

Item No. 7.1	Classification: Open	Date: 26 January 2011	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Report back on motions referred to cabinet from council assembly	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Cabinet	

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 2.9 (6) – FREE SCHOOL BREAKFASTS

Cabinet on 23 November 2010 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on 20 October 2010 which had been proposed by Councillor Lewis Robinson, seconded by Councillor Michael Mitchell and subsequently amended.

That council assembly notes:

1. The current administration's manifesto commitment to provide a "free healthy school meal" for every primary school child studying in the borough.
2. That officers are currently working on proposals and costs to implement this commitment.

That council assembly believes:

3. There is a considerable body of evidence, both academic and within the education profession in our borough, supporting the introduction of "breakfast clubs", especially in primary schools. This has mainly been driven by concerns that a substantial proportion of pupils are not eating breakfast and arriving at school hungry, impacting on learning and behaviour during the school day. Breakfast clubs have a wider impact in assisting pupils to arrive at school on time and provide a safe and calm environment before the school day.
4. Evaluations have taken place in inner city boroughs similar to Southwark (Camden, Haringey and Lambeth in particular) where schools participating believed that benefits derived were: children no longer hungry at the start of the school day; more focused on their work; improved punctuality and less unauthorised absences. It was also concluded that the introduction of a "breakfast club" in schools in deprived neighbourhoods was associated with an improvement in pupils' Key Stage 2 average point score.

That council assembly therefore requests the cabinet:

5. Many of our schools in Southwark have different needs and circumstances. It is often the headteachers, the education professionals at each school, who best understand the needs of their schools pupils rather than politicians.
6. Council assembly calls on the cabinet member for children and young people to explore with officers whether the provision of free breakfasts would be more appropriate than free lunches across the borough and the feasibility of allowing schools to choose themselves and to report back to councillors.

7. Council assembly welcomes cross-party support for the principle of universal free school meals.

We noted that the pilot of the free healthy school meals for all primary aged pupils was being launched in January 2011 and will run in 10 schools until July 2011, with implementation in all primary schools – initially in specific year groups from September 2011.

We also noted that whilst for some families the provision of breakfast at school may be helpful, for other households breakfast is an important family meal at home. We will look into the practicality and relative costs of any option to extend the school day to provide breakfasts. The feasibility of introducing an option of free healthy breakfasts instead of lunches will be looked into as part of the evaluation of the free healthy school meals pilot.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 2.9 (6) – LABOUR’S RECORD IN OFFICE SO FAR AND THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS’ BROKEN ELECTION PROMISES

Cabinet on 23 November 2010 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on 20 October 2010 which had been proposed by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, seconded by Councillor Paul Noblet and subsequently amended.

1. That council assembly notes that since the elections in May Labour has, in line with its manifesto:
 - Signed a deal guaranteeing a minimum level of affordable housing at Elephant & Castle and made progress on the swimming pool and demolition of the shopping centre
 - Saved Nursery Row Park and Brayards Green in line with our commitment to value green spaces
 - Cut special responsibility allowances (SRAs) by the same amount that they were increased by the last administration
 - Put in place tough new restrictions on consultancy spending
 - Started a budget consultation as part of our commitment to open up the budgeting process
 - Made every fire risk assessment publicly available
 - Hired a new housing director for the new housing department
 - Started to pilot our dedicated line for social care queries
 - Extended CCTV coverage
 - Consulted on our new charter of rights for people who need social care
 - Worked with other boroughs to see what savings can be achieved through cooperative working.
2. That council assembly notes that in the coming months Labour will, in line with its manifesto, at the very least:
 - Set out how we will make every home warm, dry and safe
 - Open two air quality monitoring stations
 - Launch the teen pregnancy commission
 - Publish news on the violent crime strategy
 - Continue to consult on the budget, in spite of the coalition government’s cuts.

3. That council assembly notes that in contrast to this record of achievement, the last Liberal Democrat council administration left office with at least 50 of its election pledges unfulfilled.
4. That council assembly further notes the Liberal Democrats significant broken manifesto promises since entering a coalition government with the Tories, not least on:
 - the scale and speed of spending cuts
 - the hike in the level of VAT
 - the hike in tuition fees, which every Liberal Democrat MP pledged to oppose.
5. That council assembly calls on the cabinet to continue to meet its election obligations, despite the Tory/Liberal Democrat cuts.

We noted the motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 2.9 (6) – THAMES WATER SEWAGE TUNNEL

Cabinet on 23 November 2010 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on 20 October 2010 which had been proposed by Councillor Wilma Nelson, seconded by Councillor Eliza Mann and subsequently amended.

1. That council assembly notes the proposal by Thames Water to close King's Stairs gardens for seven years and the Alfred Salter playground, Druid Street, for two years for the construction of the new Thames Tunnel.
2. That council assembly further notes that if the Thames Water proposals go ahead both sites will be used to construct massive permanent sewage ventilation towers with significant loss of local green space and residential amenity.
3. That council assembly supports the Thames Tunnel scheme, but believes these two sites – which provide welcome recreational and green spaces in some of the most densely populated parts of the capital – are entirely inappropriate for the task of constructing a major infrastructure project.
4. That council assembly supports the progress that the cabinet and community have made to date and will continue to make in finding less environmentally damaging alternative sites by lobbying Thames Water and calls on Simon Hughes MP to use his influence over ministers in government to find such alternative sites.

We noted the motion and agreed that as part of the report to be received by cabinet on 14 December 2010 officers include a complete timeline of events in respect of this issue.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 2.9 (6) – THE COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW

Cabinet on 23 November 2010 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on 20 October 2010 which had been moved by Councillor Mark Glover and seconded by Councillor Helen Morrissey.

1. That council assembly notes the publication of the coalition government's comprehensive spending review (CSR) today and the bigger than expected 28% cuts which will be made to the council's budget as a result.
2. That council assembly notes other announced changes with concern, including cuts of 60% to capital budgets for new housing and for rents for new council tenants to be increased to 80% of market value. This would mean an average rent of £1,358 a month for a two-bedroom flat in SE1, not only will this be pricing young families out of the borough, but also creating an impediment to the housing moves needed for Southwark's regeneration projects.
3. That council assembly does not believe that the cuts brought forward within the CSR needed to be so deep or so quick. An alternative approach could have been adopted.
4. That council assembly welcomes the commitment of the Southwark cabinet to making the budget process open and transparent and the budget principles which have been agreed.
5. That council assembly calls on the cabinet to continue to make the case against the cuts with the government and coalition MPs, but to prepare a budget within the financial constraints imposed by the government in the interests of the residents of Southwark.

We noted the motion.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet agenda and minutes – 23 November 2010	Constitutional Team, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TZ	Paula Thornton 020 7525 4395
Council assembly agenda and minutes – 20 October 2010		

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
Report Author	Everton Roberts, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	13 January 2011	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional / Community Council / Scrutiny Team		13 January 2011