

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 25 May 2016

7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Membership

Councillor Gavin Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Rosie Shimell (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor Paul Fleming
Councillor Tom Flynn
Councillor Eleanor Kerlake
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Kieron Williams
Martin Brecknell
Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer
Abdul Raheem Musa
George Ogbonna

Reserves

Councillor James Barber
Councillor Catherine Dale
Councillor Karl Eastham
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor Ben Johnson
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Cleo Soanes

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.

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Contact Shelley Burke on 020 7525 7344 or email: Shelley.burke@southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Eleanor Kelly
Chief Executive
Date: 17 May 2016



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 25 May 2016
7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
1.	APOLOGIES	
	PART A - OPEN BUSINESS	
2.	NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT	
	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear working days of the meeting.	
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.	
4.	SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2016-17	1 - 3
5.	LONDON LIVING WAGE	4 - 12
6.	REGENERATION UPDATE FROM CABINET MEMBER OF REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES	
	Committee to hear from councillor Mark Williams.	
7.	A YEAR IN REVIEW - SOUTHWARK SCRUTINY	13 - 17
	Committee to note.	
	DISCUSSION OF ANY OTHER OPEN ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING.	

PART B - CLOSED BUSINESS

DISCUSSION OF ANY CLOSED ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT.

DISTRIBUTION LIST 2016/17

Date: 17 May 2016

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

“That 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 paragraphs 1-7, Access to Information Procedure rules of the Constitution.”

Item No. 4	Classification: Open	Date: 25 May 2016	Meeting Name: Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Report title:		Scrutiny arrangements for 2016/17	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Head of Overview & Scrutiny	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To note the size and composition of the Overview & Scrutiny committee, as agreed by annual council assembly.
- 1.2 To note the appointment of the chair and vice-chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- 1.3 To appoint three scrutiny sub-committees.
- 1.4 To appoint chairs and vice-chairs of the three scrutiny sub-committees.
- 1.5 To determine which committee has responsibility for crime and disorder

2. KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 The annual Council assembly meeting on 14th May 2016 appointed an Overview and Scrutiny Committee with 11 places. Cllrs Gavin Edwards and Rosie Shimell were appointed as chair and vice-chair respectively.
- 2.2 OSC is asked to appoint three sub-committees, agree their size and composition, appoint their chairs and vice-chairs and determine whether scrutiny of crime and disorder is allocated to one of the sub-committees or retained by OSC
- 2.3 Political groups are entitled to the same number of reserve members as the number of seats they have on each sub-committee.
- 2.4 The most proportionate allocation will depend on the number of members of the sub-committee. The table below shows the most proportionate arrangement for individual sub-committees:

Size of sub-committee	Lab	Lib Dem	Con
Nine seats	7	2	0
Eight seats	6	2	0
Seven seats	5	2	0
Six seats	5	1	0
Five seats	4	1	0
Four seats	3	1	0

2.5 The size and composition of sub-committees in 2015-16 was:

Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Lab	Lib Dem	Total	Chair/ Vice chair
Education & Children's Services	5	2	7	Labour/Liberal Democrat
Healthy Communities	5	2	7	Labour/Liberal Democrat
Housing & Community Safety	5	2	7	Labour/Liberal Democrat

2.6 Co-opted members were:

2.7 Education & Children's Services – Church of England and Roman Catholic Diocese representatives, two parent governor representatives, one head teacher representative

2.8 Housing & Community Safety – one representative each from Homeowners' Council and Tenants' Council.

2.9 The most proportionate allocation will depend on the number of members of the sub-committee. The table below shows the most proportionate arrangement for individual sub-committees:

Size of sub-committee	Lab	Lib Dem	Con
Nine seats	7	2	0
Eight seats	6	2	0
Seven seats	5	2	0
Six seats	5	1	0
Five seats	4	1	0
Four seats	3	1	0

2.10 Members can agree an allocation that is disproportionate, provided no Member votes against this. In previous years, the committee has varied the size and numbers on each sub-committee to provide for greater cross-party representation.

Background papers	Held at	Contact
Agenda – Annual Council Assembly, 14 May 2016	160 Tooley Street London SE1 5LX	Ian Millichap Constitutional Manager Tel: 020 7525 7225

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	Shelley Burke, Head of Overview & Scrutiny	
Contributors		
Version		
Dated	17 May 2016	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Legal Services	Non/a	
Cabinet Member	N/A	

Agenda Item 5

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 4 April 2016	Meeting Name: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Report title:		London Living Wage	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the overview and scrutiny committee note the information given on the council's approach to the London Living Wage.

KEY ISSUES

2. The chair of OSC has asked how the London living wage is written into contracts.
3. The council's guidance is shown in the attached appendix which covers:
 - What is the London Living Wage
 - Why does Southwark support the London Living Wage
 - How is the London Living Wage to be implemented
 - Legal Implications
 - Frequently Asked Questions
 - Factors to consider
 - Sample contract clauses
 - Example gateway report wording
 - Flowchart for inclusion of London Living Wage

Resource implications

4. There are no direct resource implications in this report.

Consultation

5. There has been no consultation on this report.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

6. None required.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact

APPENDICES

No.	Title
A	Application of the London Living Wage in contracts

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	Duncan Whitfield, Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	
Report Author	Jennifer Seeley, Director of Finance	
Version	Final	
Dated	22/03/2016	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Cabinet Member	N/A	N/A
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services		

Application of the London Living Wage in Contracts

December 2012 (updated June 2014)

www.southwark.gov.uk

This document sets out guidance on the Southwark Council commitment to encourage our contractors and sub-contractors to pay the London Living Wage to their staff when they provide works or services in council premises or in Greater London.

What is the London Living Wage?

The London Living Wage (LLW) is a campaign initiated by the community organisation, London Citizens in 2001 and is championed by the Greater London Assembly. It is also supported by trade unions and anti-poverty agencies. The LLW is a voluntary minimum hourly rate set by the Greater London Authority to ensure a decent standard of living. The London Living Wage is £8.55 per hour for 2012-2013.

Why does Southwark support the London Living Wage?

Economic Background: Southwark

According to the English Indices of Deprivation 2010, Southwark is the 41st most deprived local authority district in England, out of 326 local authority districts. In December 2011, it had an unemployment rate of 10.5%, compared with 9.3% across London and has a significantly high proportion of Job Seeker Allowance claimants who have been claiming over 2 years – 7% compared to an inner London average of 4% and regional average of 3%. The London Living Wage could improve those statistics by helping more residents out of poverty and into decently paid employment.

Improved Quality Of Service

Both the GLA Economic Development unit and London Economics have identified the benefits of implementing LLW including:

- easier recruitment and retention - reducing recruitment costs
- reduced staff turnover
- higher quality staff
- better attendance
- better productivity, motivation and loyalty
- Improved worker morale
- better quality of service
- improved reputation

A Fairer Future For All In Southwark

In the Council Plan agreed in July 2011 the Leader set out his vision for a fairer future for all in Southwark:

“The Council will create a fairer future for all in Southwark by: protecting the most vulnerable; by looking after every penny as if it was our own; by working with local people, communities and businesses to innovate, improve and transform public services; and standing up for everyone’s rights. As a central London borough, our mission is to enhance the things that make Southwark special – its immense diversity and vast depths of untapped potential. Helping to unlock those talents, with nobody left behind, is what we are about as a Council. People in the borough should be able to enjoy the enormous benefits and seize the opportunities that living in central London offers. The Council has its part to play as one of many working to deliver a fairer future.”

We believe that to achieve this vision all staff working within our borough deserve a fair wage reflecting the environment in which they work, regardless of whether they are employed directly by the Council or by our contractors or sub-contractors. We also believe that the payment of a fair wage can improve the quality of service provided in a contract, reduce staff turnover and produce a more motivated and productive workforce. Including this issue within our procurement of works and services will enable us to perform our functions in a way which aims to achieve continuous improvement in their delivery and achieve key policy priorities.

How is the London Living Wage to be implemented?

Council Assembly on 29 February 2012 agreed its revenue budget with the introduction of clear plans to ensure that the London Living Wage (LLW) benefits not only the Council's directly employed staff but also those who work for the Council through contractors over the next three years. The presumption will now be that LLW will be included in new contracts where services/works are to be provided on council premises or in the London area, and where best value can be demonstrated on a case by case basis. This commitment will be subject to rigorous procurement processes linked to quality improvement in the services being delivered.

With effect from 29 February 2012,:

- There is a presumption that the London Living Wage will apply to all new contracts for the provision of services or works, which are to be performed either on council premises, or in the Greater London area.
- In such contracts, the London Living Wage will apply to all relevant staff working directly on the contract in question, and will also apply to any relevant staff employed by sub-contractors (excluding apprentices and interns).
- In the planning of all contracts, the appropriateness and best value/cost implications of including the LLW must be considered on a case-by-case basis, recorded in writing and set out in any required Gateway One Report. Where LLW is not appropriate it must not be included in the contract and detailed reasons why LLW is not appropriate should be set out in the Gateway One Report.
- Where LLW is included gateway reports and contract documents must include:
 - How the requirement for LLW will be evaluated
 - How the payment of LLW, associated quality improvements and cost implications will be monitored.

In November 2012 Southwark Council became an officially accredited London Living Wage Employer. This scheme is administered by Citizens UK and the Living Wage Foundation.

Legal Implications

The general power of competence under the **Localism Act 2012**, subject to the pre-existing limitations of **S17 Local Government Act 1988** as amended by **Local Government Best Value (Exclusion of Non-commercial considerations) Order 2001 (SI 2001 909)** enables the Council to have regard to minimum rates of pay in a contractual process to the extent they are **relevant to the delivery of best value**.

S3 Local Government Act 1999 requires best value authorities to “make arrangements to secure continuous improvements in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness”. This allows the council to require payment of LLW where we believe this will result in better value services being provided under the contract, on the basis that the contractor’s staff will be more likely to be able and/or motivated if paid at least this rate.

CI 2 Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 [will impose] a duty on the Council to consider how to improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of our area by what we are proposing to procure and how that improvement might be achieved through the procurement process for all services (or predominantly services) contracts subject to the EU procurement regulations. This legislation has amended s17 Local Government Act 1988 to enable non-commercial matters to be considered to the extent that the council considers it necessary or expedient to do so to enable or facilitate compliance with this duty.

The following points should be taken into account for each procurement and have also been taken into account when formulating this guidance:

- The council must determine genuinely and reasonably that the LLW is an appropriate way of ensuring a better value for money service;
- The council must be reasonably satisfied that the extra cost to the council is reflected in enhanced quality of service;
- In order to show it is acting reasonably the council can not make a blanket policy but must consider each procurement on a case-by-case basis;
- The LLW policy will apply only to contracts performed on council premises, or otherwise essentially in the London area;
- In the planning of the contracts, the relevance of LWW can be considered, but where it is considered inappropriate e.g. because the contract is not to be performed by staff living in London then there would be no grounds to require the LWW.
- A blanket policy of not inviting or considering tenders from contractors who are unwilling to agree to a LLW clause in their contract could be challenged as unlawful;

Frequently Asked Questions

When do I need to consider LLW and how?

Whether or not LLW is to be required must be considered for all new contracts from 1 March 2012. The issue will need to be addressed as early as possible in your procurement planning and set out in detail in your Gateway One Report.

What factors should I consider when deciding if LLW should be required?

The following are factors to be considered which may support the inclusion of a LLW requirement in contracts, or which may carry weight to decide not to include the requirement

Factors indicating LLW would be appropriate in the contract	Factors indicating LLW may not be appropriate
Service provided in Southwark premises	Service provided elsewhere than Southwark premises
Service provided in London	Service provided outside London
Service provided alongside Southwark staff	Service completely separate to Southwark staff
Contractor staff working on the same project as Southwark staff	
People providing the service likely to be drawn from local workforce	

Factors indicating LLW would be appropriate in the contract	Factors indicating LLW may not be appropriate
Mixed economy of contractors already paying LLW	No existing contractors paying LLW
Positive feedback from likely contractors on paying LLW	Clear indication that contractors are likely to withdraw from competition if LLW sought to such an extent that competition is distorted
Quality enhancements in service foreseeable and likely	No likely change in service quality
Specification enhancements can be built into contract	No opportunity to change service specification
Public facing service / involvement in customer care	Back office service
Southwark council led procurement	Use of framework or other contract arrangements

Where can I find out more information about the London Living Wage?

[A Fairer London: The 2012 Living Wage in London | Greater London Authority](#) – this explains how the LLW is calculated, the organisations which support it, case studies and background information.

I am procuring a large contract which bundles together different services. Some of them will be based within Southwark but others are not. Should I require LLW for all, none or part only of this contract?

It is unlikely that LLW will be applicable to discrete services which are located away from Southwark – however, there may be instances where the provision of those services is so inter-connected with “in-borough” services that a different view could be reached with legal advice. It is possible to draft your contract so that LLW is required only for the provision of specified services. Example clauses are available from [Corporate Services: Contracts](#) in Legal Services.

Which contractor or sub-contractor employees will this apply to? Some of the sub-contractors are likely to provide only very sporadic or one off services within council premises or Greater London. How do I address this in my main contract?

The accreditation licence which the council has entered into with the Living Wage Foundation sets out the criteria which must be applied to work out whether London Living Wage is to be paid to an employee or not. These requirements have been reflected in some standard contract clauses which are attached to this note. These clauses must not be amended without discussion with the Contracts team in Legal Services.

Further Information

Please contact [Corporate Services: Contracts](#) in Legal Services.

SAMPLE CONTRACT CLAUSES

1. London Living Wage

1.1. Definitions

For the purposes of this Clause:

“Relevant Staff”	shall mean all employees and other staff (including without limitation temporary and casual workers and agency staff as defined by Regulation 3 of the Agency Workers Regulations 2010 as amended by the Agency Workers (Amendment) Regulations 2011, and whether such staff are engaged or employed on a full or part time basis, but not including unpaid volunteers, interns or apprentices), who are employed or engaged on the [Works or Services] for 2 or more hours of work in any given day in a week, for 8 or more consecutive weeks in a year.
“Equivalent Hourly Wage”	shall mean the hourly wage paid to an employee and calculated using the same method as prescribed by the National Minimum Wage Act 1998 and related applicable law to assess whether an employee is at any time receiving the national minimum wage (as identified in that Act),
“the London Living Wage”	shall mean the most recently identified London Living Wage hourly figure (or equivalent set figure(s)) published from time to time by the Greater London Authority or any successor body with responsibility for setting this figure,

1.2. Contractors obligations

The Contractor will:

- ensure that all Relevant Staff employed or engaged by the Contractor are paid an Equivalent Hourly Wage which is equal to or exceeds the London Living Wage;
- ensure that all Relevant Staff employed or engaged by its subcontractors (if any) pay an Equivalent Hourly Wage which is equal to or exceeds the London Living Wage;
- provide to the Employer such information concerning the London Living Wage and the performance of its obligations under this Clause [] as the Employer may reasonably require and within the deadlines it reasonably imposes;
- co-operate and provide all reasonable assistance to the Employer in monitoring the effects of the London Living Wage including without limitation assisting us in conducting surveys and assembling data in respect of the affect of payment of London Living Wage to Relevant Staff.

1.3. Default

- 1.3.1. For the avoidance of doubt, any breach by the Contractor of this Clause [] may be a material breach in relation to which the Employer is entitled to rely on its termination rights under the Contract.

Example Gateway Report wording

Gateway 1 - Social Considerations

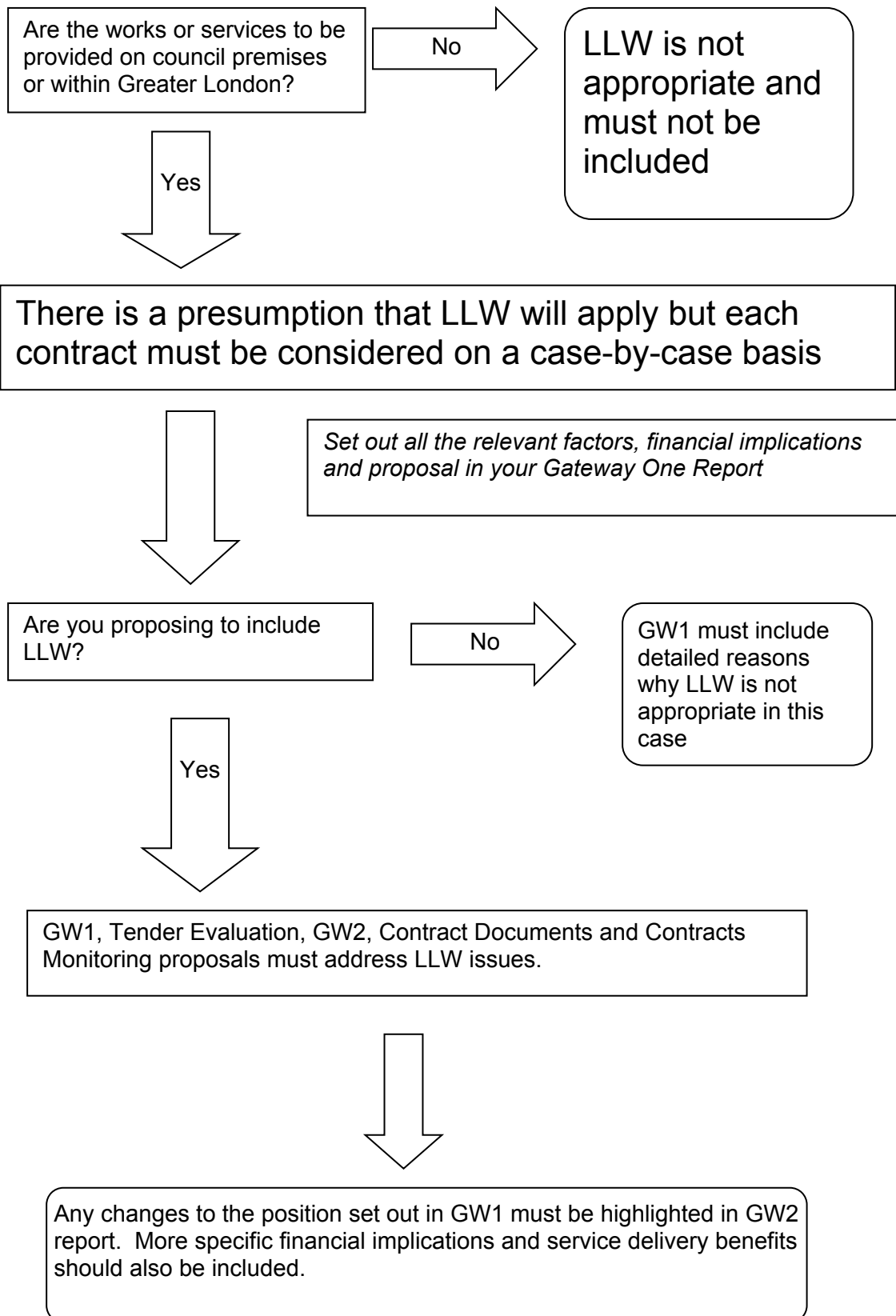
Example1

The council is an officially accredited London Living Wage (LLW) Employer and is committed to ensuring that, where appropriate, contractors and subcontractors engaged by the council to provide works or services within Southwark pay their staff at a minimum rate equivalent to the LLW rate. It is expected that payment of the LLW by the successful contractor for this contract will result in quality improvements for the council. These should include *[examples: a higher calibre of multi-skilled operatives that will contribute to the [delivery of works on site/provision of the services within Southwark] OR more experienced staff OR continuity of service provision resulting from reduced turnover of staff]* and will provide best value for the council. It is therefore considered appropriate for the payment of LLW to be required. The successful contractor will be expected to meet LLW requirements and contract conditions requiring the payment of LLW will be included in the tender documents. As part of the tender process, bidders will also be required to confirm how productivity will be improved by payment of LLW. Following award, these quality improvements and any cost implications will be monitored as part of the contract review process.

Gateway 2 - Social Considerations

The council is an officially accredited London Living Wage (LLW) Employer and is committed to ensuring that, where appropriate, our contractors and subcontractors pay staff at a minimum rate equivalent to the LLW rate. The Gateway 1 report dated [] confirmed, for the reasons stated in that report, payment of LLW was an appropriate and best value requirement for this contract. *[insert name of successful contractor]* has confirmed that they *[already/will] [meet/exceed]* the LLW requirements. Following award, quality improvements and costs implications linked to the payment of LLW will be monitored as part of the contract review process.

FLOW CHART FOR INCLUSION OF LONDON LIVING WAGE



A Year in Review

A summary of the activity of the Southwark scrutiny committees

For more information on anything in this report please contact:

Overview & Scrutiny: Councillor Gavin Edwards or Shelley Burke

Education & Children's Scrutiny: Councillor Jasmine Ali or Julie Timbrell

Healthy Communities Scrutiny: Councillor Rebecca Lury or Julie Timbrell

Housing & Community Safety Scrutiny: Councillor Tom Flynn or Fitzroy Williams

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: A year in review

Councillor Gavin Edwards, Chair Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Over the past 12 months we have worked hard to ensure scrutiny continues to be challenging and constructive. The output from the committee shows we are continuing to achieve that objective.

Right to Buy for Housing Associations

Our report into the impact of right to buy for housing association tenants and forced sale of “high value” council homes shows how scrutiny can tackle an issue of huge importance to the council and be of real practical use to the council.

Working together, we conducted interviews with officers, chief executives of major housing associations, Lord Kerslake (former head of the Civil Service and current Chair of the Peabody Trust). These interviews provided a sound footing for the evidence gathering we needed to do. We also reviewed a series of external reports on the impact of extending right to buy and forced void sales, submitted a number of written requests for statistical and other information from Southwark Officers and interviewed, at the Committee, the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Strategic Director, Housing Services and Community Services.

With this information we were able to put together a comprehensive report and make recommendations which help Southwark to prepare for this wrong-headed policy.

Southwark’s retail and CVS estate

We also carried out important scrutiny of our retail and CVS estate, securing resources to carry out an audit of our rental agreements. We discovered that some rents were not being accurately charge and revealed how historic inherited arrangements are causing serious issues in implementing a fair system which complies with current council policy. As a result of our work issues which had previously been unclear can now be addressed.

Call-ins

In addition OSC called in several decisions, including the decision to award a council contract to a company, weeks after Southwark Council Assembly passed a motion stopping trade union blacklists from getting our contractors. The decision is being reviewed as a result.

The Budget

The committee has also handled sessions on a range of sensitive and difficult issues including cemeteries, regeneration and the budget. In particular, our day long budget scrutiny sessions were challenging and robust, making sure that all possibilities had been investigated to get maximum value for the money we spend.

Cabinet members engaged with the process in a positive and constructive manner, again responding well to a series of detailed recommendations.

Underpayment of the national minimum wage

Finally, we also looked into the issues of underpayment of national minimum wage and the implementation of our Living Wage policy, this is work which will hopefully be continued in the coming year.

Cabinet member interviews

We also carried out numerous Cabinet Member interviews during the course of the year, holding the Cabinet to account and finding out more about the detail of their work.

All OSC meetings were live streamed and recorded as a public record, an innovation which has saved resources by removing the need to keep detailed minutes and opened up the scrutiny process to people who might not be able to come along to meetings.

All Overview & Scrutiny meetings are streamed online and can be viewed here:

<https://bambuser.com/channel/southwarkscrutiny>

For more information about anything in this report, please contact [Councillor Gavin Edwards](#) or [Shelley Burke](#)

Education & Children's Services Committee: A year in review

Councillor Jasmine Ali, Chair Education & Children's Services Committee

Female Genital Mutilation

The Committee has acted to challenge the high incidence of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Southwark, which has the highest rate of FGM in the country: evidence told us that 10.4% of children in Southwark will have a mother who has been genitally mutilated. We held a 'scrutiny in a day' session and heard from community and voluntary groups, and then followed this up with a workshop from Coventry University on an EU-wide community based behaviour change action research programme. We brought together leading experts like Dr Comfort Momoh from Guys and St Thomas's, and specialists from health, the police and community groups.

The LGA peer review commended our approach in their report: "innovative approaches to scrutiny can be seen, including the hosting of community events when considering the issue of female genital mutilation (FGM), and bringing in partner organisations, from the likes of health and education, to aid joined-up thinking." [Female Genital Scrutiny Review 2015/16](#) went to OSC in April 2016, and will be going to Cabinet in May 2016.

Autism Strategy

In Southwark a mapping exercise revealed that out of 1500 assessments of local children 70% are autistic. We were concerned to develop a strategy. Cllr Kath Whittam led this work for the committee. She and Cllr Ali met with Jay Stickland, Director of Adult Social Care and Peta Smith, Commissioning Manager. The strategy was released in November 2015 and through careful scrutiny, we made sure the strategy set out aspirations for autism to be more readily recognised, so that staff are confident when dealing with children and young people with autism, and that mapping will help identify children with autism so money and support can be targeted where it is needed. A [recording](#) is available of this session.

The closure of Kids Company

On 5 August 2015, Kids Company ceased operating and announced that it would begin the process of placing itself into compulsory liquidation. The Education and Children's Services committee was concerned about the many thousands of children that had worked with the organisation and were supported in Southwark. We were the first local authority to scrutinise the impact of the closure on the local community. We spoke separately to young people about the transition of children and young people from Kids Company to alternative services in Southwark.

Following its closure 1,699 cases had been passed to London, of whom 299 clients were from, or had a connection with, Southwark. The committee was satisfied that Southwark's strategic director had done an excellent job in helping Southwark residents in their transition from Kids Company to the Council support through the exemplary efforts of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in responding to the closure of Kids Company. Young people raised issues with the committee about children and young people who may fall through the net: these cases were examined the next day by the strategic director. [Kids Company Scrutiny 2015](#)

Mental Health Assessment

The committee carried out a joint review with The Healthy Communities Committee of the Council's Joint Mental Health Strategy, and focused on the mental health needs of children and young people in the borough. Our scrutiny session with relevant and dedicated professionals was able to draw on the work that we carried out with in 2014/15, published in the [Narrowing the Gap in Attainment Report](#) and in our [Adoption Review](#). The scrutiny observations and recommendations are attached. It is heartening to see that the recent [Education Committee Inquiry](#) has mirrored some of the committee's recommendations in particular a whole school approach to working with pupils with poor mental health. A [Joint Approach to Mental Health](#) went to OSC in April 2016, and goes to Cabinet in May 2016.

Youth services

The scrutiny team had been approached by young people who were concerned about 'cuts to youth services' in the 2015/26 budget, and we held a session with the young people. We captured every question and issue raised by the young people in this session. We fed this back to the Cabinet the very next day in the form of an issue log. The Lead member came back with a response and further meetings with the young people. The results were positive and the young people wrote to thank the committee and lead member for its fast response. The session was lively and can be seen on our webpage.

All Overview & Scrutiny meetings are streamed online and can be viewed here:

<https://bambuser.com/channel/southwarkscrutiny>

For more information about anything in this report, please contact [Councillor Jasmine Ali](#) or [Shelley Burke](#)

Healthy Communities Committee: A year in review

Councillor Rebecca Lury, Chair Healthy Communities Committee

Personalisation

We started our year finalising our evidence gathering around personalisation. [Making Southwark Personal](#) called on the Council to improve the service standards and timescales faced by our residents in applying for personal budgets, with a focus on giving our residents a truly person-centred approach to personal budgets.

Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

The Clinical Commissioning Group asked Southwark to join with five other boroughs in South East London to form a joint health scrutiny committee. Cllr Rebecca Lury was elected as the Chair of the Committee, which is looking at the [5 year plan for health services across South East London](#). Our first meeting set out the Terms of Reference and our priority areas of interest, which will be explored in more detail over the coming months.

SLaM Place of Safety

South London & Maudsley have proposed changes to the way in which the Places of Safety for those presenting in mental health crises operate across Lewisham, Lambeth, Southwark and Greenwich. Again Southwark took the lead chairing this meeting, where we closely scrutinised SLaM's proposals, hearing from representatives from each Council, local health service organisations and police forces about the impact of these changes.

The Committee agreed that SLaM should act on the initial recommendations and come back to the Committee before any further action should be taken.

Care Homes

With the announcement of the imminent closure of Camberwell Green Care Home by HC One, our inquiry into care in Southwark became our next priority, focusing on care homes, home care, care in the community and the Ethical Care Charter.

The Committee summoned the care home providers in Southwark to our first meeting, which gave us the opportunity to closely [scrutinise HC One](#), probing them about their plans for relocating current residents, and improving their other care homes in Southwark. The Committee also hosted its first roundtable of the year, inviting community groups, care workers, unions and charities to talk to us about what they wanted to see from a care system. Ideas were wide-ranging and the free flowing discussion left us with a huge number of recommendations to consider.

[Time to Care](#) makes recommendations around a second Ethical Care Charter, the consideration for the Council to open its own Care Homes and better signposting for families and individuals as to the services that Southwark and Southwark businesses provide.

Mental Health

The Healthy Communities Committee's conducted its second major review in conjunction with the Education & Children's Services Committee, looking at the Council's Joint Mental Health Strategy.

The Health Communities Committee focused on the overall strategy, looking at the role of the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in delivering this strategy. Having interviewed the Cabinet Member, and relevant officers from both the Council and CCG, we invited [community organisations, charities, hospitals, South London & Maudsley and community groups](#) to share their thoughts on what needs to be included in the strategy. This roundtable produced a wealth of ideas which we distilled down into recommendations around timeliness of identification, support for the voluntary sector and education & training.

[A Joint Approach to Mental Health](#) also went to OSC in April 2016, and will be going to Cabinet in May 2016.

Housing & Community Safety Scrutiny Sub Committee: A year in review

Councillor Tom Flynn, Chair of Housing & Community Safety Committee

Call Centre opening times

We started the year with an investigation into the changes to call centre opening times, hearing from officers and representatives of Tenant Council, and making suggestions on how to improve consultation in future and on improving communication of changes to residents to ensure that they are aware of changes and understand the reasons for them.

Borough Commander interview

The borough police commander took questions from the committee on a range of topics from crime figures to noise nuisance.

We interviewed cabinet members for Housing (Richard Livingstone) and Communities and Safety (Michael Situ) on a range of issues relating to their portfolios.

All interviews were briefed in advance to local media and questions taken from residents on Twitter who were watching the live stream.

Resident services-led pilot

In March we were briefed on the resident-led services pilot. The committee has asked to be kept updated throughout this exciting pilot, which will see residents having more say over their housing repairs service to fit local needs.

Housing Association Right to Buy

We collected evidence for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's report into Housing Association Right to Buy, and members of our committee wrote sections of the report on the impact of the legislation on housing associations and the impact on house building.

The committee interviewed representatives of the Leathermarket JMB tenant management organisation on their repairs service, and the advantages (localised service, improved accountability) and disadvantages (purchasing power compared to a large contract, economies of scale) of a smaller repairs contract. The committee found that the JMB service allowed residents to feel more able to resolve problems with repairs, as they had access to a local office and the officers involved in their repairs would remain fairly constant. The committee has used its findings to feed into the current resident led services pilots in Camberwell and Peckham.

Empty homes in Southwark

In January, we started a major scrutiny investigation – a 'state of Southwark' report into empty homes in the borough. So far we have taken evidence with regards to council homes and the private sector, including securing an interview with LendLease to discuss the work they are doing to prevent empty homes in their developments at Elephant Park. We will take further evidence in the new council year from housing associations, other councils, the London Assembly and representatives of the new mayor.

Fire Commander interview

The committee undertook a number of high-profile interviews including Southwark's first interview with a borough fire commander for many years. We asked the fire commander about plans to remove an appliance from Old Kent Road, and we heard about the differences in response times for second engines depending on where you are in the borough (i.e. some places bring the average up, some drag it down).

The future

In the new council year we are hoping to conclude our work on empty homes and investigate the circumstances which led to the council being fined millions of pounds for overcharging residents for their water.

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OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016/17****AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)****NOTE:** Original held by Scrutiny Team; all amendments/queries to Shelley Burke Tel: 020 7525 7344

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