

Item No. 3.3	Classification: Open	Date: 25 January 2012	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motions on the Theme: Environment	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the themed debate, council assembly may debate motions. Members' motions on the theme will use present principles to allow sufficient political balance and for political groups to hold cabinet to account (maximum 30 minutes).¹

Members are limited to moving one motion and seconding one motion in the themed section of the meeting.

All motions shall be relevant to the topic under discussion and shall be conducted under the existing rules for members' motions. Normal deadlines shall apply for the submission of members' motions.

The order in which motions are debated and timings shall be determined by the Mayor.²

1. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR GEOFFREY THORNTON** (Seconded by Councillor James Barber)

Carbon neutral council by 2020

1. Council assembly notes that climate change is one of the biggest threats to our borough.
2. Council assembly further notes that Southwark Council emits 14.5% of the borough's carbon emissions and should take the lead in reducing total emissions.
3. Council assembly welcomes the continuing carbon reduction schemes started under the previous administration; including the green buildings programme, the 200 Club and the ecoschools programme
4. Council assembly regrets the lack of new initiatives in the council's energy and carbon reduction strategy and the cabinet's recent disastrous decision to reduce short term targets for carbon reduction.
5. Council assembly further regrets the cabinet's decision to abandon a green energy plant as part of the Elephant and Castle regeneration agreement

¹ Council assembly procedure rule 2.7 (3)

² Council assembly procedure rule 2.7 (9) and (10)

and not to include full home insulation as part of the cabinet's definition of warm, dry and safe.

6. Council assembly believes that Southwark Council should be more ambitious and lead the way in carbon reduction by becoming a carbon neutral council by 2020.
7. Council assembly therefore calls on the cabinet to commit to this target by using innovative ways of making the council's operational estate, schools, academies and leisure centres carbon neutral, including new powers for local authorities to sell renewable energy on the grid, developing a green energy plant at the Elephant and insulating every council home along the lines of the Bermondsey community council project.

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

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DAN GARFIELD (Seconded by Councillor Darren Merrill)

Environment

1. Council assembly believes that even in times of austerity protecting our natural environment is one of the most important issues for the borough and must remain a key priority for the council.
2. Council assembly believes this is recognised by all political parties and so calls on councillors to work together to suggest innovative ways for the council and Southwark residents to tackle carbon emissions and protect our natural environment.
3. Council assembly notes that the majority of emissions from transport in Southwark are from road vehicles and welcomes the council's transport plan which aims to reduce the impact of transport on air quality by encouraging sustainable travel choices within the borough.
4. Council assembly believes that the council should set an example in energy efficiency and welcomes the fact that it has delivered on its promise to reduce carbon emissions in council buildings by 8.5%.
5. Council assembly welcomes the introduction of food waste recycling to all street-based properties in the borough and notes the impact this is already having in areas involved in the scheme where recycling has increased to 51%.
6. Council assembly calls on members to consider these issues and discuss:
 - How the council can encourage more sustainable travel, especially safe cycling and walking
 - How the council can promote energy efficiency, not just in buildings owned by the council, but in all properties
 - Given the huge reductions in the council's budget this year and in the coming years, how the council can protect the public realm, Southwark's parks and green spaces.

7. Council assembly notes the stated aim of the coalition government to be the “greenest government ever” and calls on members to consider how Southwark can use government funding to support green investment and green jobs in our borough.

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

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GETTLESON (Seconded by Councillor Lisa Rajan)

Making Southwark a cycling borough

1. Southwark councillors send their deepest condolences to the family of Ellie Carey who tragically died on her bike on Tower Bridge Road recently.
2. Council assembly notes that, in 2010, 35 cyclists were killed or seriously injured on Southwark's road.
3. Council assembly further notes the importance of promoting cycling as a sustainable form of transport and the urgent need to improve safety for cyclists.
4. Council assembly regrets that the current percentage of cyclists in Southwark is 4% and the lack of ambition of the cabinet which is aiming for a pathetic increase to 5% by 2025.
5. Council assembly therefore calls on the cabinet to:
 - Increase the target from 5% to 20%
 - Work with Transport for London to increase the safety of junctions and roads, and in particular the Tower Bridge Road and Abbey Street junction
 - Reverse any decisions to remove cycle paths
 - Devolve lighting and highway maintenance to community councils.

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

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Member Motions on the Themed Debate	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Andrew Weir 020 7525 7222

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	12 January 2012