

<b>Item No.</b> 4.2	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 6 July 2011	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Motions	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The councillor introducing or “moving” the motion may make a speech directed to the matter under discussion. This may not exceed five minutes<sup>1</sup>.

A second councillor will then be asked by the Mayor to “second” the motion. This may not exceed three minutes without the consent of the Mayor.

The meeting will then debate the issue and any amendments on the motion will be dealt with.

At the end of the debate the mover of the motion may make a concluding speech, known as a “right of reply”. If an amendment is carried, the mover of the amendment shall hold the right of reply to any subsequent amendments and, if no further amendments are carried, at the conclusion of the debate on the substantive motion.

The Mayor will then ask councillors to vote on the motion (and any amendments).

## **IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION**

The constitution allocates responsibility for particular functions to council assembly, including approving the budget and policy framework, and allocates to the cabinet responsibility for developing and implementing the budget and policy framework and overseeing the running of council services on a day-to-day basis. Therefore any matters that are reserved to the cabinet (i.e. housing, social services, regeneration, environment, education etc) cannot be decided upon by council assembly without prior reference to the cabinet. While it would be in order for council assembly to discuss an issue, consideration of any of the following should be referred to the cabinet:

- to change or develop a new or existing policy
- to instruct officers to implement new procedures
- to allocate resources.

Note: In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10 (7) & (8) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which motions appear in the agenda may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9)

**1. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMMELL** (Seconded by Councillor Michael Bukola)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10 (6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

**Homes for Families**

1. Council notes the important role that good quality housing plays in shaping the future health, happiness and well-being of young people in our borough.
2. Council requests that cabinet considers affirming that it will not approve the sell off of any council estates to private sector or registered social landlords.
3. Council further calls on cabinet to agree to review within no more than twelve months the geographical, social and demographic impact of its recent policy change to reduce the threshold for selling off empty properties to permit the sale of properties worth more than £300,000.

**Note:** If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

**2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD** (Seconded by Councillor Gavin Edwards)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10 (6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

**Southwark's Housing Investment Programme**

1. Council assembly welcomes the council's key pledge to make every home in Southwark warm, dry and safe by 2014-2015.
2. Council assembly also welcomes the council's proposed new housing investment programme of major works to the value of £326.5m over the next 5 years which will ensure that the council's homes meet the government's decent homes standard and the reestablishment of a separate housing department.
3. Council assembly regrets the previous administration's wasteful and inefficient housing programme which created uncertainty among tenants and leaseholders about when their decent homes works would be done; was based on a commitment that could never be delivered within the funding available to the council and did not offer a solution for all of the council's housing stock or meet central government requirements.
4. Council assembly also regrets that the Conservative/Liberal Democrat government has cut Southwark's housing revenue account by nearly £7 million this year, has only provided half the amount of decent homes funding that was bid for and that the allocation is back-ended in the final two years.
5. Council assembly notes that Southwark's housing revenue account will face a deficit as a result of Conservative/Liberal Democrat government cuts.
6. Council assembly calls on the cabinet and relevant cabinet members:
  - a) To ensure that all of the council's homes are made warm, dry and safe by 2014-15.
  - b) To develop a longer-term sustainable strategy for our housing stock.

- c) To look at ways to maximise the level of resources available for investment, including savings through new major works contracts, limited disposal of voids, external funding sources and self-financing regeneration options.

**Note:** If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

**3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK** (Seconded by Councillor Paul Noblet)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10 (6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

**Protecting Southwark Park**

- 4. Council emphasises the significant environmental, social and community value of the green spaces in our borough.
- 5. Council notes with regret and concern the suggestions over the last year for tunnels, holes and pipes in Southwark Park.
- 6. Council and the cabinet clearly state to UK Power Networks that Southwark Park is not a suitable site for their proposals.
- 7. Councillors and the cabinet work with UK Power Networks to find an alternative brownfield site for their proposals.

**Notes:**

- 1. In light of pre-application planning advice given by the council on this matter, the monitoring officer has advised that consideration by council assembly of paragraph 3 of the motion could lead to the council appearing to have predetermined the outcome of the planning process. For similar reasons, in paragraph 2 the words “regret and concern” should also be omitted. The movers of the motion have asked that the motion be published in its submitted form. In order to avoid any predetermination, the monitoring officer advises that members of the planning committee (including reserves) should leave the room and not participate in the debate or voting on this motion.
- 2. If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Member Motions	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Sean Usher 020 7525 7222

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager
<b>Report Author</b>	Sean Usher, Constitutional Officer
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<b>Dated</b>	22 June 2011