

<b>Item No.</b> 17.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 22 March 2011	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		Motions Referred from Council Assembly	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Law, Communities & Governance	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the cabinet considers the motions set out in the appendices attached to the report.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Council assembly at its meeting on Wednesday, 26 January 2011 agreed a number of motions and these stand referred to the cabinet for consideration.
3. The cabinet is requested to consider the motions referred to it. Any proposals in a motion are treated as a recommendation only. The final decisions of the cabinet will be reported back to the next meeting of council assembly. When considering a motion, cabinet can decide to:
  - Note the motion; *or*
  - Agree the motion in its entirety, *or*
  - Amend the motion; *or*
  - Reject the motion.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9(6), the attached motions were referred to the cabinet. The cabinet will report on the outcome of its deliberations upon the motions to a subsequent meeting of council assembly.
5. The constitution allocates responsibility for particular functions to council assembly, including approving the budget and policy framework, and to the cabinet for developing and implementing the budget and policy framework and overseeing the running of council services on a day-to-day basis.
6. Any key issues, such as policy, community impact or funding implications are included in the advice from the relevant chief officer.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Motions submitted in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (6).	160 Tooley Street London SE1 5LX	Lesley John Constitutional Team 020 7525 7228

## LIST OF APPENDICES

Number	Title
Appendix 1	Educational maintenance allowance
Appendix 2	Southwark Council tribute to heroes
Appendix 3	Choices that count

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
<b>Report Author</b>	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	14 March 2011	
<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>
Chief Executive	Yes	No
Strategic Director of Children's Services	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Environment & Housing	Yes	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	14 March 2011	

**Educational Maintenance Allowance**

At council assembly on Wednesday 26 January 2011 a motion on the withdrawal of the educational maintenance allowance was moved by Catherine McDonald and seconded by Councillor Patrick Diamond. The motion was subsequently amended and the amended motion stands referred to the cabinet as a recommendation.

**Recommendation**

1. That council assembly notes that over 20,000 young people in Southwark have benefitted from the educational maintenance allowance ('EMA') which provides financial support to young people from financially disadvantaged backgrounds and enables them to afford to remain in post-16 education.
2. That council assembly also notes that before the 2010 general election both the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties promised to retain the EMA.
3. That in the circumstances council assembly bitterly regrets the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition government's decision to withdraw the EMA to new students from January 2011 and existing students from July 2011.
4. That council assembly believes that the withdrawal of the EMA will have a significant and disproportionately adverse impact on the educational and life chances of thousands of young people in Southwark and will result in many more young people leaving full-time education at the age of 16.
5. That council assembly also notes and regrets the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition government attacks on young peoples' education through increasing university tuition fees, ceasing Bookstart and the withdrawal of the sport in schools programme and calls on the government to reconsider its approach and to invest in our young peoples' future rather than reduce services to them.
6. That council assembly also notes and regrets that the government's Adviser on Access to High Education, Rt Hon Simon Hughes MP, avoided the chance to prevent this attack on young people's education by voting with the government to abolish the EMA and by failing to vote against the trebling in university tuition fees.

That council assembly calls upon the cabinet and the relevant cabinet members:

7. To oppose the abolition of the educational maintenance allowance by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government from the 1 January 2011.
8. To lobby the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government and the newly appointed advocate for access to higher education, Simon Hughes MP, to reconsider the abolition of the education maintenance allowance.
9. To secure the support of the three Southwark Members of Parliament to oppose the abolition of the education maintenance allowance.
10. To use all appropriate means to publicise the withdrawal of the EMA to young people in higher education in Southwark, particularly those from low-income families who rely on the allowance to remain in education and to ensure Southwark's young people are informed of any alternative financial provision in place to help them to continue in post 16 education.

## **Comments of the Strategic Director of Children's Services**

Southwark Council is committed to providing the best possible life chances for children and young people.

Educational attainment is a very important factor in influencing earning potential, as well as future health and well being. Ensuring young people are able to access further and higher education is a key priority.

Reflecting the high levels of poverty we know exist in the borough, around 40% of Southwark's 16-18 year old residents currently receive EMAs.

Through discussion with further education providers and feedback from young people, we are anticipating the abolition of the EMA will have a significant impact locally, adding to the numbers not in employment, education and training. Results from a recent survey carried out at Southwark College suggest that the potential drop out rate could be as high as 30%. Many more reported that their continued study would be dependent on securing part time employment.

As a council we are working across departments and with external agencies to ensure that all resources are meeting the needs of all of our young people and are focusing on those who are the most vulnerable.

The Council is setting up a Youth Fund, which will be aimed, in part, to mitigate some of the impact of the government's abolition of EMA.

We are also in the process of restructuring our advice and guidance services for young people. One key objective of the new service will be that young people are informed of any further support available to help them continue in education.

**Southwark Council tribute to heroes**

At council assembly on Wednesday 26 January 2011 a motion on Southwark Council tribute to heroes was proposed by Councillor Denise Capstick and seconded by Councillor Paul Kyriacou. The motion was agreed and stands referred to the cabinet as a recommendation.

**Recommendation**

1. That council recognises and thanks the people of Southwark for all they have done to support the armed forces and to raise funds for Help for Heroes and Homes for Heroes.
2. That council notes that currently all servicemen and women who die in Afghanistan, are brought to Bermondsey before making their final journey to their resting places.
3. That council agrees to work with the relevant parties involved to facilitate an appropriate tribute from Southwark to recognise those who lose their lives whilst serving our country and make their final journey from our borough.

### Choices that count

At council assembly on Wednesday 26 January 2011 a motion on choices that count was proposed by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai and seconded by Councillor Columba Blango. The motion was subsequently amended and the amended motion stands referred to the cabinet as a recommendation.

### Recommendation

1. That council notes that London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics are now only a few months away. It notes that 2012 offers our residents and particularly our young people a unique opportunity to become involved - from volunteering at a big art institution or theatre to sports and dance events and learning new skills. It believes that 2012 is about London as a world city and that Southwark reflects the world in our communities. It believes it is an opportunity not to be missed.
2. That council notes that the administration has recognised the importance of 2012 and set up a modest structure to coordinate the priority areas we have identified:
  - Engaging young people
  - Getting active, being healthy
  - Promoting volunteering and providing opportunities for business and employment
  - Offering the Southwark experience - our world class arts and culture centres linking with the community
  - Communications
  - Public services operations.
3. That council believes that to succeed in setting up specific memorable projects, key organisations in the borough should be involved and that these relationships are important for the promotion of Southwark and its economy. It notes that the Olympic Legacy Fund is being set up with the intention of raising further outside money to fund capital projects which will improve access to and increase participation in physical activity and keep Olympic values alive after 2012. It notes that the community will be asked to submit ideas for high profile projects.
4. That council believes that the community games is important for our young people and for our aspirations for 2012.
5. That council is determined to maximise the benefits of 2012 against a backdrop of Government cutbacks to sport – which it believes are incredible in themselves as we build up to the Olympic year. It notes that the cuts include:
  - Working Neighbourhood Fund which funded part of the community games
  - The Schools Sports Partnership
  - The end of free swimming for young people
  - Cuts to sporting bodies.

6. That council notes that the authority also faces unprecedented cuts to its settlement from government, forcing serious cuts across all services.
7. That council notes, however, that a substantial sum has been identified to secure the games and to build up young peoples' sports for 2012 events. It notes that the administration will seek funding sources to secure the games for the future beyond 2012.