

# Council Assembly (Ordinary)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary) held on Wednesday 6 July 2011 at 7.00 pm at Walworth Academy, 34 - 40 Shorncliffe Road, SE1 5UJ

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## PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2011/12, Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE (Chair)

Councillor Kevin Ahern	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Linda Manchester
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Michael Bukola	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Poddy Clark	Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Helen Morrissey
Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Rowenna Davis	Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Patrick Diamond	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor the Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole
Councillor Toby Eckersley	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Mark Gettleson	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Norma Gibbes	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Althea Smith
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor Claire Hickson	Councillor Geoffrey Thornton
Councillor Jeff Hook	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Paul Kyriacou	

## **1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

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

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the council assembly meeting and especially thanked Walworth Academy for allowing the council to use their hall this evening.

The Mayor:

- Congratulated Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle and others who lived or worked in the borough who had received an honour in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, a list of which had been circulated around the room.
- Congratulated the achievements of Southwark's young people in the London Youth Games.

Councillor Veronica Ward, the cabinet member for culture, leisure, sport and the Olympics made an announcement about:

- the community games summer activities programme, which will be published next week.
- She also announced that Southwark Council had become one of the first London boroughs to adopt Inclusive and Active 2, a five year strategy to increase opportunities for disabled young people and adults in sports and physical activity.

Councillor Peter John announced that as Southwark was an Olympic borough, Olympic badges had been circulated to all members.

Councillor Tim McNally made a point of order in respect of Amendment E. The Mayor informed the meeting that having considered advice from the monitoring officer, the amendment had been ruled out of order.

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

The Mayor informed the meeting that there would be a variation in the order of business and that she would hear, in the following order, all public questions, deputations on the themed debate, the themed debate then the remaining deputations.

Councillor Helen Morrissey, seconded by Councillor Tim McNally, moved a procedural motion to suspend council assembly procedure rule 2.6 (20) to allow council assembly to hear the deputation from the Friends of Southwark Park.

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

Councillor Helen Morrissey moved a procedural motion to refer the deputation request on the Pumphouse Educational Museum to the cabinet in light of the consultation process on

the budget. This was seconded.

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

### **1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

Members declared the following interests:

#### **Item 2.2 – Public Question Time**

Councillor Tim McNally declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in the question on Hoptons Almhouses as he is a member of St Saviours Trust.

#### **Item 4.2 – Members' motions.**

Councillors Nick Dolezal and Nick Stanton declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in Motion 3 – Protecting Southwark Park as they are members of the planning committee.

#### **Item 5.2 – Capital Strategy and Programme 2011/12 - 2020/21.**

Councillors Althea Smith, Graham Neale, Lorraine Lauder and Michael Bukola declared personal and non prejudicial interests in the item as they are council tenants.

### **1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Linda Manchester, Jonathan Mitchell, James Barber and Catherine McDonald.

### **1.5 MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the annual meeting held on 24 May 2011 be agreed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

## **2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC**

### **2.1 PETITIONS**

There were none.

### **2.2 DEPUTATION REQUESTS**

*(See pages 2-4 of supplemental agenda 3)*

Following the approval of a procedural motion, a deputation request from the Pumphouse

Educational Museum was referred to the next meeting of the cabinet. The deputation from Southwark Gymnastics Club were not present at the meeting, however members noted the excellent display during the informal session that preceded the meeting.

**Deputation request from the Burgess Park (Colts) cricket team**

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from the Burgess Park (Colts) cricket team.

**RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson addressed the meeting.

Councillors Peter John, Veronica Ward, and Anood Al-Samerai asked questions of the deputation.

**Deputation request from the Southwark Youth Council**

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from Southwark Youth Council.

**RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokespersons from the Southwark Youth Council addressed the meeting.

Councillors Rosie Shimell, Veronica Ward, David Hubber and Tim McNally asked questions of the deputation.

**Deputation request from the Peckham Pride Basketball Club**

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from the Peckham Pride Basketball Club.

**RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Sterling Muschett addressed the meeting, then some of the team members addressed the meeting.

Councillors Paul Noblet, Althea Smith, Lisa Rajan, Peter John and Rowena Davis asked questions of the deputation.

**Deputation request from the Friends of Southwark Park**

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from the Friends

of Southwark Park.

**RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Mr Patrick Kingwell, addressed the meeting.

Councillors Peter John, Barrie Hargrove, Paul Noblet, and Lisa Rajan asked questions of the deputation.

At this juncture Councillor Tim McNally seconded by Councillor Althea Smith, moved that in accordance with council assembly procedural rule 1.6 (b), Motion 3 – Protecting Southwark be heard after the deputation by the Friends of Southwark Park.

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

The motion was then debated.

**2.3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

*(See page 1 of supplemental agenda 3 and green papers circulated at the meeting)*

There were three questions from the public, the answers to which were circulated on green paper at the meeting. Two of the public questioners, Mr Mick Barnard and Mr Seamus Dark, were present and each asked a supplementary question.

**3. THEMED DEBATE - SPORTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**3.1 CABINET MEMBER STATEMENT**

Councillor Veronica Ward made a statement on the theme of the meeting: Sports and Young People.

**3.2 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE THEMED DEBATE**

*(See page 11 of supplemental agenda 3)*

There were five questions from the public to the leader, the written answers to which were circulated on green paper at the meeting. One public questioner, from Dulwich Table Tennis Club, was present and asked a supplementary question.

**3.3 MEMBERS' MOTIONS ON THE THEME**

*(see pages 6-7 of the main agenda)*

## **MOTION ON THEMED DEBATE: ACHIEVEMENTS OF SOUTHWARK'S YOUNG PEOPLE**

Councillor Veronica Ward, seconded by Councillor Renata Hamvas, moved the motion.

Councillor Rosie Shimell, seconded by Councillor Graham Neale, moved Amendment A.

During debate on Amendment A (Councillors Peter John, Andy Simmons, Richard Livingstone, Toby Eckersley, Fiona Colley and Anood Al-Samerai), a procedural motion to move to the vote was moved by Councillor Tim McNally and seconded by Councillor Nick Stanton. The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

Following further debate (Councillors Catherine Bowman, Neil Coyle, Adele Morris, Renata Hamvas and Nick Stanton), Amendment A was put the vote and declared to be lost. The time allowed for the themed debate having expired, the substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried. Amendments B to D and G to H were formally noted, having not been moved and seconded at the meeting.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly recognises and celebrates the achievements of Southwark's children and young people; their sporting achievements; their improving attainment including record GCSE results; their contribution to the arts especially music and drama and their contribution to our communities.
2. That it be noted that this administration's support for young people includes free healthy school meals for primary school children, keeping all our children's centres open, setting up a £3 million Youth Fund and setting up a Teenage Pregnancy Commission. This council also notes the investment put into our leisure centres and this administration's commitment to a leisure centre at the Elephant and Castle and to a continuation of community games despite financial constraints.
3. That council assembly believes that sports can make a significant difference to the lives of young people and that it delivers a wide range of benefits, from improving young people's health to encouraging team working and embedding discipline. It is a core offer for all our young people, as well as an important element of our targeted interventions for vulnerable young people.
4. That council assembly notes the significant reductions in funding for sports made by government:
  - Withdrawal of free school swimming
  - Withdrawal of funding to the School Sports Partnership
  - Withdrawal of funding available to the council and to national sporting bodies to support community led sport.
5. That council assembly believes that despite these cuts it is vitally important that

the council continues to ensure that young people in Southwark have access to sport and sporting opportunities.

6. That council assembly notes the focus of the debate as outlined to all councillors in advance:
  - Showcasing the talents and potential of young people in Southwark
  - What sport means to young people, and the capacity of sport to open pathways to broader opportunities and achievements
  - How different sectors and partners can work together at a time when budgets are tight to maximise provision and access to sport for young people.
7. That council assembly believes that securing future sporting opportunities in Southwark require the following questions to be discussed:
  - How can the council continue to ensure that young people have access to sport and sporting opportunities, with little direct funding, by working with the voluntary, community, educational and private sectors?
  - How can the council work to make sure that all resources available for sport, both facilities and available funding, are maximised across all departments and communities?
  - What are the most effective ways that the council can use its limited resources to encourage young people to get involved in sport?
8. That council assembly calls on the cabinet to note the content of the debate and points raised to feed into a review of the council's sports strategy which runs to 2013.

**Note:** The motion was referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

#### **4. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS**

##### **4.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

*(see pages 8-15 of the main agenda and the blue and yellow papers circulated at the meeting)*

There was one urgent question to the leader from the leader of the opposition, the written answer to which was circulated on blue paper at the meeting. The leader answered two supplementary questions on the question. The questions are attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes

There were fifty eight members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated on yellow paper. Six supplementary questions were answered, thereafter the bell was rung and the Mayor announced that the guillotine had fallen. The questions are attached as Appendix 2 to the minutes.

## 4.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

### **MOTION 1: HOMES FOR FAMILIES** *(see page 17 of the main agenda)*

The guillotine having fallen, Councillor Rosie Shimell, seconded by Councillor Michael Bukola, formally moved the motion.

Councillor Ian Wingfield, seconded by Councillor Helen Morrissey, formally moved late Amendment I.

Late Amendment I was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That council agrees that good quality housing can play an important role in shaping the future, health and well-being of young people in our borough.
2. That council therefore regrets the actions of the Tory Liberal Democrat government to threaten Southwark tenants security of tenure, cut Southwark's housing revenue account, halve the amount of decent homes funding Southwark is to receive, cap housing benefit and introduce rents of up to 80% of market value, making many properties unaffordable to people living in the borough – all of which will impact upon the future health, happiness and well-being of young people in our borough.
3. That council also regrets the failure of the previous Liberal Democrat administration to set out a coherent housing programme that addressed the needs of people in Southwark and was based on spending money that was not available to the council at the time.
4. That council welcomes the current administration's pledges to; make every council home warm, dry and safe by 2014/15, and believes the new housing investment programme will help to secure a better future for our young people by bringing every Southwark home up to a decent standard, by letting tenants know when they can expect improvements and by being based on funding available to the council to ensure that it is actually delivered unlike the previous Liberal Democrat administration's disastrous programme.

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

### **MOTION 2: SOUTHWARK'S HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME** *(see pages 17-18 of the main agenda)*

The guillotine having fallen, Councillor Ian Wingfield, seconded by Councillor Gavin Edwards, formally moved the motion.

Councillor Michael Bukola, seconded by Councillor Tim McNally, formally moved Amendment J.



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

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly welcomes the council's key pledge to make every home in Southwark warm, dry and safe by 2014-2015.
2. That council assembly also welcomes the council's proposed new housing investment programme of major works to the value of £326.5m over the next five 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. That 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. That 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. That council assembly notes that Southwark's housing revenue account will face a deficit as a result of Conservative/Liberal Democrat government cuts.
6. That 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:** This motion was referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

**MOTION 3: PROTECTING SOUTHWARK PARK** *(see page 18 of the main agenda)*

Following advice from the strategic director of communities, law and governance, members of the planning committee left the chamber for this item.

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Jeff Hook, seconded by Councillor Paul Noblet, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillors Peter John and Barrie Hargrove) the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly emphasises the significant environmental, social and community value of the green spaces in our borough.
2. That council assembly notes with regret and concern the suggestions over the last year for tunnels, holes and pipes in Southwark Park.
3. That council assembly and the cabinet clearly state to UK Power Networks that Southwark Park is not a suitable site for their proposals.
4. That councillors and the cabinet work with UK Power Networks to find an alternative brownfield site for their proposals.

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

**5. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION FROM THE CABINET**

**5.1 COUNCIL PLAN**

*(see pages 19-55 of the main agenda)*

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (1), Councillor Peter John moved the report.

Following debate (Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, Fiona Colley, Lisa Rajan, Helen Morrissey), the recommendation contained within the report was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations of the cabinet set out in the report, which makes up the council plan; noting the fairer future promises, be adopted.

**Note:** The cabinet recommendation had not been amended, therefore in accordance with the budget and policy framework procedure rule 2 (e), the decision could be implemented with immediate effect.

**5.2 CAPITAL STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME 2011/12 - 2020/21**

*(see pages 56-94 of the main agenda, supplemental agenda 2 and lilac papers circulated at the meeting)*

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

There were three members' questions on the report, the written responses to which were circulated on lilac paper. There were three supplementary questions. The questions are attached as Appendix 3 to the minutes

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (1), Councillor Richard Livingstone moved the report.

The guillotine having fallen Amendment K was put to the vote and declared to be carried. Amendment L was put to the vote and declared to be carried. Amendment M was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

The recommendations in the substantive report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the recommendations of the cabinet on 21 June 2011 for a refreshed 10-year general fund capital programme 2011–2021 of £351m, as detailed in the cabinet report attached as Appendix 1 to the report be agreed, except that the proposal to use the whole of the Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) Reward Grant (£4.3m) for capital purposes be agreed only to the extent of £4.25m and that the cabinet is invited to take the balance of £50,000 to revenue to support the retention in 2011/12 of school crossing patrols.
2. That the recommendations of the cabinet on 21 June 2011 for the Housing Investment Programme (HIP) 2011–2016 as detailed in the cabinet report attached as Appendix 1 of the report be agreed.
3. That the capital strategy included in the council's medium term resources strategy agreed by cabinet on 21 June 2011 (paragraphs 8 to 9 of the report) be noted.
4. That it be noted that there is unallocated capital in the later years of the programme. Council assembly therefore asks that cabinet consider how this funding should be used in its preparation of the next capital programme refresh in early 2012, in the light of the government's 2012/13 funding settlement, economic conditions and the announcement of the successful bidders to the council's Olympic Legacy Fund.
5. That given the recent progress with the Nunhead and Peckham Area Action Plan the council calls for cabinet to consider the allocation of the necessary capital resources to redevelop the area immediately in front of Peckham Rye Station, with the aim of reinstating the heritage of the station and to create new retail and other opportunities around the station to enhance the potential for the area.

6. That council assembly asks cabinet to bring forward the work on Seven Islands Leisure Centre by a year, to start in the 2014/15 financial year.

**Note:** The cabinet recommendation was amended, therefore in accordance with the budget and policy framework procedure rule 2 (e), the decision is treated as an in-principle decision for seven days unless the leader indicates he has no objection to the change. At the meeting the leader stated he accepted the changes. Therefore the decision can be implemented with immediate effect.

## **6. REPORT(S) FOR INFORMATION FROM THE CABINET**

### **6.1 REPORT BACK ON MOTIONS REFERRED TO CABINET FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**

*(see pages 95-101 of the main agenda)*

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

## **7. OTHER REPORTS**

### **7.1 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE - 2010/11 ANNUAL REPORT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS FOR CAPITAL FINANCE AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT**

*(see pages 102-112 of the main agenda)*

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (2), the report was moved by the Mayor then put to the vote and declared to be carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the 2010/11 outturn report on debt, investments and prudential indicators be noted.

The meeting closed at 10.51 pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**