

# Council Assembly

## Mayor Making/Annual meeting

Wednesday 22 May 2024

6.00 pm

Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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

**Althea Loderick**

Chief Executive

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### INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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#### **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**

Virginia Wynn-Jones/Andrew Weir on 020 7525 7055 or 020 7525 7222 or email: [virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk); [andrew.weir@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.weir@southwark.gov.uk); [constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk)

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Date: 10 May 2024



# Council Assembly

## Mayor Making/Annual meeting

Wednesday 22 May 2024  
6.00 pm  
Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London SE1 9DA

### Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
1.	<b>ELECTION OF THE MAYOR</b>	
	<b>PART A - OPEN BUSINESS</b>	
2.	<b>PRELIMINARY BUSINESS</b>	
	<b>2.1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
	<b>2.2. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	
	To receive any announcements from the Mayor, members of the cabinet or the chief executive.	
	<b>2.3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT</b>	
	In special circumstances an item of business may be added to an agenda within seven working days of the meeting.	
	<b>2.4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</b>	
	Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
	<b>2.5. MINUTES</b>	1 - 27
	To approve as a correct record the open minutes of the ordinary and extraordinary council assembly meetings held on 20 March 2024.	

Item No.	Title	Page No.
3.	<b>REPORT(S) FOR DECISION FROM THE CABINET</b>	
3.1.	<b>EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS 2024-2025</b>	28 - 33
3.2.	<b>ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES, PANELS AND RELATED MATTERS 2024-2025</b>	34 - 47
3.3.	<b>NOMINATIONS TO LONDON COUNCILS COMMITTEES, GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM, BOROUGH LEAD MEMBERS, LONDON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS) COMMON INVESTMENT VEHICLE (CIV) LTD AND LONDON COUNCILS LIMITED 2024-25</b>	48 - 51
3.4.	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24</b>	

To follow

#### 4. 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: 10 May 2024



## Council Assembly (Ordinary meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary meeting) held on Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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### PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2023-24, Councillor Michael Situ (Chair)

Councillor Suzanne Abachor	Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Evelyn Akoto	Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Jasmine Ali	Councillor Richard Leeming
Councillor Naima Ali	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor John Batteson	Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Rachel Bentley	Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Cassandra Brown	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Maggie Browning	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Victor Chamberlain	Councillor Portia Mwangangye
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Stephanie Cryan	Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Ellie Cumbo	Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Helen Dennis	Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE	Councillor Bethan Roberts
Councillor Esme Dobson	Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Sabina Emmanuel	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Natasha Ennin	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Sam Foster	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Emily Tester
Councillor Ketzia Harper	Councillor Chloe Tomlinson
Councillor Jon Hartley	Councillor Joseph Vambe
Councillor Youcef Hassaine	Councillor Irina Von Wiese
Councillor Esme Hicks	Councillor David Watson
Councillor Emily Hickson	Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Adam Hood	Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Laura Johnson	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Nick Johnson	

## 1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

### 1.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sam Dalton, Maria Linforth-Hall, Kimberly McIntosh, Reggie Popoola and Sandra Rhule.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Evelyn Akoto.

Apologies for early departure were received from Councillors Gavin Edwards and Hamish McCallum.

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

The Mayor confirmed the meeting was not being livestreamed as the council was in the pre-election period for the GLA elections, which began on 18 March 2024.

### 1.3 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

At this point, the programme motion was agreed:

The order of business and timings for the evening will be as follows:

Time	Business
19:00 – 19:10	<b>1. Preliminary business and announcements</b>
19:10 – 19.20	<b>2.2 Public questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One public question</li> </ul>
19:20 – 20:20  (18 minutes – 5 minutes' speech)  (7 minutes) (5 minutes) (27 minutes) (3 minutes)	<b>Themed debate</b> <b>3.1 Community Evidence</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nicola Howard, Family Hub; Nicola Noble, Surrey Square Primary School</li> <li>Ade Odunlade, Miata Noah, Haajera Adil; South London Listens</li> <li>Nicole Gordon, Better Bankside</li> </ol> <b>3.2 Motion on the Theme</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor Kieron Williams, leader of the council</li> <li>Councillor Rachel Bentley, opposition spokesperson</li> <li>Themed debate open to all other councillors</li> <li>Cabinet member's right of reply to the debate</li> </ol>
20:20 – 20:25	<b>Recess</b>
20:25 – 20:50 (4 minutes' speech,	<b>4. Deputation requests</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marcia Road Residents</li> <li>Southwark Trades Union Council</li> </ol>

question to the cabinet; no questions from members)	3. Kirby Estate residents' group and London Play
<b>20:50 – 21:25</b> (5 minutes) (15 minutes) (15 minutes)	<b>5.1 Members' Question Time</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Late questions</li> <li>• Members' questions to the leader</li> <li>• Members' questions to the cabinet</li> </ul>
<b>21:25 – 22:00</b>	<b>5.2 Motions</b>
	Motion 1 – Back the Bakerloo line extension (Lab)
	Motion 2 – A fair deal for housing in Southwark (LD)
	Motion 3 – Southwark Council calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza (joint)
	Motion 4 – Protecting play spaces in Southwark (LD)
	Motion 5 – Improving inclusivity for people with dyslexia (LD)
<b>22:00*</b>	<b>6. Reports</b>
	6.1 Proposed Constitutional updates 2023-24: Council assembly procedure rules
	6.2 Review of Call-in Procedure
	6.3 Adjustment of member allowances in line with the national local government officer pay settlement and Member Allowances Scheme 2024-2025
	6.4 Council Assembly Dates and Calendar of Meetings 2024-2025
	6.5 Special Urgency and Urgent Implementation Decisions – Annual Report 2024

\* 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:

1. Nicola Howard, Family Hub and Nicola Noble, Surrey Square Primary School (joint)
2. Ade Odunlade, Miata Noah, Haajera Adil; South London Listens
3. Nicole Gordon, Better Bankside

(Five minutes to speak)

#### Format

A five minute presentation from the groups.

#### 3.1 Motion on the theme

**Themed debate**

To run as listed in the timings above.

**Item 4 – Deputations**

That the meeting agree to hear deputations from:

1. Marcia Road Residents
2. Southwark Trades Union Council
3. Kirby Estate residents' group and London Play

(Four minutes to speak; deputation question to relevant cabinet member, no questions from members)

**Item 5.2 General motions:**

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

**Item 7 Amendments:**

To amend the mover and seconder of **Amendment B** to be:

**Moved:** Councillor Jane Salmon

**Seconded:** Councillor Irina von Wiese

To amend the seconder of **Amendment G** to be:

**Seconded:** Cllr Jane Salmon

**1.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

The Monitoring Officer has given all members a dispensation to vote on Item 6.3: Member Allowances Scheme 2024-25.

Councillor Bethan Roberts declared an interest in Motion 2: A fair deal for housing in Southwark, and did not participate in the debate or voting on this item.

**1.5 MINUTES**

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of council assembly held on 21 February 2024 were approved as a correct record.

**2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC****2.1 PETITIONS**

There were no petitions.

**2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

There was one question from the public, the answer to which had been circulated before the meeting. The public questioner asked one supplemental question; the response was given by the cabinet member for communities, democracy and finance.

### **3. THEMED DEBATE**

#### **3.1 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE**

The meeting agreed to receive submissions from the following:

#### **Nicola Howard, Family Hub, and Nicola Noble, Surrey Square Primary School**

Nicola Noble gave her apologies to the meeting. The representative spoke to the meeting for five minutes.

#### **South London Listens**

The representatives spoke to the meeting for five minutes.

#### **Better Bankside**

The representatives spoke to the meeting for five minutes.

#### **3.2 MOTION ON THE THEME**

Councillor Kieron Williams, leader of the council, presented the motion in the themed debate.

Councillor Rachel Bentley, the opposition spokesperson, responded to the motion and proposed Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Barrie Hargrove, Jasmine Ali, David Watson, Richard Leeming, Suzanne Abachor, James McAsh, Ian Wingfield, Victoria Mills, and Catherine Rose) 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:**

#### **Notes**

Southwark is a truly remarkable place. Our borough's success builds on our rich



history. For centuries, Southwark has been a centre of diversity, creativity and innovation. We have much to be proud of, and every reason to have high ambitions for the decades ahead.

To continue to achieve those ambitions we must unite our community with common cause in delivering the future to which we aspire. That is why the council is working with the people and organisations of our borough to agree our shared Southwark 2030 plan. Thousands of Southwark residents and hundreds of Southwark organisations have already been involved in shaping this plan. This work is ensuring that we agree the right shared goals for the future of our borough.

Our greatest strength is the people of our borough, and the plan will therefore at its core be one that unlocks their potential. For centuries, people from across Britain and around the world have been drawn to Southwark to work, to study and make this borough their home. From the first Roman and Anglo Saxon settlers, to Flemish weavers in the fourteenth century, Dutch pottery makers in the sixteenth century and Irish labourers in the eighteenth century, to the Windrush generation from the Caribbean and Commonwealth, people from across Africa, South America, Europe and China, alongside many more people from around the world and across our country, generation after generation, have brought new ideas and cultures that have come together to make Southwark one of the most diverse and creative places in the world. Our Southwark 2030 plan will draw on all of the talent in our community to deliver the change our borough needs.

To achieve the true potential of Southwark we need to unite the people and organisations of our borough with common purpose in delivering the big changes that our community need. That is why our Southwark 2030 plan will be one jointly owned and agreed, not just by the council as the democratic leadership of the borough, but also by our wider community, public services, business, education and cultural sectors. A shared plan setting out our shared ambitions and commitment to deliver them, together with our brilliant schools and universities, our world leading hospitals, innovative businesses and vibrant voluntary, community, faith, arts and cultural sectors all playing their part.

We have many successes to build on. In the last 14 years, Southwark has achieved so much, in very hard times. Working with the community to deliver what Southwark residents want, despite huge funding pressures imposed on local public services, including the council, schools, and our NHS, from Liberal Democrat and Conservative governments.

To give just a few examples of our successes, over recent years we have:

- **Transformed our schools**, from being some of the worst in the country to being some of the best, with 98% now rated as Good or Outstanding. Our schools also have a nationally leading offer of free healthy school meals and mental health support.

- **Created thousands of good jobs**, and supported thousands of Southwark residents into them, with the number of jobs in our borough at a record high, our employment rate lifted from below the London and national average to above both, and more apprenticeships created than any other London borough.
- **Built more council and social rent homes than any other council**, with over 3,000 new council homes built or under construction and more social rent homes started than any other borough in the country since 2015.
- **Delivered new and better parks, libraries, leisure centres and theatres**, opening six new libraries since 2010, new leisure centres and parks opened and under construction at Elephant and Castle and Canada Water, millions of pounds invested in our existing parks including the complete transformation of Burgess Park, and seven new theatres opened across our borough.

The Southwark 2030 plan will build on these successes and the many others our community and Labour run council are already delivering together.

In an ever-changing national and global political environment, we must continue to raise our ambitions for our borough, making sure we are the driving force behind what happens to Southwark and the people that live, work and study here.

Last year the council embarked on Southwark 2030, to outline a shared vision for the borough, developed by people who live, work, and study in Southwark.

The development of the plan is being undertaken collaboratively with our borough community. Over 5,000 people have been involved a programme of engagement through our Social Life, Life After Covid and Southwark 2030 involvement processes.

The Southwark 2030 engagement plan has been co-designed with local community groups and public sector partners. The comprehensive approach has reached a full range of Southwark residents. Including in-depth conversations with people who live, work, study and visit the borough, held in local venues across the borough. Thirty listening events hosted by a wide range of local community and voluntary groups, organised to reach residents who are often less heard, including events hosted by women's, older people's, LGBTQ+, migrants, parents, youth, disability and religious groups. Representative surveys of Southwark residents on their aspirations for their families and our borough. Decision at empowering ward forums. Work with schools and youth groups to hear the views of children and young people.

With local groups and organisations also given the opportunity to drive the direction of the Strategy and partners from the voluntary sector, NHS, schools universities,

Police and cultural institutions activity engaged throughout.

During the consultation process residents have shared the things they love about Southwark: our vibrant and diverse culture, our fantastic schools, our drive to deliver good quality housing, our thriving small business and town centres, our green spaces and our accessible leisure centres.

We also learned about the priorities that people in Southwark want to see progress; even more and better affordable homes, reducing anti-social behaviour, increased access to the mental health support, creating cleaner air, extra chances to gain good jobs and skills, increased opportunities for young people and making sure everyone feel part of a community.

Southwark 2030 will build on what residents have told us, and ensure we have a shared plan focused on delivering on the goals that matter to our residents, ensuring:

- Children can flourish
- People can have good homes, that they can afford
- Our borough is safe
- We improve health and especially mental health
- There are good jobs for Southwark residents
- Our environment is clean and healthy
- Our neighbourhoods are great places to live.

Above all the plan will focus on closing the gaps across our community in each of the above areas. Because whilst our borough, city and country are full of opportunity, the gaps across our society means too many people in Britain today are being left behind. In Southwark, we are determined to lead in the way in closing that gap.

The work in these areas will be guided by overarching principle to guide our borough's plan between now and 2030:

- Reducing inequality
- Investing in prevention
- Empowering people.

**Southwark 2030: a proud history and a vibrant future: harnessing all of the strengths of our borough to deliver opportunity for all.**

1. Council assembly resolves to:
  - a. Thank everyone who was involved in the engagement process so far across our community and voluntary, public, business, education and cultural sectors.

2. Council assembly asks cabinet to:

- a. Finalise and agree our Southwark 2030 Plan. This plan should deliver on the priorities of our community, including those set out above, and be developed in partnership with residents and organisations of our borough.
- b. Establish a new partnership structure with local public services, anchor organisations and key businesses to ensure that they are part of delivering this vision.
- c. Utilise this partnership to develop and agree actions that focus on the transformation changes we want to make together as we look to the future.
- d. Allocate the Southwark 2030 fund towards delivering that plan, ensuring the funding is used to deliver on these priorities.
- e. Put in place annual reporting on the progress in delivering the plan, and the goals within it.

4. **DEPUTATIONS**

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

**Marcia Road Residents**

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for four minutes and thereafter asked a question of the cabinet member for the climate emergency, clean air and streets.

**Southwark Trades Union Council**

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for four minutes and thereafter asked a question of the leader of the council.

**Kirby Estate residents' group and London Play**

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for four minutes and thereafter asked a question of the cabinet member for neighbourhoods, leisure and parks.

5. **ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS**

## 5.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

There was one late question to the leader from Councillor Victor Chamberlain, the written response to which was circulated before the meeting. There were two supplemental questions.

There were 27 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated before the meeting. There were 18 supplemental questions.

## 5.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

### Motion 1: Back the Bakerloo Line Extension

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Richard Livingstone moved the motion. Councillor Cassandra Brown seconded the motion.

There was one amendment to the motion. Councillor Jane Salmon moved Amendment B. Councillor Irina von Wiese seconded Amendment B. After debate (Councillors Helen Dennis, Renata Hamvas, Charlie Smith, Victoria Mills, and Kieron Williams), Councillor Richard Livingstone responded to the debate.

The Mayor of Southwark called for an adjournment for five minutes.

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

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

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

1. Council Assembly believes:
  - a. The Bakerloo Line Upgrade and Extension will deliver for people and businesses across our city and country, creating a more connected, productive and sustainable city and supporting the national economic growth our country needs.
  - b. The Bakerloo Line is an iconic part of the Underground, and a vital piece of economic infrastructure with 920,000 jobs – one in six in London – within a 12-minute walk of a station.
  - c. The Bakerloo Line Upgrade and Extension would have a transformational impact on London, by:
    - i. Boosting the economy:
      - Supporting 150,000 jobs in total, including nearly 10,000 directly
      - Creating 190,000 sqm of new commercial floorspace,

- Generating £1.5bn of GVA per year
- ii. Tackling the housing crisis:
  - Supporting 107,000 homes along the entire line
  - This includes unlocking 20,400 new homes as a direct result of the extension
- iii. Greening our transport network:
  - Creating 150,000 additional public transport trips
  - 20,800 fewer car trips daily
  - Improving connectivity, with travel time from Old Kent Road to Oxford Circus cut by nearly two thirds from 38 minutes to 13 minutes;

2. Council Assembly notes:

- a. The recent major construction milestone with a “bottoming out” ceremony for the new integrated ticket hall at Elephant and Castle’s Northern line tube station. The ITH will serve as the primary entrance to the Northern Line and represents the first piece of substantial infrastructure to support the proposed Bakerloo Line extension
- b. Over the last decade, the council has invested over £70m into the Elephant & Castle tube upgrade, providing a new step-free station and integrating the Northern line with the Bakerloo Line and its anticipated extension.
- c. That the Mayor of London, and the Deputy Mayor for Transport, have offered their vocal support for the Bakerloo Line Extension.
- d. Southwark’s Cabinet have just agreed an allocation of Strategic CIL of £350,000 towards the Elephant and Castle over-ground station and £250,000 towards the Bakerloo Line Extension.
- e. The Bakerloo Line Extension now has support from numerous Councils across London and the Leader of the Council Kieron Williams has been a key voice in rallying and securing this support.
- f. The Bakerloo Line Extension is vital to delivering new homes, jobs and green spaces in the Old Kent Road Opportunity Area – 20,000 new homes in total, which are much needed given the current housing crisis.
- g. That Southwark has an impressive record of affordable housing delivery along the Old Kent Road. Of the 3,333 homes already delivered or on site there, over 50% are affordable. The Bakerloo Line Extension would enable us to deliver many more genuinely affordable homes that Southwark residents need.
- h. The Bakerloo Line Upgrade and Extension cannot happen without more support from government. Transport for London (TfL) has succeeded in boosting passenger numbers and restoring finances after the devastating impact of the pandemic. However, as with all major transport networks,

TfL will need ongoing support with capital funding to maintain the network and invest in future growth.

- i. The Government announced a short sighted and insufficient one-year capital investment deal for TfL in December. However, this provides only £250m next year, half the £500m to £600m TfL requires annually from government to meet its capital needs.
3. Council Assembly resolves to:
    - a. Continue to campaign for the Bakerloo line extension working with TfL, the Mayor of London, councils across London and our wider community
    - b. Work with the Mayor of London to continue to deliver major upgrades to the transport network in Southwark to deliver for Southwark Residents including through increased bus capacity, including a Bakerloo Bus, on the Old Kent Road.
    - c. Ask the Cabinet to produce a new piece of work outlining a path to secure the necessary funding from government that would see the BLE come to fruition
    - d. Ensure there is continued investment from Southwark's Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy into the Bakerloo line extension
    - e. After the Mayoral election in May, call on the newly elected Mayor of London to back the Bakerloo line extension.

### **Motion 2: A Fair Deal for Housing in Southwark**

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Emily Tester moved the motion. Councillor Victor Chamberlain seconded the motion.

There was one amendment to the motion. Councillor Emily Hickson moved Amendment C. Councillor Kath Whittam seconded Amendment C.

Councillor Maggie Browning proposed a motion to extend the guillotine by ten minutes. This was seconded by Councillor Chloe Tomlinson. This was put to the vote and agreed.

After debate (Councillors Sarah King and Sam Foster), Councillor Emily Tester responded to the debate.

Amendment C was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

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

1. Council Assembly notes the context that Southwark finds itself in:
  - a. In the context of a housing crisis, Southwark Council is building more council homes than any other local authority. Everyone should be able to afford somewhere they can call home. That is why we are focusing on building new council homes that Southwark residents can actually afford.
  - b. Building genuinely affordable homes is the way to tackle the housing crisis. That is why since 2014 we have built or started building over 3,000 new council homes.
  - c. The latest 'London Assembly Affordable Housing Monitor 2023' reported that there were more social rent and London affordable rent starts in Southwark than in any other London council since 2015.
  - d. The council works with external partners to ensure that social rent homes are delivered as part of every major schemes. This has led, directly, to the planning consent being granted to at least 14,985 affordable homes, including 9,623 social rent homes in Southwark since 2010.
  - e. We have a plan to deliver affordable homes for Southwark residents who do not qualify for social housing, and are working on pilots for Keyworker Homes and a Community Land Trust.
  - f. We are the largest social landlord in London, and look after 55,000 homes.
  - g. The council is always working to improve our housing stock, since 2010, we have installed 23,500 new bathrooms and kitchens.
  - h. Satisfaction with repairs is now up to 90%. Feedback from residents shows has been significant improvement in our repairs and maintenance service delivery over the past 12 months, continued implementation of our repairs service improvement plan will ensure that this pace of progress continues as we head further into 2024.
  - i. The council has created a Repair Improvement Residents Board, a panel of residents who can now get involved in making decisions about their home and estates to make improvements to our service.
  - f. One third of our residents live in privately rented homes; that is why Southwark Council introduced the Gold Standard Charter (GSC) which is a voluntary scheme that rewards landlords and managing agents who provide a professional level of service and good practice to their tenants in the private rented sector.
  - g. The council has now rolled out its Private Rented Property Licensing scheme, one of the largest in the country to protect residents in the private rented sector.
  - h. Whilst the challenges around Temporary Accommodation are significant, we have an action plan to address homelessness and rough sleeping, set out



alongside our draft strategy published for Cabinet last month. Southwark has also introduced the Good Homes Standard for Temporary Accommodation and signed the London Mayor's Charter to End Rough Sleeping

- i. We are committed to using all powers at our disposal to reduce the number of Empty Homes in the borough. The council will be extending the council tax premium in 24/25 to homes empty for one year or more, and to second homes. While there is more work to do, we are making significant progress bringing homes borough back into use and have developed a comprehensive action plan to use all the available powers to reduce the number of empty homes in the borough, in the continuing housing crises.
  - j. Last week, Southwark Council hosted the Future of Council Housing summit the first of its kind, bringing together the country's largest local authority social landlords, each managing around 20,000 council homes or more. The Summit will inform a major report, authored by respected housing policy, to be published in June. It will set out a comprehensive plan to fix a broken financial model and enable councils to play their part in addressing the national housing crisis.
2. Council Assembly further notes:
- a. What Southwark has achieved is remarkable against the backdrop of all councils facing extraordinary challenges in delivering and retaining council homes.
  - b. The UK is facing a national housing crisis; the scale of the challenge is huge. Across our country over a quarter of a million people are homeless, with one and a half million more living in overcrowded homes. 1 in 23 children in London are living in temporary accommodation.
  - c. In addition, almost one in five council leaders and chief executives in England surveyed by the Local Government Association think it is very or fairly likely that their chief finance officer will need to issue a Section 114 notice this year or next due to a lack of funding to keep key services running.
  - d. Since 2010, Conservative and Liberal Democrat governments have taken political decisions, in the full knowledge it would directly impact local government and most importantly our residents.
  - e. The Affordable Housing Grant was reduced by 60% in 2010 by the Coalition, making it much harder to build social rent homes without significant borrowing and private subsidy.
  - f. That the increase in overcrowding and escalating need for temporary accommodation is worsened by the Benefit Cap agreed by the Coalition which makes it impossible for low-income families to access appropriate housing in the private rented sector in Southwark.
  - g. The Conservatives, with their former Prime Minister Liz Truss, crashed the economy with the disastrous mini budget, and as a result, house building

across London and the country has stalled

- h. There has been a significant reduction of income into the HRA when taking inflation into account as a result of 1% rent cap for 4 years, and then a 7% rent cap. This was right decision for our tenants during a cost-of-living crisis, but without central government financial support local councils are bearing this cost.
  - i. Significant new spending pressure at approx. £100 million to works from Fire and Building Safety Acts on 180 high-rise buildings, again lacking any funding support from the Government
  - j. The impact of the rent cap and the Building Safety Act costs alone will result in £40 million additional cost for Southwark Council in 2024/25.
  - k. In contrast to this, in government Labour delivered a huge upgrade to homes social rent homes – through the Decent Homes Programme, over a million homes were improved between 2001 and 2010.including 810,000 new kitchens, 610,000 new bathrooms and 1,140,000 new central heating systems.
  - l. Labour in government also presided over a halving in homelessness and all but eliminated rough sleeping
3. Council Assembly recognises:
- a. It was right that residents of Devon Mansions and Canada Estate received an unreserved apology, due to the frustration and stress caused during recent major works, and the poor communications they received throughout the project. Labour ward councillors pushed hard for residents to be heard, referring these cases to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
  - b. A Task and Finish Group has been established, internal and external audits will be carried out, to put right what is wrong. This root and branch examination of what went wrong here will lead to changes in the Housing Team and how it operates, to ensure this situation never reoccurs.
  - c. The Council is committed to re-establishing trust with residents, dramatically improving communication with residents and to learn from these events. Residents' voices will be heard in the investigation process and residents are helping to appoint an independent surveyor.
  - d. It has been incredibly disappointing to have to temporarily pause the new homes schemes on four sites: Sceaux Gardens, Bells Gardens, Lindley Estate and Styles House. In addition, that the Council is committed to working with residents to bring forward short-term solutions for these sites, as well as viable plans for the delivery of new homes.
4. Council Assembly resolves to:
- a. Make improving the condition of our council homes the first priority for the council, continuing to improve repairs and bring forward a new Safe, Dry,

Warm programme

- b. Continue to build more council homes, bringing forward plans to deliver the next round of our new council homes programme, including viable schemes on sites which are currently 'paused'.
- c. Continue to use our planning policy to secure new affordable and social homes.
- d. Campaign for Bakerloo Line Extension which would directly support an additional 10,500 homes in Southwark.
- e. Deliver on building safety and fire safety work, ensure that our homes are safe and that our residents feel safe in their homes.
- f. Embed the learning from Devon Mansions and Canada Estates, committing to re-establishing trust with residents and dramatically improving communication with residents
- g. Roll out more protections and support for private renters, extending our licensing scheme so landlords have to meet higher standards and funding free advice services so support is there if your landlord is acting unfairly. Campaign for further powers to regulate the sector including three-year tenancies and powers to control rents.
- h. Support homeowners affected by the Cladding Crisis, campaigning for remedial costs to be paid for by developers and will do everything within our power to fight for a fair deal so that leaseholders are not left bearing these costs.
- i. We will take a zero tolerance approach to rogue landlords and empty homes, using all the powers available to the council to tackle the worst offenders and campaigning for the resources and powers to bring more long-term empty homes back into use.
- j. Following the general election work with the government to Get Britain building again by reforming planning laws to kick-start 1.5 million new homes, transport, clean energy, and new industries in all parts of the country. Because cheaper bills, the chance to own your own home, and modern infrastructure are key to growth and the foundations of security.
- k. Call on the government to invest supporting local authorities in making future improvements to council homes, and use the findings of the Council House 20 report that will be produced later this year.

**Motion 3: Southwark Council calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza**

This motion was considered after the guillotine had 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.

1. Council Assembly notes:
  - a. Our profound horror and despair at scenes that we have seen unfolding over the past five months in Israel and in Gaza.
  - b. On 7 October 2023 Hamas killed around 1,200 Israelis, and took around 240 hostages, with over 100 still being held;
  - c. Since 7 October 2023, over 30,000 Palestinians have been killed and around 1.9 million have been displaced, with Gaza now facing a severe humanitarian crisis;
  - d. That these events have led to a deeply worrying increase in antisemitism and Islamophobia across the UK.
2. Council Assembly resolves to:
  - a. Stand with the residents of our borough who have been profoundly affected by this conflict, especially those who may be fearing for the lives of their families and friends currently in the region. It is an unconscionable position for far too many.
  - b. Stand firm and united against antisemitism and Islamophobia in all its forms.
  - c. Thank community leaders across our borough for the role they are playing in reducing tensions at this sensitive and difficult time.
3. Council Assembly believes:
  - a. That there can be no excuse for the scale of this suffering, no excuse for terrorist attacks, hostage taking or the utterly disproportionate scale of civilian deaths in Gaza.
  - b. That the fighting must stop now, with an immediate ceasefire observed by all sides. All hostages released. The siege conditions in Gaza ended, with full access for the food medicines, electricity and supplies needed to end the humanitarian crisis.
  - c. That an immediate ceasefire must be accompanied by a political process with the support of the UN, that delivers a permanent end to this suffering and a just and lasting peace.
4. Council Assembly also believes:
  - a. There can be no place for hate in our borough. Southwark must be a safe place for people of all faiths and nationalities. We must support people whose families and loved ones are caught up in this conflict and extend a special welcome to anyone fleeing war and persecution, in

keeping with the Southwark's tradition as a borough of sanctuary.

5. Council resolves to:
  - a. Work with our local Jewish, Muslim and wider community to continue to ensure antisemitism and Islamophobia are not tolerated in our borough, and to be ready to welcome refugees fleeing this conflict.
  - b. Write to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary to ask the UK Government to:
    - call for an immediate bilateral ceasefire and unfettered humanitarian access to Gaza
    - work to advance a serious and concerted international effort for a two-state solution and a just and lasting peace.
    - provide safe and legal routes for refugees fleeing the region
    - request central government funding to support community cohesion at a local level.

#### **Motion 4: Protecting Play Spaces in Southwark**

This motion was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

There was one amendment to the motion.

Amendment D was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

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

1. Council assembly notes:
  - a. Access to outdoor play is fundamental to the physical, social, mental and emotional development of children.
  - b. Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that Governments must “respect, protect and fulfil” the “right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities”.
  - c. The UK is currently failing in that duty, with children suffering damage to their mental health and wellbeing due to the lack of accessible play spaces.
  - d. The impact of Covid lockdowns on the mental health of young people is yet to be fully understood but it is a clear that we must provide every opportunity for the affected generation to play and develop socially.
  - e. The disastrous cuts to local government funding implemented by the Conservative Government have left playgrounds falling into disrepair across the UK.

f. The Southwark Plan 2022 policies P13-15 and P57 and London Plan 2021 policies D6, H16 and S4 set out the council's requirements in respect of design and open space. These policies are relevant for amenity space, play space and open space. Open spaces are an essential resource for residents and visitors and all development should ensure that there is sufficient amenity and play space in accordance with GLA guidance. Where the council accepts that the policy requirements cannot be met fully onsite, a financial S106 planning obligation is required in order to ensure that the impact of development is mitigated.

2. Council assembly further notes:

- a. The council has just completed an initial phase of an audit of all play provision in Southwark. This has identified 200 play sites, placing Southwark and one of the best provided boroughs for play in London.
- b. In recent years the council has made significant investment into play spaces, investing;
  - I. £1.2 million at St Marys Churchyard Playground and Plaza,
  - II. £1.1 million at Camberwell Green Playground,
  - III. £680,000 at Nelson Square Playground and MUGA,
  - IV. £600,000 at Pullens Gardens Playground and park,
  - V. £500,000 at Southwark Park Playground,
  - VI. £4 million at Peckham Rye Park Playground and new playroom building,
  - VII. £1.5 million at Mint Street Adventure Playground and building,
  - VIII. £700,000 at Leyton Square Playground,
  - IX. £3.3 million at Burgess Park West Playground and park expansion and
  - X. £1.5 million at Dickens Square Park Playground and park expansion.
- c. Many playground improvements are instigated by active ward councillors who have access to Cleaner, Greener Safer funding and local CIL. They can and do use this money to prioritise the improvement of play spaces within their ward. Initial development and assessment studies funded by CSG can then ensure that well designed schemes can be consulted on with the local community and additional a or external funding found to deliver these improvements.
- d. Council recognises and is grateful for the efforts made by active ward councillors to improve play spaces in our local parks and housing estates. This can be done with initial funding from the Cleaner, Greener, Safer fund and local CIL.
- e. This is also done, by working with local community partners to support provision of better quality play space; in locations, the Council does not direct responsibility for. An example of this can be seen at Dog Kennel Hill Adventure Playground in Champion Hill ward.

3. Council assembly resolves to:

- a. Complete the next phase on the 2024 Play Audit, which will include a detailed design and costing plan for priority play areas, and consultation with key

stakeholders.

- b. Continue to invest in our 200+ play spaces in parks and on estates.
- c. Based on information highlighted by the Play Audit, work to secure funding for inclusive play spaces and equipment.
- d. Based on information highlighted by the Play Audit, work to secure the funding for phase 1 for further playground investment, to encompass a range of possible actions from remedial improvements and better maintenance, additional and more inclusive accessible facilities or the full refurbishment of a site.
- e. Establish clear prioritisation and delivery programme for further phases of playground investment and improvement.

### **Motion 5: Improving Inclusivity for People with Dyslexia**

This motion was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

There was one amendment to the motion.

Amendment E was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

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

#### 1. Council assembly notes:

- a. The council has a duty to ensure all services and materials are accessible to everyone.
- b. Dyslexia is a protected characteristic covered by the Equality Act 2010.
- c. This year the council launched a new branding and visual identity that includes a guide to be used in all council documents on 'How to write in plain English' and 'Write accessible content for our website and intranet'
- d. These contain information to ensure that all written documents and webpages are accessible to everyone.
- e. The 'How to write in plain English guide' contains guidance on layout, headings and structure and writing style that reflect the much of the guidance within the Dyslexia friendly style guide.
- f. Both the Dyslexia friendly style guide and Southwark's house style guide recommends:
  - I. The use of Arial typeface, no smaller than font size 12.
  - II. Avoiding the use of underlining and italics.

- III. Avoiding the use of all capital letters and uppercase letters for continuous text.
  - IV. Using headings and styles to create consistent structure to help people navigate through your content
  - V. For headings, use a font size that is at least 20% larger than the normal text.
  - VI. Add extra space around headings and between paragraphs.
  - VII. Ensure hyperlinks look different from headings and normal text.
  - VIII. Using single colour backgrounds, avoiding background patterns or pictures and distracting surrounds.
  - IX. Using sufficient contrast levels between background and text.
  - X. Using dark coloured text on a light (not white) background.
  - XI. Left align text, without justification.
  - XII. Being concise, avoiding using long, dense paragraphs
  - XIII. Using simple clear language and every day words.
  - XIV. Using bullet points and numbering rather than continuous prose.
  - XV. Avoiding abbreviations where possible
- g. The new house branding and visual identity does not currently offer specific guidance on:
- I. Inter-character spacing and inter-word spacing
  - II. The use of alternatives to white paper
  - III. The use of matt paper rather than gloss
  - IV. Using images to support text.
  - V. Giving instructions clearly
  - VI. Avoid double negatives
  - VII. Providing a glossary of abbreviations and jargon.

2. Council assembly resolves to:

- a. Implement the full roll out and adoption of the new style guide, continuing to make all staff aware of the guides
- b. Ask officers to explore how we could incorporate guidance on the areas within the Dyslexia style guide that are not currently referenced within the new visual identity guides
- c. Regularly review documents and webpages for internal and external use, to make sure that where possible, the house guide is being followed and that all written documents and webpages are accessible to everyone on the understanding that documents may need to be tailored to be accessible to a specific audience.

## 6. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION FROM THE CABINET

### 6.1 PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL UPDATES 2023-24: COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULES

There was one amendment to this report. Amendment F was moved by Councillor



Graham Neale. Amendment F was seconded by Councillor Adam Hood.

After debate, (Councillors Maggie Browning, Sabina Emmanuel and Ian Wingfield) Amendment F was put to the vote and declared Lost.

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly agreed the proposed changes to the constitution affecting council assembly as outlined in Appendix 1 and 2 of the report.

**Consequential changes**

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

**6.2 REVIEW OF CALL-IN PROCEDURE**

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That 'the use of call-in: guidance for English authorities' issued by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS), Appendix 1 of the report be noted, section 1 in particular (purpose of call-in).
2. That having regard to the CfGS guidance, the findings from the review of the council's current call-in process (Appendix 2 of the report) be noted.
3. That the main findings set out in paragraphs 13 to 41 of the report be noted (arising report recommendations set out at paragraphs 4 to 7).
4. That it be noted that written guidance on the call-in process in the form of a protocol/procedure note is being prepared for circulation to members, and publication on the council website (paragraphs 15 to 16 of the report).
5. That overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.4 be amended to 'any five members of the council (including education representatives for the purpose of education decisions only)' (paragraphs 23 to 27 of the report).
6. That the 'Guidance Note: Principles of Decision Making' prepared to support the decision making process (Appendix 3 of the report) be noted.
7. That the proposed changes take effect from 1 April 2024 to enable training for both members and officers on any new call-in arrangements ahead of implementation

(paragraphs 42 to 43 of the report).

### **6.3 ADJUSTMENT OF MEMBER ALLOWANCES IN LINE WITH THE NATIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICER PAY SETTLEMENT AND MEMBER ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2024-2025**

There was one amendment to this report. Amendment G was moved by Councillor Emily Tester. Amendment G was seconded by Councillor Jane Salmon.

After debate, (Councillor Stephanie Cryan, Margy Newens, Ellie Cumbo and Richard Livingstone) Amendment G was put to the vote and declared Lost.

Councillor Graham Neale made a point of personal explanation during the debate.

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly approved with immediate effect the adjustment of member allowances in line with the national local government officer pay settlement and allowances for officers as detailed in paragraph 20 of the report.
2. That council assembly approved, with effect from 1 April 2024, the member allowances scheme for 2024-2025 as detailed in paragraphs 20 to 26 and Appendix 2 of the report, having had regard to the advice of the London Councils Independent Remuneration Panel Report 2023 (see Appendix 1 of the report).

### **6.4 COUNCIL ASSEMBLY DATES AND CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2024-2025**

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly agreed the following dates for meetings of council assembly be fixed in the council calendar for the 2024-25 municipal year:

<b>Council Assembly</b>	<b>Type of Meeting</b>
Wednesday 22 May 2024	Mayor Making/Annual meeting
Wednesday 10 July 2024	Ordinary meeting
Wednesday 20 November 2024	Ordinary meeting
Wednesday 26 February 2025	Budget and council tax setting

Wednesday 19 March 2025	Ordinary meeting
Saturday 17 May 2025	Mayor Making/Annual meeting

2. That council assembly noted the agreement in May 2023 for the dates of the annual/mayor making meetings for 2025 to 2027 as set out below:
- Saturday 17 May 2025 11am
  - Saturday 16 May 2026 11am
  - Saturday 15 May 2027 11am
3. That council assembly noted the calendar of council meetings for the 2024-25 municipal year as shown at Appendix 1.

#### **6.5 SPECIAL URGENCY AND URGENT IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS - ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

8. That council assembly noted the schedule of special urgency and urgent implementation decisions (set out in Appendix 1 of the report) taken in accordance with access to information procedure rules 19 and 20.

#### **7. AMENDMENTS**

The meeting closed at 10.40 pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**



## Council Assembly (Extraordinary meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Extraordinary meeting) held on Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 9.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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### PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2023-24, Councillor Michael Situ (Chair)

Councillor Suzanne Abachor	Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Evelyn Akoto	Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Jasmine Ali	Councillor Richard Leeming
Councillor Naima Ali	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor John Batteson	Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Rachel Bentley	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Cassandra Brown	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Maggie Browning	Councillor Portia Mwangangye
Councillor Victor Chamberlain	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Stephanie Cryan	Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Ellie Cumbo	Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Helen Dennis	Councillor Bethan Roberts
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE	Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Esme Dobson	Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Sabina Emmanuel	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Natasha Ennin	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Sam Foster	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Emily Tester
Councillor Ketzia Harper	Councillor Chloe Tomlinson
Councillor Jon Hartley	Councillor Joseph Vambe
Councillor Youcef Hassaine	Councillor Irina Von Wiese
Councillor Esme Hicks	Councillor David Watson
Councillor Emily Hickson	Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Adam Hood	Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Laura Johnson	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Nick Johnson	

## **1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

### **1.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sam Dalton, Gavin Edwards, Maria Linforth-Hall, Hamish McCallum, Kimberly McIntosh, Reggie Popoola and Sandra Rhule.

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

### **1.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were none.

## **2. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION**

### **2.1 FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH 2024**

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the recommendation from the constitutional steering panel to confer the award of Freedom of the Borough to the nominees outlined in the closed report be agreed.

### **2.2 FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH 2024**

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Council Assembly agreed the nominations for the award of Freedom of the Borough.

The meeting closed at 10.45 pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	Council Assembly (Annual Meeting)
<b>Date:</b>	22 May 2024
<b>Report title:</b>	Executive Functions 2024-25
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>	All
<b>Classification:</b>	Open
<b>Reason for lateness (if applicable):</b>	Not Applicable
<b>From:</b>	Proper Constitutional Officer

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That council assembly receives a report from the leader on the following executive issues for the coming municipal year 2024-25:
  - Notes the appointment by the leader of cabinet members
  - Notes the appointment of any deputy cabinet members
  - Notes the establishment and appointment of any cabinet committees
  - Notes the leader’s report on the delegation of executive functions to the full cabinet, cabinet committees, individual cabinet members, chief officers and any other delegations.

**Appointment of the cabinet**

2. That the leader reports to council assembly on the appointment of members of the cabinet and determination of their executive functions.

- Note:
1. The leader will report on appointments to the cabinet and on individual portfolios.
  2. The leader can appoint between two and nine members to form a cabinet.
  3. The leader must appoint a deputy leader.

**Appointment of deputy cabinet members**

3. That the leader reports to council assembly on the appointment of deputy cabinet members and determination of their duties and responsibilities.

- Note:
- The leader will report on any changes to deputy cabinet members and on individual responsibility for specific tasks designated by the leader, following consultation with the monitoring officer.

## **Establishment and appointment of cabinet committees**

4. That the leader reports on the establishment of any cabinet committees.

Note:

1. The leader to establish any cabinet committees, set terms of reference and nominate cabinet members to serve on the committees, including appointing a chair and vice-chair.
2. There are three cabinet committees: Cabinet (Livesey Trust) Committee, Better Placed Joint Committee and Joint IT Committee (Brent, Lewisham and Southwark).

## **Delegation of executive functions**

5. That the leader reports on the delegation of executive functions between full cabinet, individual decision makers, chief officers and any other delegations.
6. That council assembly notes the leader's report on any changes to the delegation of executive functions to the full cabinet, cabinet committees, individual cabinet members, chief officers and any other delegations.
7. That council assembly notes that as a consequence of recommendation 6, the proper constitutional officer will update Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the leader's report on the delegation of executive functions.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

8. The constitution is updated as and when changes are required. The recommendations in this report are based on the current constitution.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Leader and cabinet**

9. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 required the council to make changes to its governance and decision making arrangements. At an extraordinary meeting of council assembly on 4 November 2009, the council agreed that the current executive leader and cabinet model be adopted. The new arrangements commenced immediately after the elections in May 2010.
10. Under the executive "leader and cabinet" model, there is a leader of the council and a cabinet of at least two but no more than nine other councillors. The leader is responsible for all executive functions, and decides which of these functions are going to be delegated to other cabinet members, local committees or council officers. The cabinet is appointed by the leader.
11. Councillor Kieron Williams was first elected as leader of the council by council assembly on 16 September 2020. On 21 May 2022, council assembly re-elected Councillor Williams as leader of the council and his term of office



commenced from that date and shall end at the start of the first annual meeting of the council following the next ordinary election<sup>1</sup>.

### **Report of the leader of the council and delegation of executive functions**

12. Each year the elected leader must appoint their cabinet. In accordance with the constitution, this can consist of a minimum of two and up to a maximum of nine nominated members, whose portfolios are determined and allocated by the leader. The leader must appoint a deputy leader.
13. The leader will be invited to report on the delegation of executive functions, appoint a deputy leader and appoint other cabinet members and determine their portfolios.
14. The leader will report on any further delegations including:
  - The extent of any authority delegated to cabinet members individually, including details of the limitation on their authority
  - The terms of reference and membership of any cabinet committees
  - The nature and extent of any delegation of executive functions, any other authority or joint arrangement
  - The nature and extent of any delegation to officers with details of any limitation on that delegation.
15. The leader may also decide to delegate executive functions to the health and wellbeing board. During the year the leader may vary the executive scheme of delegation by giving notice to the monitoring officer. A variation may be permanent or relate to a particular decision.

### **Deputy cabinet members**

16. The leader will also report on the appointment of any deputy cabinet members and determine their roles. Deputy cabinet members may hold responsibility for specific tasks designated by the leader, in consultation with the monitoring officer. Deputy cabinet members cannot take part in any formal decision making.
17. The role description and parameters of deputy cabinet members is attached as Appendix 1.

### **Role of council assembly**

18. Following receipt of the leader's report, council assembly will note as a consequence that the proper constitutional officer will update Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the leader's report on the delegation of executive functions.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 6.3 of the Constitution

### Appointments to panels, boards and forums

19. The cabinet will consider appointments to panels, boards and forums where the function falls within the responsibility of the executive (e.g. housing, education, social services, regeneration, etc.).

### Policy framework implications

20. This report is not considered to have direct policy implications.

### Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

21. There are no specific impacts on the community from this process.

### Climate change implications

22. There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

### Legal implications

23. There are no specific legal implications.

### Financial implications

24. There are no direct resource implications in the context of this report.

### Consultation

25. There are no specific consultation requirements arising from this report.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Appointment of Leader and Executive Functions 2023-24 Council Assembly 20 May 2023 report.	Online: <a href="https://www.southwark.gov.uk">Report (southwark.gov.uk)</a>	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055
The Council's Constitution: <a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=425&amp;Info=1&amp;bcr=1">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=425&amp;Info=1&amp;bcr=1</a>		

## APPENDICES

Appendix	Title
Appendix 1	Deputy cabinet members role description

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional and Member Services	
<b>Report Author</b>	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional and Member Services	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	9 May 2024	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes (included in body of report)
Strategic Director, Finance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>		9 May 2024

### Deputy Cabinet Member Role Description

Deputy Cabinet Members (DCMs) will be appointed by the Leader and assigned specific portfolio areas that they will drive forward on behalf of the Leader and Cabinet.

For matters within their portfolio Deputy Cabinet Members will be responsible for providing political oversight to ensure that:

- Council Delivery Plan Commitments are being delivered
- Council services are working well for our residents
- That the council is effectively identifying the innovative things we should do next to improve our work and outcomes for residents
- That the council is working well with our community to develop our polices and design and deliver our services
- That the council has strong relationships with key stakeholders and partners
- The Cabinet Member who hold responsibility for matters within the DCM's portfolio is fully briefed on the above, and that where appropriate the Leader and full Cabinet are also briefed.

In order to meet these responsibilities Deputy Cabinet Members will:

- Hold regular briefings with departments
- Oversee the drafting of Cabinet reports and Individual Decision Maker (IDM) Reports by relevant officers
- Attend and present reports to Cabinet meetings as required
- Answer questions relating to their portfolio at Council Assembly
- Attend and report to relevant meetings of Scrutiny where their portfolio is under discussion
- Be the council's spokesperson on issues related to their brief and ensure good public-facing communication of the activities and achievements within the portfolio
- Represent the council at external meetings and meetings with residents

Key parameters of DCMs:

- DCMs **are not decision-makers**. They will be responsible for the drafting of Cabinet and IDM reports and will present to Cabinet meetings as required, however, the formal decision maker will be listed as a full member of Cabinet and each report will require their final sign-off before publication.
- Whilst a DCM may be a member of a committee, scrutiny committee or scrutiny commission, they will not be permitted to take decisions or scrutinise anything that falls within their own portfolio.
- DCMs shall not be the chair or vice-chair of a committee or sub-committee which takes decisions or scrutinises matters relating to their portfolio.

The chairs of the licensing and planning committees shall not be DCMs. For audit, governance and standards committee, no more than one member of the cabinet or deputy may be a member of the committee.

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	Council Assembly (Annual Meeting)
<b>Date:</b>	22 May 2024
<b>Report title:</b>	Establishment of Committees, Panels and Related Matters 2024-2025
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>	All
<b>Classification:</b>	Open
<b>Reason for lateness (if applicable):</b>	Not Applicable
<b>From:</b>	Proper Constitutional Officer

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That council assembly notes the appointment of political group leaders, deputies and whips (information to be circulated separately).
2. That council assembly notes the political balance of the council as follows:

Group	Members	%
Labour	52	82.54
Liberal Democrat	11	17.46
Total	63	100.00

3. That council assembly notes that there is no change to proportionality and the allocation of seats on committees and panels as agreed by council assembly on 20 May 2023.
4. That council assembly establishes the following committees for the coming municipal year 2024-25.

**Table 2: Ordinary Committees - Total number of seats 42**

Note: The political balance rules require that the political groups represented on council have proportionate representation on council committees. A political group must comprise at least two members. Councils can allocate seats on committees to members not aligned to a group, but are under no statutory obligation to do so.

The below tables are based on the committees as agreed by council assembly on 20 May 2023.

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
Committee 1	7	6	1

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>
Appointments Committee			
Committee 2 Planning Committee (Major Applications) A	7	6	1
Committee 3 Planning Committee (Major Applications) B	7	6	1
Planning Committee (Smaller Applications)	7	5	2
Committee 4 Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	7	6	1
Committee 5 Corporate Parenting Committee	7	6	1
<b>Total</b>	42	35	7

**Table 3: Other committees - Total number of seats 26**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11	9	2
Licensing Committee	15	12	3
<b>Total</b>	26	21	5

**Table 4: Multi-ward areas**

1.	North-west
2.	North-east
3.	West-central
4.	East-central
5.	South

Note: The composition of multi-ward areas is set out in Article 8 of the constitution (see paragraph 41 of this report).

### **Health and wellbeing board**

5. That the health and wellbeing board be established as a committee of the council under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 with the membership set out in paragraph 39 of the report.
6. That it be noted that the leader of the council nominates the local authority membership. In accordance with committee procedure rules, the leader chairs the board unless he or she nominates another member to chair the board. The cabinet member for health and wellbeing currently chairs the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### Appointment of chairs and vice chairs

7. That council assembly considers whether it wishes to appoint chairs and vice chairs for the following committees:

#### Committees

- Appointments committee
- Planning Committee (Major Applications) A
- Planning Committee (Major Applications) B
- Planning Committee (Smaller Applications)
- Audit, governance and standards committee
- Corporate parenting committee [see note 1 below]
- Overview and scrutiny committee
- Licensing committee

Notes:

1. In 2023-24, the cabinet member responsible for children's services chaired the corporate parenting committee. Council assembly is asked to formally approve this appointment in 2024-25.
2. All outstanding appointments will be referred to the first meeting of the respective committee in the 2024-25 municipal year.

### Appointment of community champions

8. That council assembly appoint community champions for the following multi-ward areas:

#### Multi-ward areas

- North-west
- North-east
- West-central
- East-central
- South

### Establishment of the council's panels

9. That council assembly establishes the following council panels (see paragraph 52):

**Table 5: Panels - Total number of seats 16**

Panel	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
Council assembly business panel	4	3	1
Constitutional steering panel	4	3	1

Panel	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
Pensions advisory panel	3	2	1
Voluntary bodies appointments panel	5	4	1
<b>Total</b>	16	12	4

Note: This table is based on the panels established in 2023-24.

### **Appointments of chair to constitutional steering panel and voluntary bodies appointments panel**

10. That council assembly appoints a chair to the following panels:

- Constitutional steering panel [see note 1 below]
- Voluntary bodies appointments panel.

Notes:

1. The group whip of the majority group chaired the constitutional steering panel in 2023-24. Council assembly is asked to formally approve this appointment in 2024-25.
2. That it be noted that the Mayor chairs the council assembly business panel.

### **Urgency committee**

11. That the role of the urgency committee between a municipal election and the annual meeting of council assembly, as agreed by council assembly on 26 March 2014, be noted as set out in paragraphs 54 and 55.

### **Appointments to Local Government Association (LGA) General Assembly**

12. That council assembly appoints up to three representatives and allocates the seven votes to representatives to attend the LGA General Assembly (see paragraphs 56 and 57).

### **Other appointments to joint committees/outside bodies**

13. That council assembly notes the cabinet and other committees will make appointments to all other outside committees and bodies for the municipal year 2024-25 as required by part 3Q of the constitution.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

14. The constitution is updated as and when changes are required. The recommendations in this report are based on the current constitution and previous decisions of the council.



## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

### Proportionality – the legal position

15. The size and composition of the council's regulatory and other committees are established in accordance with the number of seats each political group has on the council as a whole – this is known as “proportionality”.
16. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 covers the allocation of seats to political groups. It makes no provision for single independent councillors so they do not form part of the proportionality considerations. The political balance rules require the council to ensure that the political groups represented on council have proportionate representation on the committees of the council. Political groups have to constitute two or more members and be actively constituted as a group in accordance with the above regulations.
17. Seats on committees and sub-committees must be allocated in accordance with the four principles of proportionality contained in sections 15, 16 and 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. There is a duty to give effect to the following principles, as far as is reasonably practicable:
  - (i) That not all the seats on a committee or sub-committee are allocated to the same political group
  - (ii) That the majority group must have the majority of seats on each committee or sub-committee
 

Note: As the Labour Group has an overall majority on the council, this principle has been applied.
  - (iii) Subject to (i) and (ii) above, it must be ensured that the proportion of each political group's seats of the total number of seats on “ordinary committees” reflects, as closely as possible, their proportion of seats on full council.

#### Notes:

1. The ordinary committees are: appointments; planning; audit, governance and standards; corporate parenting (see also paragraphs 19 to 22).
2. The licensing committee is appointed under the Licensing Act 2003, the overview and scrutiny committee is appointed under section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 and the health and wellbeing board is appointed under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and is to be treated as if appointed under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 (subject to modifications of the effect of section 102 made by the Secretary of State). None of the aforementioned committees is treated as an ordinary committee.

- (iv) Subject to (i) to (iii) above, the proportion of each political group's seats on each committee and sub-committee reflects as closely as possible their proportion of seats on full council.

Note: This rule applies to all committees, sub-committees and joint committees, except for the licensing committee.

18. Council assembly can agree an allocation that is disproportionate, provided no member votes against this.

### **Appointments to seats**

19. Section 16(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides that it is the duty of an authority or committee to exercise its power to make appointments in such a way as to give effect "to such wishes about who is to be appointed to the seats on that body which are allocated to a particular political group as are expressed by that group".

### **Ordinary committees**

20. The regulatory and other committees are the "ordinary committees" of the council. In 2023-24 the annual meeting established the following:

- Appointments committee
- Planning Committee (Major Applications) A
- Planning Committee (Major Applications) B
- Planning Committee (Smaller Applications)
- Audit, governance and standards committee
- Corporate parenting committee.

21. The proportionality is based on the total number of seats compared to the overall allocation of seats each political group has on the council. As the Labour Group has an overall majority on the council, it has been allocated a majority on each committee.

22. Council assembly is exercising a matter reserved to it in Part 3A(4) of the constitution to establish committees. It is for council assembly to agree the committees it wishes to establish, to set the total number of seats and allocate them to the committees numbered 1 to 4 in the Table 2 in paragraph 4 above.

### **Appointments committee**

23. The appointments committee determines appointments to posts of chief officers, chief finance officer and monitoring officer and also acts as a panel for the purpose of advising council assembly on matters relating to the dismissal of the head of paid service, the chief finance officer or the monitoring officer as prescribed by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (as amended).

24. At least one member of the cabinet shall serve on the appointments committee.

### **Audit, governance and standards committee**

25. The audit, governance and standards committee provides independent assurance of the adequacy of the council's governance arrangements, independent scrutiny of the council's financial and non-financial performance, has oversight of the financial reporting process of the council and ensures that its members and co-opted members maintain high standards of conduct and requires such authorities to adopt a code of conduct for their members.
26. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA's) guidance (Audit Committees Practical Guidance for Local Authorities, 2005) states that although audit committees are not mandatory, "Audit committees are an essential element of good governance". It goes on to say, "Good corporate governance requires independent, effective assurance about the adequacy of financial management and reporting. These functions are best delivered by an audit committee, independent from the executive and scrutiny functions."
27. No more than one member of the cabinet may be a member of the audit, governance and standards committee and no cabinet member may chair the committee. The chair may be a deputy cabinet member, as this role does not include the exercise of any delegated powers.
28. No more than one member of the overview and scrutiny committee may be a member of the audit, governance and standards committee and no member of the overview and scrutiny committee may chair the committee. In 2023-24, no members of the cabinet sat on the audit, governance and standards committee.

### **Overview and scrutiny committee**

29. The overview and scrutiny committee (OSC) is the coordinating scrutiny body and appoints a number of scrutiny commissions. They review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the council's functions.
30. OSC co-ordinates councillor calls for action and scrutiny of health, crime and disorder, considers requests for scrutiny reviews and approves scrutiny work programmes.
31. The committee can also appoint joint committees with other local authorities.
32. The overview and scrutiny committee is not an ordinary committee, but it is one to which the proportionality requirements apply. Scrutiny commissions will be established by the overview and scrutiny committee at its first meeting and it will consider the allocation of places on the commissions including members who are not part of any political group.
33. Council assembly can agree an allocation that is disproportionate, provided no member votes against this.

34. The overview and scrutiny procedure rules provide that the overview and scrutiny committee will consist of the chair, vice chair and the chairs of the scrutiny commissions provided that the proportionality rules are not compromised. Each political group is permitted to nominate members who are not cabinet members should it be necessary to maintain proportionality and/or if there are fewer chairs of scrutiny commissions than places on the overview and scrutiny committee.
35. The overview and scrutiny committee and any commission which scrutinises the council's education functions will contain in its membership four voting education representatives in addition to its councillor members, comprising one Church of England, one Roman Catholic Church and two parent governor representatives.
36. No member of the cabinet shall serve on any scrutiny committee.

### **Health and wellbeing board**

37. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 enables the local authority to arrange for any of its functions to be exercised by the board should it so wish. The health and wellbeing board was first constituted by council assembly on 27 March 2013. The board will not have the power to perform any of the functions given to the health overview and scrutiny committee, and it will itself be subject to overview and scrutiny as a committee of the council. Members of the scrutiny committee who are members of the health and wellbeing board should not be involved in the scrutiny process if the health and wellbeing board undertakes executive functions, which is then subject to scrutiny, as this may create a conflict of interests. The proportionality requirements do not apply to the health and wellbeing board.
38. It will be for the leader of the council under the 'strong leader' model to decide whether any executive functions should be delegated to the board. Until such a decision is taken, the board will operate in accordance within the council's existing decision-making framework and normal council budget setting processes.
39. The health and wellbeing board must include six statutory members which are:
- At least one councillor, who will be (or be nominated by) the leader
  - The director of adult social services of the local authority
  - The director of children's services of the local authority
  - The director of public health of the local authority
  - A representative of local healthwatch
  - A representative of the Integrated Care Board.

Note: The health and wellbeing board general membership is reviewed periodically. This is to ensure that the right partners are represented on the board. Any proposed change to the membership will be put forward to the health and wellbeing board for agreement.

40. All members of the health and wellbeing board are subject to Southwark's Code of Conduct for elected members when acting as a member of the board and will be subject to declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests. Consequently, it is recommended that substitutes should not be permitted at meetings of the committee.

### Multi-ward areas

41. The boundaries of the multi-ward areas reflect the borough's communities as far as possible.

**Table 7: Multi-ward areas divided by geographical areas**

Multi-ward area	Electoral wards
North-west	Borough & Bankside, London Bridge & West Bermondsey, St George's and Chaucer wards
North-east	North Bermondsey, South Bermondsey, Rotherhithe and Surrey Docks wards
West-central	North Walworth, Newington, Camberwell Green, St Giles and Faraday wards
East-central	Old Kent Road, Peckham, Rye Lane, Nunhead & Queen's Road and Peckham Rye wards
South	Champion Hill, Goose Green, Dulwich Hill, Dulwich Village and Dulwich Wood wards

### Licensing committee

42. Section 6 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires that each licensing authority must establish a licensing committee of at least 10, but no more than 15 members of the authority. The power to establish the committee rests with council assembly. Council agreed in December 2004 that the licensing committee should comprise 15 members in order to achieve maximum flexibility and provide a sufficient pool of members to ensure quorate sub-committees.
43. There is no requirement in the Licensing Act 2003 that the licensing committee should be proportionate. Council assembly agreed in December 2004 to establish the current committee on a proportionate basis.
44. The Licensing Act 2003 makes no provision to appoint reserve members.
45. In accordance with the constitution, a licensing sub-committee with delegated authority will be established to hear licence applications including Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005, street trading and other licensing responsibilities granted by statute. The sub-committee will include members of the licensing committee with a quorum of three members and a reserve. Sub-committees shall be summoned as required to deal with any business and the membership will be based on the allocation process agreed by the licensing committee on 6 December 2007.

### **Appointment of chairs and vice chairs**

46. Chairs and vice chairs may be appointed directly by council assembly or the appointments may be delegated to the first meeting of the relevant committee.
47. In the case of the corporate parenting committee, it is proposed that the cabinet member with responsibility for children's services be appointed chair. This is in line with the decision of the annual meeting last year.
48. The leader of the council or his/her nominee, in accordance with committee procedure rule 8.13, chairs the health and wellbeing board.

### **Reserve members**

49. The council assembly, committee and overview and scrutiny procedure rules make provision for the appointment of reserve members to council committees and to scrutiny committees. There is no provision for reserves on the licensing committee and the health and wellbeing board.
50. Each political group can appoint reserve members. The number of reserve members a group can appoint is, with the exception of the overview and scrutiny committee, planning committees and audit, governance and standards committee, one less than the number of places the group holds on the committee or sub-committee. If a political group holds only one place on a committee or sub-committee, that group may appoint one reserve member (council assembly procedure rule 4.5(2)).
51. On the overview and scrutiny committee, planning committees and the audit, governance and standards committee, the number of reserve members that each political group can nominate is equal to the number of places each group holds on the committee.

### **Establishment of the council's panels**

52. Council assembly will consider the establishment and composition of the following council panels. Panels are not required to be proportionate. This is a matter of local choice for the local authority.
  - **Council assembly business panel** – The Mayor chairs the panel and consists of two representatives from the majority group (one of whom is the whip) and the whips of the other political groups represented on the council. The panel acts as an advisory panel to the Mayor on council assembly matters, including the setting of themes for debate.
  - **Constitutional steering panel** – The panel is responsible for reviewing and recommending amendments to the constitution. It is also responsible for making recommendations to council assembly for the award of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough and Honorary Aldermen and to recommend changes to the members' allowances scheme. In 2023-24, the chief whip of the majority group chaired the panel.

In 2023-24, council assembly established a panel with a membership comprising the group whip and two other members from the majority group and the whips of the other political groups represented on the council. In accordance with current practice, groups can nominate a reserve to attend in the absence of a representative.

- **Pensions advisory panel** – The panel has a composition of three members, officers, independent advisors and a trade union representative. The purpose of the panel is to advise the chief finance officer when performing functions relating to the council’s pension scheme.
- **Voluntary bodies appointments panel** – The panel has a composition of four Labour and one Liberal Democrat member. The panel will be responsible for recommending the appointment of charity trustees to specific Southwark charities.

### **Council assembly dates**

53. A calendar of council assembly meetings for the 2024-25 municipal year was agreed at council assembly on 20 March 2024. This meeting agreed the council assembly dates, in accordance with the relevant statutory provision.

### **Urgency committee**

54. On 26 March 2014, council assembly established the urgency committee, together with planning and licensing (urgency) sub-committees, to function during the interim period between a municipal election and the annual meeting of council assembly. The urgency committees will exercise the non-executive functions of the council, other than those reserved by law to council assembly for decision, in cases where in the opinion of the chief executive it was necessary to act urgently. The urgency committees have normally only met to consider issues that are time sensitive and cannot wait for the annual meeting to establish the decision making arrangements. The leader shall exercise any urgent executive matters.

55. Council assembly on 26 March 2014 agreed that the urgency arrangements should be as follows:

- Urgency committee - The urgency committee will deal with non-executive functions only that are not reserved by law to council assembly, and are not planning or licensing applications. The urgency committee arrangements comprise the leaders of the two largest political groups following the borough-wide elections.
- Executive arrangements – Executive decisions will be exercised by the leader (if personally re-elected or his nominee, a relevant cabinet member). If the leader (or relevant cabinet member) is required to take an executive decision, because the normal scrutiny arrangements would not have been established by the annual meeting, executive decisions would

be treated in a similar way to urgent implementation decisions or an urgent decision outside the budget and policy framework. If the leader is not re-elected, the urgency committee shall exercise the executive functions.

- Planning and licensing – Separate arrangements exist for a planning (urgency) sub-committee and a licensing (urgency) sub-committee. Each licensing (urgency) sub-committee convened to hear an urgent application would comprise of three licensing members who will be selected using the current procedure from the pool of re-elected councillors who previously served on the licensing committee. The arrangements are set out in more detail in Part 3N of the council’s constitution.

### **Appointments to Local Government Association (LGA) General Assembly**

56. The Local Government Association has informed the council in 2017 that it was entitled to seven votes and advised that votes can be allocated amongst the representatives as the local authority sees fit. The LGA encourages local authorities with three or four representatives to allocate at least one position and vote to a minority group representative. Council assembly can agree any combination of representatives and votes:
57. For 2023-24, council assembly appointed three representatives and allocated seven votes:

<b>Representative</b>	<b>No. of votes</b>	<b>Group</b>
Councillor Kieron Williams (Leader)	3	Labour
Councillor Jasmine Ali	3	Labour
Councillor Victor Chamberlain	1	Liberal Democrat

### **Establishment of sub-committees and overview and scrutiny commissions**

58. Overview and scrutiny commissions and sub-committees of the audit, governance and standards committee will be established at a special meeting that immediately follows the conclusion of this annual meeting or can be established at the first meeting of the relevant parent committee. The division of seats will be included in the reports to the relevant committees.

The below tables are based on the commissions and sub-committees as agreed by the parent committees in May 2022.

<b>Scrutiny Commissions</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>
Scrutiny Commission 1 (Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission)	7	5	2
Scrutiny Commission 2 (Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Commission)	7	5	2



<b>Scrutiny Commissions</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>
Scrutiny Commission 3 (Environment and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission)	7	5	2
Scrutiny Commission 4 (Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission)	7	5	2
<b>Total</b>	28	20	8

<b>Audit, governance and standards sub-committees</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>
Audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee	4	3	1
Audit, governance and standards (standards) sub-committee	3	2	1
<b>Total</b>	7	5	2

### **Policy framework implications**

59. This report is not considered to have direct policy implications.

### **Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts**

60. This report is not considered to have direct community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts.

### **Climate change implications**

61. There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

### **Legal implications**

62. There are no specific legal implications.

### **Financial implications**

63. There are no direct resource implications in the context of this report. The member expenditure budget makes provision for the special responsibility allowances for members. There are no additional costs arising from this report.

### **Consultation**

64. There are no specific consultation requirements arising from this report.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Appointment of Leader and Executive Functions Report - Council Assembly 20 May 2023.	Southwark Council Constitutional team 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	<a href="mailto:Constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk">Constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk</a>
Establishment of committees and other constitutional issues 2023-2024 Report - Council Assembly 20 May 2023.		
Agenda and minutes for the following meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Licensing Committee - 6 December 2007</li> <li>Council Assembly 2004 to 2024</li> </ul>		

## APPENDICES

Appendix	Title
Appendix 1	Political Group Leaders, Deputies and Whips (to be circulated separately)
Appendix 2	Nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs (to be circulated separately)

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
<b>Report Author</b>	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	9 May 2024	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes (included in body of report)
Strategic Director, Finance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	13 May 2024	

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	Council Assembly (Annual Meeting)
<b>Date:</b>	22 May 2024
<b>Report title:</b>	Nominations to London Councils Committees, Greater London Employment Forum, Borough Lead members, London Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Common Investment Vehicle (CIV) Ltd and London Councils Limited 2024-25
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>	All
<b>Classification:</b>	Open
<b>Reason for lateness (if applicable):</b>	Not Applicable
<b>From:</b>	Proper Constitutional Officer

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That council assembly consider and agree nominations to the London Councils committees, the Greater London Employment Forum, London Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Common Investment Vehicle (CIV) Ltd and London Councils Limited, details listed in Appendix 1 of the report.
2. That council assembly nominate borough lead members/relevant portfolio holders for the areas listed in paragraph 9 of the report.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3. The council nominates representatives to serve on the London Councils committees on an annual basis. The nomination of representatives to the London Councils committees and forums fall within the terms of reference of the cabinet. Council assembly is being asked to agree the nominations for 2024-25 in order to appoint members prior to the London Councils Annual General Meeting (AGM).

**KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Joint committees**

4. The Local Government Act 2000 and regulations enable local authorities to make use of joint arrangements with other authorities. Under these arrangements, a “joint committee” can be established in agreement with other local authorities to promote the economic, social or environmental well being of the area.

5. In this report the council is invited to make nominations to the following joint committees:
  - London Councils Leaders' Committee (s101 Joint Committee)
  - London Councils Transport and Environment Committee (Associated Joint Committee)
  - London Councils Grants Committee (Associated Joint Committee)
6. The council is also invited to make nominations to the London Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Common Investment Vehicle (CIV) Ltd.
7. Council assembly may only nominate cabinet members as representatives or deputies to the joint committees. The nominations need not reflect the political composition of the local authority as a whole. This is set out in Article 9 on joint arrangements in the council's constitution. London Councils advise that the deputies should have some knowledge of the policy area concerned, can be kept informed of the member body's activities and be able to act as substitute if the principal nominee is unable to attend a meeting.

### **Greater London Employment Forum**

8. The Greater London Employment Forum acts as the regional employer for London for those staff employed under the National Joint Council for Local Government Services. The representative is usually the lead cabinet member for human resources issues.

### **Borough lead members**

9. The London Councils Executives who lead on particular policy areas need to consult and liaise with relevant borough lead members on matters of major importance and are seeking to identify borough lead member / relevant portfolio holders (by way of nominations) for the following areas:
  - Children and Young People / Safeguarding and Schools
  - Skills and Employment
  - Housing and Regeneration
  - Health, Social Care and Adult Services
  - Arts/Culture, Tourism, Port and Leisure
  - Crime and Public Protection
  - Economic Development / Business
  - Planning / Infrastructure / Development

### **London Councils Limited**

10. The council is required to appoint a representative to the company, London Councils Limited. The London Councils advise that the borough's

representative on the Leaders' Committee is normally appointed unless a council specifically indicates otherwise.

11. All formal London Councils committee and forum meetings are held during the day on weekdays.

#### **Policy framework implications**

12. This report is not considered to have direct policy implications.

#### **Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts**

13. The council is being invited to nominate to the London Councils committees, the Greater London Employment Forum and the London Councils Limited company. The nominations process has no direct impact on the community.

#### **Climate change implications**

14. There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

#### **Legal implications**

15. There are no specific legal implications.

#### **Financial implications**

16. There are no direct resource implications in the context of this report.

#### **Consultation**

17. Consultation is being undertaken with the Mayor, Group whips and finance officers.

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Correspondence from London Councils	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Chidilim Agada <a href="mailto:constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk">constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk</a>

**APPENDICES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 1	Nominations to London Councils Committees, Greater London Employment Forum, London Councils Limited Company, London Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Common Investment Vehicle (CIV) Ltd (to follow)

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
<b>Report Author</b>	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	9 May 2024	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes (included in body of report)
Strategic Director, Finance	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>		9 May 2024

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**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN) (FULL LIST)  
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24**

**NOTE:** Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to  
Virginia Wynn-Jones Tel: 020 7525 7055

<b>ONE COPY TO ALL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED</b>	Copies	To	Copies
<p><b>Councillors</b> (1 each) Councillor Jasmine Ali Councillor Sunil Chopra Councillor Renata Hamvas Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall Councillor Darren Merrill Councillor Leo Pollak Councillor Sandra Rhule Councillor Martin Seaton Councillor Andy Simmons Councillor Cleo Soanes Councillor Kath Whittam Councillor Kieron Williams</p> <p><b>Electronic Versions (No hard copy)</b> All other councillors</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Press</b></p> <p>Southwark News South London Press</p> <p><b>Group Offices</b></p> <p>Arthur Holmes, Labour Group Office Euan Cadzow-Webb, Liberal Democrat Group Office</p> <p><b>Officers</b></p> <p>Althea Loderick Clive Palfreyman Doreen Forrester-Brown Stephen Gaskell Chidilim Agada Toni Ainge David Quirke-Thornton Hakeem Osinaike Sangeeta Leahy</p> <p><b>Constitutional Team</b></p> <p>(Copies to Virginia Wynn-Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hub 2, Tooley Street)</p> <p><b>Others</b></p> <p>Matt Dean, Grant Thornton Ground floor audit office, Tooley Street</p> <p><b>Total:</b></p> <p><b>Last updated:</b> March 2024</p>	<p>by email by email</p> <p>by email by email</p> <p>by email by email by email by email by email by email</p> <p>6</p> <p>by email</p> <p><b>20</b></p>