

Council Assembly Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting) held on Tuesday 28 January 2020 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

The Deputy Mayor for 2019-20, Councillor Barrie Hargrove

Councillor Evelyn Akoto	Councillor Alice Macdonald
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Humaira Ali	Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Jasmine Ali	Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Peter Babudu	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Maggie Browning	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Jack Buck	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Radha Burgess	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Victor Chamberlain	Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor James Coldwell	Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Stephanie Cryan	Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE	Councillor Victoria Olisa
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Karl Eastham	Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Tom Flynn	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor Jon Hartley	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor William Hougbo	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Peter John OBE	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Eleanor Kerlake	Councillor Leanne Werner
Councillor Sarah King	Councillor Dan Whitehead
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE	Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Richard Leeming	Councillor Bill Williams
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall	Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Richard Livingstone	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Rebecca Lury	

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

As Madam Mayor Councillor Sandra Rhule was unwell, Deputy Mayor Councillor Barrie Hargrove was in the chair.

The Deputy Mayor expressed his condolences on the passing of Gerry Bowden, ex-MP for Dulwich.

Councillor Ian Wingfield spoke on Mr Bowden's life.

The Deputy Mayor expressed his condolences on the passing of Les Alden MBE, a past Councillor for Southwark and a Freeman of the Borough.

Councillors Peter John and Anood Al-Samerai spoke on Mr Alden's life.

The Deputy Mayor offered his congratulations to Councillors Sarah King and Jon Hartley on their civil partnership; one of the first different sex civil partnerships in the country, and thanked Southwark Registrars for officiating.

Councillor Jasmine Ali, cabinet member for children, schools and adult care, announced Southwark Council's commitment to children's and adolescents' mental health with the Open Access programme.

Councillor Johnson Situ, cabinet member for growth, development and planning, announced an additional fund for support for the traders from Elephant and Castle shopping centre during its redevelopment.

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

At this juncture the meeting agreed the programme motion.

RESOLVED:

The timings for the evening will be as follows:

Time	Business
19:00 - 19:10	1. Preliminary business and announcements
19:10 - 20:10 (20 minutes)	Themed debate 3.1 Community Evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marc Mora, Robes Project• Simone Strachan, Shelter UK• Rhiannon Hughes, Southwark Group of Tenant Organisations

(7 minutes)	3.2 Motion on the Theme 1. Councillors Leo Pollak, Cabinet Member for Social Regeneration, Great Estates and New Council Homes, and Kieron Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Modernisation 2. Councillor Hamish McCallum, opposition spokesperson, to speak on the motion and move Amendment A 3. Themed debate open to all other councillors 4. Cabinet member's right of reply to the debate
(5 minutes)	
(25 minutes)	
(3 minutes)	
20:10 - 20:40	4. Deputation requests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elephant and Castle Traders • Southwark Borough of Sanctuary
20:40 – 21:15 (5 minutes) (15 minutes) (15 minutes)	5.1 Members' Question Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late questions • Members' questions to the leader • Members' questions to the cabinet
21:15 - 22:00	5.2 Motions Motion 1 – Making Southwark a Borough of Sanctuary Motion 2 – EU Citizens Motion 5 – High-stakes testing in primary schools Motion 4 – Safe meeting spaces Motion 3 – A fully funded, proper pay rise for council and school workers Motion 6 – Showing photographic ID in order to vote Motion 7 – Power for people: supporting the Local Electricity Bill
22:00*	6. Reports 6.1 Empowering Communities Programme – Devolved Budget Decisions and Communications Protocols

* subject to the guillotine rule; maximum 15 minutes debate per item.

Note: Any time left remaining on any item will be rolled into the next items.

That the meeting be conducted as follows:

Item 3 - Themed debate

Community Evidence Submissions

To receive submissions from the groups listed in the themed section of the agenda:

- Marc Mora, Robes Project
- Simone Strachan, Shelter UK
- Rhiannon Hughes, Southwark Group of Tenant Organisations

Format

A five minute presentation from the group, followed by a question from the group to the relevant cabinet member.

Themed debate

To run as listed in the timings above.

Item 4 - Deputations

Meeting to agree to hear deputations from:

- Elephant and Castle Traders
- Southwark Borough of Sanctuary

Item 5.2 General motions:

Each motion to have a single debate, subject to the guillotine.

That the motions be heard in the order listed in the programme motion above.

That the seconder for Motion 1 be Councillor Michael Situ instead of Councillor Sirajul Islam.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor David Noakes declared a pecuniary interest in Motion 3 – A fully funded, proper pay rise for council and school workers, as he is a council worker.

Councillor Victoria Olisa declared a pecuniary interest in Motion 3 – A fully funded, proper pay rise for council and school workers, as she is a council worker.

Councillor Gavin Edwards declared a pecuniary interest in Motion 3 – A fully funded, proper pay rise for council and school workers, as he works for Unison.

Councillor Vicky Mills declared a pecuniary interest in Motion 3 – A fully funded, proper pay rise for council and school workers, as her husband works for Unison.

All the above members left the room during this item.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Helen Dennis, on maternity leave, Paul Fleming, Sirajul Islam, Nick Johnson, Sunny Lambe and Sandra Rhule.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Gavin Edwards and Andy Simmons.

1.5 MINUTES

The minutes of the council assembly meeting held on 17 July 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

2.1 PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

3. THEMED DEBATE

3.1 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

The meeting received submissions from the following:

Marc Mora, Robes Project

He spoke to the meeting for five minutes.

Nic Brown, Shelter UK

He spoke to the meeting for five minutes.

Southwark Group of Tenant Organisations

They spoke to the meeting for five minutes. They had a question for the relevant cabinet member. Councillor Kieron Williams, cabinet member for housing management and modernisation and Councillor Jasmine Ali, cabinet member for children, schools and adult care responded to the community evidence.

3.2 MOTION ON THE THEME: HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING NEEDS

The cabinet member for social regeneration, great estates and new council homes, Councillor Leo Pollak, and the cabinet member for housing management and modernisation, Councillor Kieron Williams, presented the motion on the themed debate.

Councillor Hamish McCallum, the majority opposition group spokesperson, responded to the cabinet member's motion and proposed Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Stephanie Cryan, Anood Al-Samerai, Margy Newens, Maria Linforth-Hall, Peter Babudu, William Hougbo, Bill Williams, Jane Salmon and Jack Buck), the cabinet member for housing management and modernisation, Councillor Kieron Williams, responded to the debate.

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

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

RESOLVED:

1. Council assembly notes that our country, city and borough are facing a housing crisis:
 - a. Nationally over 280,000 people are homeless, with rough sleeping up 165% in the last decade.
 - b. London has been hit hardest, with over 170,000 people homeless including over 8,800 who are sleeping rough.
 - c. In Southwark 1 in 47 people are homeless, with 11,000 people on our waiting list for a council home.
 - d. Our broken housing market means the private sector is now unaffordable to an increasing number of Southwark residents, with the average rent for a two bedroom flat now being £24,000 a year to rent and the average asking price for a home being over £900,000.
 - e. Southwark's housing crisis means far too many people in our borough are facing either overcrowding, homelessness, housing insecurity, poverty, health issues and wealth inequalities because of their housing situation.

2. Council assembly further notes that this housing crisis has been exacerbated by successive Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition governments, including by:
 - a. Undermining action to deliver more council homes by cutting the affordable housing grant, hiking up the cost of borrowing for councils making it more expensive to build new council homes and increasing the Right to Buy discount so that over 1300 council homes have been lost through Right to Buy in Southwark since 2012.
 - b. Slashing and then freezing the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) and imposing the Bedroom Tax, benefit cap and a five week wait for Universal Credit, leaving a growing number of households with no way of paying all or part of their rent.
 - c. Enforcing a hostile environment that has left a growing number of people with no access to public funds including no access to most homelessness and rough sleepers' support.

3. Council assembly notes that the previous Liberal Democrat-led administration in Southwark contributed to the scale of the housing crisis, by:
 - a. Abolishing Southwark's housing department, and leaving a £600m hole in the

- finances.
- b. Failing to maintain standards in Southwark's housing stock, meaning that when Labour took over the council, only around half of council homes met the decent homes standard.
 - c. Putting off decisions on the investment needed in Southwark's estates when the funding environment was much better.
 - d. Never committing to building a single council home since.
4. Council assembly notes the radical action Southwark Labour is already taking to address the housing crisis locally, by:
- a. Delivering the most ambitious council house-building programme in the country, building 11,000 new council homes by 2043 or earlier, with a pipeline already established across over 150 sites delivering over 5000 council homes across the borough.
 - b. Resetting the policy framework for the future of our council estates through the Great Estates programme to Expand and Enrich our estates, with any redevelopment requiring a net increase in council homes, keeping communities together, and estate improvement plans that provide an uplift in everyone's living environment.
 - c. Tackling rough sleeping, with the number of people sleeping rough in Southwark now believed to be under 30, a reduction from 47 in 2018.
 - d. Investing in award winning homelessness prevention services, with the highest rate of homelessness prevention in London and the second highest rate in England, and ending the use of 'Bed and Breakfast' accommodation for families in temporary accommodation.
 - e. Taking extensive action to tackle empty properties, including contacting every private owner of an empty home in Southwark to offer them help and grants to rent out their home, supporting 500 landlords do so since 2011, as well as charging 200% council tax on empty homes.
 - f. Leading the debate nationally to reform our broken housing economy, with campaigns to raise the LHA rate, boost affordable housing investment, suspend or mitigate the impact of Right to Buy and reform the land compensation code.
5. Council assembly calls on cabinet to:
- a. Use every tool and lever available to meet the entire housing need of the borough, including building new land capacity and resource partnerships that increase the supply of genuinely affordable homes, especially social rent council homes.
 - b. Develop a refreshed housing strategy that sets out how the council and housing providers can work together to deliver genuinely secure, high quality, affordable and sustainable homes for all Southwark residents.
 - c. To build on the council's success in Ending the use of 'Bed and Breakfast' accommodation for families in temporary accommodation and to now go further and end the use of nightly paid for every but very short term emergency use.
 - d. Work with the Labour Mayor of London to:
 - i. Secure more investment in the genuinely affordable homes Londoners need, with the first priority being council homes, including building the

- case for funding that matches construction costs, and
- ii. Promote the London Model of Tenure reform in the private rented sector, including creating open-ended tenancies, scrapping break clauses, and removing section 21 'no fault' evictions, and to build the case for fair limitation on rent rises.
- e. Lobby the Government to raise the Local Housing Allowance so it pays that actual cost of rent a home in our borough, scrap the bedroom tax, and create a social security system that guarantees on-time payments and an end to poverty.
- f. Continue to work with Shelter, Helen Hayes MP and other land reform activists on our Affordable Land for Affordable Housing campaign, to reform the land compensation code to better meet the housing needs of Southwark residents.
- g. Continue to lobby for the suspension of the Right to Buy, or otherwise for 'half-way' powers that mitigate its impact, including covenants requirement leaseholders to sub-let at social rents, and one in/out caps on Right to Buy applications based on social homes completed.

4. DEPUTATIONS

As part of the programme motion the meeting agreed to hear deputations from:

Elephant and Castle Traders

The group's representative spoke to the meeting for five minutes and thereafter asked a question of Councillor Johnson Situ, the cabinet member for growth, development and planning

Councillors Darren Merrill and Maria Linforth-Hall asked questions of the deputation.

Southwark Borough of Sanctuary

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for five minutes and thereafter asked a question of Councillor Rebecca Lury, the deputy leader and cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities.

Councillor Humaira Ali asked a question of the deputation.

5. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

5.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

There was one late question to the leader from Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, the written response to which was circulated at the meeting. There were two supplemental questions.

There were 29 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated at the meeting. There were 13 supplemental questions.

5.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

MOTION 1 – MAKING SOUTHWARK A BOROUGH OF SANCTUARY

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, seconded by Councillor Michael Situ, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillors David Noakes, Maggie Browning, Evelyn Akoto, Humaira Ali and Vicky Mills), the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

RESOLVED:

1. Council assembly notes:
 - a. The Conservative government's "Hostile Environment" policies which have deliberately made it harder for refugees, asylum seekers, and those who cannot prove their right to remain in the UK.
 - b. The "Solidarity with the Windrush Generation" passed by council assembly in November 2018, which condemned the government's "Hostile Environment" policies.
 - c. That the council currently supports over 280 vulnerable households who have No Recourse to Public Funds due to their immigration status.
 - d. That the council receives no funding from government to support these households.
 - e. That four families have been resettled in the borough through the council's refugee resettlement programme, and that one family has been resettled by the Peckham Sponsors Refugees Community Sponsorship Scheme.
 - f. That aside from a Home Office owned hostel which accommodates some asylum seekers for "initial assessment", the Government does not place many asylum seekers in Southwark, as is consistent with their policy of "dispersal" of asylum seekers to areas of the UK which has cheaper accommodation.
 - g. The work that Southwark Council has already been doing to highlight to the government the impact of underfunding immigration system, meaning applications are subject to long delays, the impact of being excluded from fully participating in society for people granted leave to remain in the UK but who have No Recourse to Public Funds and the impact of the unjustifiably high and unreasonable fees for immigration applications.
2. Council assembly believes:
 - a. That Southwark should be a place that welcomes those from around the world.
 - b. That Southwark values the enormous contributions that refugees and migrants have made, and continue to make to Southwark.
 - c. That declaring Southwark to be a "Borough of Sanctuary" would reaffirm Southwark's commitment to Southwark's refugee and migrant communities.

3. Council assembly resolves to call on cabinet to:

- a. Declare Southwark to be a “Borough of Sanctuary”
- b. Work with community groups to harness public support to help and support refugee, migrant and asylum seekers in Southwark.
- c. Continue to celebrate the contribution of refugee and migrant communities to Southwark.
- d. Continue to work with organisations in the borough who support refugees and asylum seekers in the borough.
- e. Challenge anti-refugee and anti-migrant attitudes wherever they are found.
- f. Lobby the government to reform No Recourse to Public Funds so that people are no longer blocked from fully participating in society for years while they wait for their status to be resolved.

MOTION 2 – EU CITIZENS

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, seconded by Councillor David Noakes, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillor Vicky Mills), the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

RESOLVED:

1. Council assembly notes that:
 - a. EU nationals from the other 27 EU member states are part of our shared communities alongside UK citizens. They are our husbands, wives, partners, parents, friends, neighbours and colleagues. They are an integral part of a vibrant and thriving Southwark community
 - b. Since 2016 EU nationals have been promised again and again that "there will be no change for EU citizens already lawfully resident in the UK and [...] will be treated no less favourably as they are at present".

2. Council assembly further notes that:
 - a. According to the Home Office's July statistics, only a third of EU nationals have applied for the Settled Status and 42% of them have been granted the inferior Pre-Settled status leading them to reapply for the Full Settled status later on.
 - b. There is no possibility of knowing how many EU nationals need to apply, leaving vulnerable and unaware EU nationals left at risk of becoming unlawful residents the mercy of the Home Office's "Hostile Environment".
 - c. Lack of clarity regarding differentiating between EU citizens arriving before and after the UK's exit from the EU could lead to discrimination in the labour market and may prevent many from accessing the services to which they are entitled.

3. Council assembly asserts that:
 - a. After three years of living in limbo, EU nationals' homes and livelihoods are in danger of being threatened by the further uncertainty brought about by the

- outcome of the General Election in December 2019.
- b. Another Windrush-like scandal could be unfolding right before the eyes of this Council and we must not be passive observers to it.
4. Council assembly therefore calls on cabinet to direct:
- a. Officers to report to cabinet within 3 months with action plans for how the council will mitigate adverse impacts on the rights of EU nationals post-Brexit (including but not limited to advising on what the council can do to help landlords and employers to be better informed about immigration status and therefore avoid potential discrimination against EU nationals)
 - b. The chief executive of the council to write to EU citizens resident in Southwark giving advice on how the council can help them with applying for Settled Status. This notice shall inform EU citizens of any potential consequences of not applying for the EU Settlement scheme. This includes asking EU citizens to contact the council for further support if they did not achieve Full Settled Status.
 - c. The leader of the council to write to the Home Secretary seeking clarification and suggesting improvements for the European Settlement scheme, which include:
 - i) Confirming that there will be no reduction in the rights of Settled Status EU citizens from what they currently have and committing to ratifying this as primary legislation before the exit day;
 - ii) Confirming what support is to be provided to EU Citizens who did not achieve Full Settled Status and over what timescales;
 - iii) Providing a means for EU Citizens to rapidly and without charge obtain physical proof of Settled Status that can be used to access services if required with the option to apply for full British citizenship waiving the fees involved;
 - iv) Providing EU citizens the right to full participation in civic life, including the ability to stand for office and vote in UK referendums, European elections from within the UK and UK general elections as well as local elections.
 - v) Replacing the current European Settlement scheme with a better free registration scheme without a deadline where EU citizens living in the UK for 5 years or more are considered lawful by default.

MOTION 3 – A FULLY FUNDED, PROPER PAY RISE FOR COUNCIL AND SCHOOL WORKERS

Councillors David Noakes, Victoria Olisa, Gavin Edwards and Vicky Mills, having declared a pecuniary interest in this motion, left the room and did not vote on this motion.

The guillotine having fallen, the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

RESOLVED:

1. Council assembly notes:
 - a. Government has endured central government funding cuts of nearly 50% since

- 2010.
- b. Between 2010 and 2020, councils will have lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government.
 - c. The 2019 LGA survey of council finances found that one in three councils fear they will run out of funding to provide even their statutory, legal duties by 2022/23. This number rises to almost two thirds of councils by 2024/25 or later.
 - d. The Local Government Association estimates councils will face a funding gap of £8 billion by 2025.
 - e. Faced with these cuts from central government, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing 22 per cent of their value since 2009/10.
 - f. At the same time as seeing their pay go down in real terms, workers experience ever increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, an estimated 876,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.
 - g. There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three quarters of the local government workforce.
2. Council assembly believes:
- a. Our workers are public service heroes. They keep our communities clean, care for those in need, and keep our towns and cities running.
 - b. Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.
 - c. Government funding has been cut to the extent that a proper pay rise could result in a reduction in local government services.
 - d. The government needs to take responsibility and fully fund increases in pay; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding been cut to the bone.
3. Council assembly resolves to call on cabinet to:
- a. Support the pay claim submitted by Unite, GMB and UNISON on behalf of council and school workers for a £10 per hour minimum wage and a 10% uplift across all other pay points in 2020/21 and for this to be fully funded by central government.
 - b. Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the National Joint Council (NJC) pay claim.
 - c. Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.
 - d. Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim.

MOTION 4 – SAFE MEETING SPACES

The guillotine having fallen, Amendment B was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

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

RESOLVED:

1. Council assembly notes that:
 - a. Police officers and community support officers often need to meet and speak to members of the public in Southwark to hear their concerns, gather information and build links with the community;
 - b. These meetings are informal, and are usually arranged at a time convenient to both the police and the member(s) of the public involved, and aim to provide a safe space where people can speak freely about their concerns.

2. Council assembly further notes that:
 - a. Local neighbourhood police teams currently use a variety of spaces to meet members of the public within their areas. These include businesses, libraries and community venues, and are advertised on social media and through local police panels. More confidential one to one meetings are also arranged at a range of suitable locations with the date and time agreed with the community members.
 - b. The council is currently working to ensure that the ways in which the police and the public interact is tailored to meet the needs of the community, and recognises the need for sensitivity, given that members of the public can be concerned about inviting the police into their homes, being seen to enter a police station, or being seen speaking to police officers near to where they live.

3. Council assembly therefore calls on cabinet to:
 - a. Direct officers to continue to work with the police and other partners to offer a range of spaces which local people and policing teams can use to meet to discuss a range of issues that concern them the most, recognising that these arrangements will need to be flexible and tailored to local areas and include faith establishments, youth centres, and tenants and residents' association halls.
 - b. Work with partners to establish more permanent community contact points for police to ensure a long term solution to the issue.
 - c. Work with the police and other partners to ensure that communication of these community contact points is robust.

MOTION 5 – HIGH STAKES TESTING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The guillotine having fallen, the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

RESOLVED:

1. Council assembly welcomes the commitment of the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats to abolish statutory assessment tests (SATs) and other high-stakes testing in primary schools.

2. Council assembly notes that:
 - a. Statutory testing in primary schools has increased since 2010 and is increasing further: by 2020, children will be tested in Reception (the Baseline Assessment), Year 1 (the Phonics Screening Check), Year 2 (SATs), Year 4 (the Multiplication Tables Check) and Year 6 (SATs).
 - b. The pressures of testing in primary schools have a detrimental effect on children's mental health.
 - c. Tests are focussed on the requirements of school accountability rather than on support for children's learning.
 - d. Educational research has demonstrated repeatedly that teaching to the test narrows the curriculum and the educational experience of children, focussing on labelling not learning.
 - e. The pressures of statutory assessment contribute to the crisis of teacher morale, workload, recruitment and retention.
3. Council assembly believes:
 - a. That campaigning, by those who work in primary schools, parents, guardians and academics, to end the current high-stakes system of primary assessment should be welcomed, in particular the More Than A Score campaign.
4. Council assembly resolves to call on cabinet to:
 - a. To express its support for campaigns against the current system of primary assessment, including those organised by teacher unions and More Than A Score.
 - b. To call a meeting of trade unions, parents, guardians and school governors to discuss the council's position on these matters and to coordinate a response.
 - c. To lobby the Secretary of State for Education to listen to the growing number of voices who are calling for the abolition of high-stakes testing in primary schools.
 - d. To offer support to schools within the area which adopt an alternative approach to assessment (for example by taking the More Than A Score pledge).

MOTION 6 – SHOWING PHOTOGRAPHIC ID IN ORDER TO VOTE

The guillotine having fallen, the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

RESOLVED:

1. Council assembly notes that:
 - a. In the December 2019 Queen's Speech the government committed to require voters in elections in England to show photographic ID in order to be able to vote;
 - b. This is being proposed to prevent people pretending to be someone else in order to vote fraudulently in an election, an offence known as "personation".
2. Council assembly also notes that:
 - a. Personation is extremely rare in the UK: of the 44.4 million votes cast in 2017,

- only 28 allegations of personation were made, of which only one resulted in a conviction. This is equal to 0.000063% of votes¹;
- b. Prior to the 2018 pilots, a major coalition of over 40 leading civil society groups, charities and academics joined together to oppose mandatory ID plans – including Electoral Reform Society, Age UK, Stonewall, Liberty, The Salvation Army, Migrants’ Rights Network, the British Youth Council and the Race Equality Foundation²;
 - c. Compulsory voter ID was piloted across a range of boroughs in local elections on 2018 and 2019. Across all ten trial areas in 2019, 1,968 people were turned away for not having the correct ID. Of those people, 740 did not return to vote;
 - d. This means that around four times as many people were blocked from voting in the 2019 than there have been allegations of personation between 2010 and 2017 in the UK³.
 - e. These proposals run the risk of disenfranchising millions of people without photo ID, who are already more likely to come from groups who are marginalised within our society. Research into the impact of compulsory voter ID laws in the United States suggests that they can disproportionately prevent older people, and those from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, from voting⁴;
 - f. Research by the Cabinet Office following the 2018 voter ID pilots showed that implementing mandatory voter ID across Great Britain could cost up to £20m per general election⁵.
 - g. Research by the Electoral Commission published in September 2019 found that 17% of potential voters (up to 9.4 million people) are not correctly registered to vote at their current address⁶.
3. Council assembly asserts:
- a. The policy of requiring voters in elections in England to show photographic ID in order to be able to vote presents a significant risk to democratic access and equality, and risks undermining the principles of fair and equal participation that have been at the heart of British democracy since the adoption of universal, equal suffrage in 1928;
 - b. Public funds would be better spent on ensuring that people are correctly registered to vote rather than on preventing legitimate voters from exercising their democratic right;
 - c. Southwark Council will not be party to the mass disenfranchisement of voters proposed by this unfair and discriminatory policy.

¹ <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/latest-news-and-research/parliamentary-briefings/the-2019-voter-id-pilots/>

² <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/latest-news-and-research/media-centre/press-releases/unprecedented-coalition-of-charities-and-civil-society-demand-rethink-on-dangerous-voter-id-trials/>

³ https://fullfact.org/crime/voter-id-scheme/?utm_source=content_page&utm_medium=related_content

⁴ <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/what-we-know-about-voter-id-laws/>

⁵ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/733128/Electoral_Integrity_Project_-_Local_Elections_2018_-_Evaluation.pdf

⁶ <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/major-study-electoral-registers-great-britain-shows-changes-are-needed-help-millions-people-ensure>

4. Council assembly therefore calls upon cabinet to:
 - a. Write to ministers expressing in the strongest possible terms Southwark Council's concerns about this policy and its implications for voters in our borough;
 - b. Once the legal provisions for this policy have been enacted, direct officers to seek external expert legal advice on the avenues open to the council and its officers to mitigate the impact on Southwark residents;
 - c. To work with the Acting Returning Officer and his or her team, in the light of the expert legal advice, to implement the requirement to present photographic ID in order to vote in Southwark in as light-touch a manner as is legally permissible.

MOTION 7 – POWER FOR PEOPLE: SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ELECTRICITY BILL

The guillotine having fallen, the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

RESOLVED:

1. Council assembly acknowledges the efforts that this council has made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy.
2. Council assembly recognises:
 - a. That councils can play a central role in creating sustainable communities, particularly through the provision of locally generated renewable electricity;
 - b. That very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so;
 - c. That making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would create significant opportunities for councils to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations;
 - d. That revenues received by councils that became local renewable electricity providers could be used to help fund local greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures and to help improve local services and facilities.
3. Council assembly calls on cabinet:
 - a. To support the Local Electricity Bill, supported during the last parliament by a cross-party group of 115 MPs, and which, if made law, would make the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate by establishing a Right to Local Supply;
 - b. Inform the local media of this decision;
 - c. Write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill, and write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, expressing support.

6. OTHER REPORTS

6.1 EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME - DEVOLVED BUDGET DECISIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOLS

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly agreed the proposal of the creation of five area committees to take devolved budget decisions.
2. That council assembly noted that the area committees will follow the Multi-ward boundaries and the rule will only apply to one round of Multi-ward meetings a year.
3. That council assembly agreed the membership of the new area committees remain the same as the multi-wards' and the relevant Community Champions act as Chairs for their respective multi-ward areas.
4. That council assembly created the post of Deputy Community Champions for each of the multi-ward areas whose role will be to deputise in the absence of the Community Champions and act as Vice Chairs of the new area committees. The role will not attract a special responsibility allowance.
5. That council assembly agreed the proposed communications guidance for promoting ward and multi-ward forum meetings.
6. That council assembly noted that the proposed changes require changes to Article 8 and Part 3H of the Constitution and any other consequential constitutional changes.

7. AMENDMENTS

Amendments are set out in supplemental agenda no. 1.

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: