2016/17/.
13. On discounts for single persons, the council is required under statute to offer a 25% discount.
14. On discounts for "all except one person in a household disregarded" is required under statute to offer a 25% discount.
15. On 28 November 2012, Council assembly agreed a recommendation from cabinet to replace Class A and C exemptions and introduce local discounts from 1 April 2013.
16. Class A discounts were abolished with effect from 1 April 2013, based on an analysis of 2014/15 data, it has been estimated that the abolition of the Class C discount would generate an additional £500k to the general fund. This would lead to an additional £237k cost to be borne by the HRA. This discount is the only one that can be changed, the rest are statutory, or have previously been removed.
17. Removal of the local discount for empty and unfurnished properties would bring the council into line with 24 of the 33 London boroughs who do not award a discount in these circumstances.
18. There are no other proposed changes to council tax discounts for 2016/17 the position will be as follows:

Reason	Local / Statutory	Discount
Single Person	Statutory	25%
All except one person in household disregarded *	Statutory	25%
All persons in household disregarded (note a)	Statutory	50%
Second Home	Local discretion within statutory minimum 0% and statutory maximum 50%	0%
Discount to replace Class A exemptions (note b)	Local	0%
Discount to replace Class C exemptions (note c)	Local	0%
Empty (unoccupied) but furnished	Local	0%

Notes

- a Occupants may be disregarded for the purposes of establishing the billable amount. Qualifying students, for example, are disregarded, and households containing only students are fully exempt. If all but one of the occupants is disregarded, a 25% discount is awarded. If all occupants are disregarded, but no exemption is applicable, a 50% discount is awarded.
- b Class A exemptions were abolished with effect from 1st April 2013, these allowed up to 12 months tax free for properties that were uninhabitable or undergoing major works.
- c Class C exemptions were also abolished with effect from 1st April 2013. These allowed up to 6 months tax free for properties that were empty and unfurnished.

19. Where properties are empty for over two years, property owners will be charged full council tax and an additional 50% making a total of 150%, allowing the council to levy more council tax.

Reason	Local / Statutory	Premium
Empty for over two years	Local discretion within statutory minimum 0% and statutory maximum 50%	50%

Council tax base for 2016/17

20. Calculation of the council tax ("the tax") is governed by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ('the Act') and various regulations there under. In particular, Section 31B of the Act requires the basic (band D) tax to be calculated by

applying the formula: The council tax requirement divided by the council's "tax base".

21. Although the council's net budget requirement has not yet been determined, the "tax base" can be set and is subject to the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, made under section 33 of the Act and subsequent amendments. Regulation 8 of the 2012 Regulations requires the calculation for 2016/17 to be made between 1 December 2015 and 31 January 2016.
22. The proportions applicable to the various council tax bands (the "basic" band being D) are as follows:

Band	Proportion (ninths)
A	6
B	7
C	8
D	9
E	11
F	13
G	15
H	18

23. There is an additional band reported on the schedules, band –A (5/9 of band D). This only arises where a person in a band A property receives a one band reduction through disabled relief.
24. The council's basic tax is calculated in respect of band D. The bands are based on the above proportions, so Band A properties therefore pay 6/9 of the basic tax, band B pay 7/9 of the basic tax and so on up to band H where the tax is 18/9, or twice the tax at band D.

Council tax collection rate performance

25. The 2015/16 in-year collection performance as at the end of December 2015 is 80.89% (2014/15 was 81.30%). The performance compared to the same time last year is slightly lower and this is due to the removal of single person discounts which has increased the collectable amount by £500k to £113m during the month. Taking account of this, performance is consistent with 2014/15.
26. Arrears collection as at the end of December 2015 is £3.5 million against the annual target of £3.4 million (2014/15 was £2.9m against £3m target).
27. Southwark continues to improve council tax collection despite the impact of the council tax reduction scheme and increasing the collectable amount. This has been reflected in the collection rate not only for collection in year but in total for the tax year over a six year period. The council tax collection and achieved and projected final collection is detailed in Appendix B.
28. A high level of customer service continues to be provided with prompt responses to customer enquiries and processing of changes to the council tax records. Ensuring customers receive timely and accurate bills is key to maximising collection.

29. Identifying accounts that should be written off continues to be part of business as usual activity alongside operational collection activity. With collection improving, less irrecoverable debt is being written off.
30. During 2015/16 2,714 single person discounts have been removed as part of the review process (2014/15 was 2,200).
31. The strategic director of finance and governance recommends that, based on collection performance in previous years and to date in 2015/16, a 97.00% assumed collection rate in 2016/17 would give the best estimate of the likely value to be obtained from the demands issued in April 2016 (2015/16 was 96.75%).
32. Consideration has also been given to the age and status of debt, the current economic climate and the high levels of transience and deprivation in Southwark which make collection challenging.
33. The collection rate of 97.00% for 2016/17 is considered achievable given the continued improvement and the work described in paragraphs 25 to 31 above. However, as there are still considerable uncertainties arising from the accumulated effects of welfare reform.

Calculation of the Council Tax Base

34. From 2013/14 there has been a significant change in the calculation of the council tax base. The localisation of council tax support has resulted in a substantial reduction in the number of band D equivalent properties in the tax base. Instead of council tax benefit claimants having council tax paid for through council tax benefit, from 1 April 2013 through Southwark's localised council tax reduction scheme (CTRS) claimants receive a discount, up to a maximum 100% discount for pension age claimants to a maximum 85% discount for working age claimants.
35. A calculation of the total number of dwellings net of discounts needs to be made for each of the bands A to H. This takes into account the number of dwellings on the official valuation list as at the 2016/17 CTB1 submission, the estimated number of dwellings that are exempt, attract disabled relief, attract single person discount, are empty, or have only disregarded residents, and estimated changes in the status of the dwellings during the year.
36. The figures from the CTB1 submission are taken at October 2015, an adjustment has been made to forecast these figures to obtain a more representative estimate for 2016/17.
37. As a result of the regeneration of the borough, there has been a shift in the bandings of Southwark's residential dwellings. The table below shows the movements away from bands A B and C into bands D and above since 2010/11.

% of dwellings per council tax band

	Council Tax Bands								Total %
	A %	B %	C %	D %	E %	F %	G %	H %	
2010/11	9.7	29.6	26.1	16.2	10.5	4.5	3.0	0.4	100.0
2011/12	9.1	29.6	26.1	16.4	10.8	4.5	3.1	0.4	100.0
2012/13	9.1	29.2	26.0	16.6	11.0	4.6	3.1	0.5	100.0
2013/14	8.9	29.0	25.8	16.9	11.2	4.6	3.1	0.4	100.0
2014/15	8.8	28.7	25.7	17.0	11.6	4.7	3.1	0.5	100.0
2015/16	8.8	28.4	25.6	17.2	11.9	4.7	3.1	0.5	100.0

38. Appendix A tabulates the above information for each of the bands. Line 5 of Appendix A (i) shows the total number of dwellings net of discounts for each band, which total 98,713.89.
39. The line 5 total of 98,713.89 described above must be converted into the number of band D equivalents by applying the proportions shown in paragraph 22 above. The result for each of the bands is shown on line 6 of appendix A, which totals 94,052.58.
40. It is necessary to calculate the council's tax base by applying an estimated collection rate to the total of all properties converted to the average equivalent property at band D shown in Appendix A(i).
41. The resultant council tax base is calculated as follows:
- Total of the relevant amounts (Appendix A (i) line 6) 94,052.58**
- Estimated collection rate 97.00%**
- 2016/17 council tax base 91,231.00**
42. The table below shows the tax bases before and after the application of the collection rate, lines 6 and 8 respectively in Appendix A.

	Number of band D equivalent properties	Number of band D equivalent properties after collection rate applied
For the parish of St. Mary Newington	11,318.36	10,978.81
For the parish of St. Saviour's	1,210.38	1,174.07
For the whole of the borough excluding the parishes of St. Mary Newington and St. Saviour's	81,523.84	79,078.12
For the whole borough	94,052.58	91,231.00

43. Additional earmarked income may be available from trust funds, which can subsidise the council tax in the former parishes of St. Mary Newington and St. Saviour's. Separate calculations have to be made for these specific areas. These are set out at Appendices A (ii and iii). The subsidy to St Mary Newington is taken from interest earned on the Walworth Common Trust capital sum, divided by the taxbase to give a band D equivalent subsidy. The subsidy to St Saviour's comes from contributions from the Borough Market Trustees, again divided by the taxbase.
44. A comparison of how the proposed 2016/17 tax base compares with the 2015/16 tax base is shown below. If the CTRS adjustments are excluded the council tax base has increased by 2.5%, in 2015/16 the taxbase, excluding CTRS, increased by 2.3% from 2014/15.

	Band D equivalent properties			
	2015/16	2016/17	Change	% Change
Number of Chargeable dwellings	121,285	123,900	2,615	2.2%
Adjustments for discounts	(12,209)	(12,104)	105	(0.9%)
Adjustments for premiums	195	253	58	29.7%
Tax base excluding CTRS	109,271	112,049	2,778	2.5%
CTRS adjustment	(18,597)	(17,997)	600	(4.6%)
Total tax base before collection rate adjustment	90,674	94,052	3,378	3.7%

45. The CTRS caseload has reduced gradually during 2015/16, leading to an increase in the tax base. Analysis shows that the greatest reduction has been in the "working age other" element of the scheme. This group are in receipt of passported benefits, job seekers allowance and income support. Typically this is indicative of claimants moving into work and therefore off benefits and eligibility for CTRS. Other movements can be attributed to a combination of changes in claimants circumstances such as movement in and out of the borough, changes in income, and starting work.

National non-domestic rates

46. The NNDR1 return will be signed off by the council's Section 151 officer (strategic director of finance and governance). The final signed NNDR1 will be included as an appendix for noting in the 2016/17 budget report for approval by council assembly on 24 February 2016.

Collection fund monitor 2015/16

47. The collection fund monitor continues to be worked on, and the forecast position will be reported in the Policy and Resources Strategy 2016/17 to 2018/19: balanced budget report to 27 January cabinet. Any resulting surplus or deficit must be accounted for in the council tax calculations for 2016/17.

Revenue budget implications 2016/17

48. Subject to council assembly approval, the tax bases recommended in this report and the projected surplus / deficit on the collection fund as at 31 March 2015 will be used in the calculation of the level of council tax that will be recommended to council assembly on 24 February 2016.

Council tax reduction scheme (CTRS)

49. On 28 November 2012, a report was presented to council assembly that set out the background and approach that had been adopted in relation to the CTRS. Council assembly agreed to the adoption of a CTRS that capped council tax support entitlement at 85% of current council tax benefit (CTB) entitlement levels and abolished the second adult rebate for non-pensioners in 2013/14.
50. The council tax reduction scheme replaced council tax benefit and is passed on to claimants through a discount. Current estimates show that for 2016/17 this will reduce the overall council tax base by 18,875 properties (17,997 band D equivalents) before adjustment for collection.
51. In accordance with the regulations, officers developed a CTRS policy for both pension age and working-age claimants and used as its base the previous CTB rules and regulations. This approach was considered to deliver the least amount of change for existing claimants, for staff administering the scheme and indeed those professional groups who were and are engaged in offering advice and support to claimants.
52. On 23 January 2013, council assembly was presented with the council tax base report within which the full CTRS policy document was referenced and attached. The decision of council assembly confirmed the adoption of this policy. Members are referred to that report for the detail of the written policy.
53. On 23 January 2013, council assembly also approved that decision making on any minor and consequential amendments to the CTRS written policy be delegated to the strategic director of finance and corporate services, in consultation with the monitoring officer. It is expected that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) will continue to release further guidance, amendments and or corrections to the previously published complex regulations and which will result in additions and minor changes to the wording of the policy document itself. Officers consider therefore that these changes should not require council assembly approval and that the decision making on

these future changes should remain delegated to the strategic director of finance and governance, in consultation with the monitoring officer. No changes have been made by the strategic director of finance and governance under delegated authority during 2015/16, none are planned for 2016/17.

54. On 22 January 2014, council assembly agreed to retain the existing CTRS that capped council tax support entitlement at 85% for working age customers and removed second adult rebate for non-pensioners in 2014/15.
55. On 20 March 2014, a decision was formally published under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 to include minor amendments to the existing CTRS policy.
56. On 21 January 2015, council assembly agreed to retain the existing CTRS that capped council tax support entitlement at 85% for working age customers and removed second adult rebate for non-pensioners in 2015/16.

Consultation

57. Calculation of the council tax base forms an integral part of the revenue budget setting process for 2016/17. The budget is underpinned by the council's medium term resource strategy as agreed by council assembly on 24 February 2016.

Community impact statement

58. This report contains technical calculations relating to the council's tax base for 2016/17.
59. There is no direct community impact at this stage. The impact on the community of any potential change in service design, outcomes or access arising from recommendations relating to the 2016/17 revenue budget will need to be addressed and identified as part of the final budget submission to council assembly on 24 February 2016.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

60. The Director of Law and Democracy advises that decisions relating to the budget and the setting of local taxation are reserved to council assembly under Part 3A of the council's constitution. Therefore council assembly is enabled to agree all of the recommendations in this report.
61. Members are reminded of the obligations pursuant to Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the restrictions on voting therein. Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to members in arrears of council tax in respect of their capacity to vote in meetings on certain financial matters
62. Where a member has at least two months' arrears of council tax he or she must not vote on any matter which:
 - 1) relates directly to the setting of the next year's council tax; or

- 2) Recommends income or expenditure forming part of the next year's levy;
or
 - 3) Relates to income or expenditure in the current year which is in excess of the current budget.
63. When a matter as described in paragraph 62 is to be considered at a meeting the member affected must declare that Section 106 of the Local Government Act 1992 applies to him or her. The member may remain in the meeting and may speak, but he or she may not vote on the matter.

Recommendations 1 to 5 - council tax base

64. The legal basis for agreeing the recommendations relating to the setting of the council tax base is found under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 which imposes a duty on a billing authority to calculate its council tax by applying a formula laid down in that Section. This relies on calculating a figure for the council tax base for the year. The Local Authority (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 require a billing authority to use a given formula to calculate the council tax base.

Recommendation 6 to 7 - council tax reduction scheme (CTRS)

65. On 23 January 2013 council assembly adopted the CTRS written policy which had been developed by officers. This was in accordance with the decision making powers reserved to council assembly under Part 3A of the council's constitution.
66. On 23 January 2013 council assembly also approved that decision making on any minor and consequential amendments to the CTRS written policy be delegated to the strategic director of finance and corporate services, in consultation with the monitoring officer. The report author has outlined at paragraph 53 of the report the reasoning why officers consider any future minor and consequential changes should remain delegated to the strategic director of finance and corporate services in consultation with the monitoring officer. It is confirmed that council assembly has the power to delegate any of its decision making functions to an officer pursuant to section 101(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.
67. In respect of all recommendations, council assembly is reminded of the requirement to consider the public sector equality duty as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 before reaching a decision.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

Appendix	Title
Appendix A (i)	Council Tax Base for 2016/17 for the whole borough
Appendix A (ii)	Council Tax Base for 2016/17 for the Parish of St Mary Newington
Appendix A (iii)	Council Tax Base for 2016/17 for the Parish of St Saviours
Appendix A (iv)	Council Tax Base for 2016/17 for the whole borough excluding the parishes of St Mary Newington and St Saviours
Appendix B	Council Tax – Collection Achieved and Projected

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Duncan Whitfield, Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	
Report Author	John Braggins, Finance and Governance Norman Lockie, Finance and Governance	
Version	Final	
Dated	11 January 2016	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	11 January 2016	

Appendix A (i)

COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2016/17 FOR THE WHOLE AREA – FOR COUNCIL TAX SETTING

		BAND - A	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H	TOTAL
1	Number of Chargeable Dwellings	10.00	11,131.45	36,691.44	33,103.45	22,577.20	15,794.48	6,088.23	3,985.06	596.69	129,978.00
2	Adjustment for the number of dwellings subject to a discount	(1.25)	(1,085.56)	(3,580.91)	(3,230.04)	(2,207.29)	(1,544.44)	(595.52)	(390.23)	(58.85)	(12,694.09)
3	Adjustment for the number of dwellings subject to a premium	0.00	100.50	113.50	46.50	23.50	7.50	5.00	5.00	4.00	305.50
4	Adjustment for the localised council tax support scheme	(4.92)	(1,613.92)	(5,323.78)	(4,802.14)	(3,281.60)	(2,296.14)	(885.36)	(580.16)	(87.50)	(18,875.52)
5	Total in band (1+2+3+4)	3.83	8,532.47	27,900.25	25,117.77	17,111.81	11,961.40	4,612.35	3,019.67	454.34	98,713.89
	Band Factor	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
6	Number of Band D Equivalents	2.13	5,688.31	21,700.19	22,326.91	17,111.81	14,619.49	6,662.28	5,032.78	908.68	94,052.58
7	Estimated Collection Level										97.00%
8	Estimated 2016/17 TAX BASE (6) x (7)										91,231.00

Appendix A (ii)

COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2016/17 FOR ST MARY NEWINGTON – FOR COUNCIL TAX SETTING

		BAND - A	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H	TOTAL
1	Number of Chargeable Dwellings	1.00	2,645.00	6,923.00	4,978.00	1,963.00	1,489.00	367.00	71.00	22.00	18,459.00
2	Adjustment for the number of dwellings subject to a discount	(0.25)	(422.00)	(857.50)	(457.00)	(169.26)	(91.25)	(19.50)	(3.50)	(1.00)	(2,021.26)
3	Adjustment for the number of dwellings subject to a premium	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Adjustment for the localised council tax support scheme	0.00	(614.00)	(1,582.00)	(903.00)	(302.00)	(229.00)	(17.00)	(6.00)	0.00	(3,653.00)
5	Total in band (1+2+3+4)	0.75	1,609.00	4,483.50	3,618.00	1,491.74	1,168.75	330.50	61.50	21.00	12,784.74
	Band Factor	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
6	Number of Band D Equivalents	0.42	1,072.67	3,487.17	3,216.00	1,491.74	1,428.47	477.39	102.50	42.00	11,318.36
7	Estimated Collection Level										97.00%
8	Estimated 2016/17 TAX BASE (6) x (7)										10,978.81

Appendix A (iii)

COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2016/17 FOR ST SAVIOURS – FOR COUNCIL TAX SETTING

		BAND - A	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H	TOTAL
1	Number of Chargeable Dwellings	0.00	55.00	267.00	312.00	190.00	230.00	150.00	144.00	42.00	1,390.00
2	Adjustment for the number of dwellings subject to a discount	0.00	(10.50)	(35.50)	(34.00)	(19.00)	(22.50)	(15.50)	(13.30)	(5.25)	(155.55)
3	Adjustment for the number of dwellings subject to a premium	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Adjustment for the localised council tax support scheme	0.00	(12.00)	(44.00)	(68.00)	(24.00)	(21.00)	(3.00)	0.00	0.00	(172.00)
5	Total in band (1+2+3+4)	0.00	32.50	187.50	210.00	147.00	186.50	131.50	130.70	36.75	1,062.45
	Band Factor	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
6	Number of Band D Equivalents	0.00	21.67	145.83	186.67	147.00	227.94	189.94	217.83	73.50	1,210.38
7	Estimated Collection Level										97.00%
8	Estimated 2016/17 TAX BASE (6) x (7)										1,174.07

Appendix A (iv)

COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2016/17 FOR THE WHOLE AREA EXCLUDING THE PARISHES OF ST MARY NEWINGTON AND ST SAVIOURS – FOR COUNCIL TAX SETTING

		BAND - A	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H	TOTAL
1	Number of Chargeable Dwellings	9.00	8,431.45	29,501.44	27,813.45	20,424.19	14,075.48	5,571.23	3,770.06	532.69	110,129.00
2	Adjustment for the number of dwellings subject to a discount	(1.00)	(653.06)	(2,687.91)	(2,739.04)	(2,019.03)	(1,430.69)	(560.52)	(373.43)	(52.60)	(10,517.28)
3	Adjustment for the number of dwellings subject to a premium	0.00	100.50	113.50	46.50	23.50	7.50	5.00	5.00	4.00	305.50
4	Adjustment for the localised council tax support scheme	(4.92)	(987.92)	(3,697.78)	(3,831.14)	(2,955.60)	(2,046.14)	(865.36)	(574.16)	(87.50)	(15,050.52)
5	Total in band (1+2+3+4)	3.08	6,890.97	23,229.25	21,289.77	15,473.07	10,606.15	4,150.36	2,827.47	396.58	84,866.70
	Band Factor	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
6	Number of Band D Equivalents	1.71	4,593.98	18,067.18	18,924.24	15,473.07	12,963.08	5,994.96	4,712.45	793.17	81,523.84
7	Estimated Collection Level										97.00%
8	Estimated 2016/17 TAX BASE (6) x (7)										79,078.12

COUNCIL TAX - COLLECTION ACHIEVED & PROJECTED

	2010/11 £'000	2011/12 £'000	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Total Debit	145,698	147,272	148,938	150,632	152,045	153,473
Exemptions	(8,351)	(7,917)	(8,075)	(6,796)	(6,954)	(6,014)
Disabled relief	(48)	(46)	(47)	(47)	(48)	(49)
Discounts	(15,399)	(15,457)	(14,751)	(15,062)	(14,370)	(13,564)
Collectable debit	121,900	123,852	126,065	128,727,194	130,672,845	133,846,096
Council Tax collected to date	(91,725)	(93,666)	(95,730)	(102,122)	(104,456)	(83,074)
Less credit balances	20	441	428	554	820	1,892
Migration Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0
CTax collection to date	(91,705)	(93,225)	(95,303)	(101,568)	(103,636)	(81,182)
Future collection adjustment	0	0	0	0	(261)	(26,970)
Total projected CTax collection	(91,705)	(93,225)	(95,303)	(101,568)	(104,028)	(107,817)
Benefits	(26,949)	(27,424)	(27,470)	(23,340)	(22,142)	(21,350)
Total projected income	(118,654)	(120,649)	(122,773)	(124,908)	(126,170)	(129,167)
Actual Collection to date (as at 30th November 2015)	97.3%	97.4%	97.4%	97.0%	96.3%	76.6%
Projected final collection level	97.3%	97.4%	97.4%	97.0%	97.0%	97.00%

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN) (FULL LIST)
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16**

NOTE: Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to
Lesley John Tel: 020 7525 7228

ONE COPY TO ALL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	Copies	To	Copies
Councillors (1 each)	55	Officers	2
Electronic Versions (No hard copy)		Doreen Forrester-Brown	1
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai		Ian Millichap	1
Councillor Maisie Anderson		Constitutional Team	
Councillor Fiona Colley		(Copies to Lesley John, 2 nd Floor, Hub 4, Tooley Street)	25
Councillor Karl Eastham		Others	1
Councillor Gavin Edwards		Elizabeth Olive, Audit Commission, Ground Floor, Tooley Street	1
Councillor Jon Hartley			
Councillor Sarah King			
Councillor Michael Situ			
Group Offices	2		
Aine Gallagher, Labour Group Office	1		
Niko Baar, Liberal Democrat Group Office	1		
Press	2		
Southwark News	1		
South London Press	1		
Corporate Management Team	5		
Eleanor Kelly	1		
Deborah Collins	1		
David Quirke-Thornton	1		
Duncan Whitfield	1		
Gerri Scott	1		
		Total:	93
		Last updated: June 2015	