

Item No. 4.2	Classification: Open	Date: 25 January 2012	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motions	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		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 minutes¹.

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.

¹ Council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9)

1. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN (Seconded by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai)

Post offices for Southwark

1. Council assembly notes the importance of local post office branches in Southwark for local people, small businesses and the community as a whole.
2. Council assembly regrets the closure of a number of vital post offices by the previous Labour government including Peckham Road, Old Kent Road, East Street, Nunhead, East Dulwich, Dockhead and Brandon Estate.
3. Council assembly welcomes the fact that after more than 20 years of reductions of service and closures of post offices, the current government is investing £1.34 billion to stabilise, improve and extend the services of post offices throughout the UK.
4. Council assembly notes the recent request from Post Office Minister Ed Davey for councils to enter into strategic relationships with the post office to:
 - Review the current location of post offices
 - Review the services in which they specialise
 - Look at ways of enhancing co-operation between the post office and all public sector bodies, particularly councils
 - Develop methods for working together to deal with problems of financial inclusions.
5. Council assembly calls on the leader to write to the chair of the post office to invite talks for the establishment of such a partnership in areas where there is a particular need, such as on the Brandon Estate.

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

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE (Seconded by Councillor Mark Williams)

Changes to NHS Southwark

1. Council assembly recognises and appreciates the excellent work done by doctors, nurses and other health workers in Southwark.
2. Council assembly believes the government's Health and Adult Social Care Bill is creating uncertainty in the NHS at a time when budgets are already tight and regrets that Southwark PCT will be required to hold back £21 million, which could be spent on patient care, to pay for the government's reorganisation.
3. Council assembly believes the government's top down reorganisation lacks direction and is an unnecessary distraction to Southwark's NHS staff at a time when they want to focus on patient care.

4. Council assembly also notes that the number of people in Southwark waiting more than 18 weeks from referral to treatment has increased by 168% since May 2010 – the largest increase in London.
5. Council assembly believes the government's decision to abolish waiting time targets has led to this increase in Southwark and now means fewer than 90% of Southwark patients are being treated within 18 weeks.
6. Council assembly believes giving patients' certainty about when they will be treated is fundamentally important to their health and that low waiting times are a benchmark for excellence in the NHS.
7. Council assembly welcomes the opposition of Harriet Harman and Tessa Jowell to the government's NHS reforms and notes Simon Hughes's comments on 8 December that there had been a "particular issue" in Southwark regarding waiting times. It hopes that instead of blaming hardworking NHS staff in Southwark Simon Hughes will take their side and oppose the government's NHS reforms.

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

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN (Seconded by Councillor Claire Hickson)

Save Chambers Wharf

1. Council assembly notes the purchase of Chambers Wharf by Thames Water and that it is the company's preferred construction site in Southwark for a "Super Sewer" junction.
2. Council assembly notes that 150 residential properties, two schools with over 1000 students and the Thames Path are situated very near to the Chambers Wharf site.
3. Council assembly regrets the impact Thames Water's plans could have on the local community and notes that construction will take at least seven years, three years of which will be 24 hours a day for 7 days a week. This will not only lead to an increase in noise pollution but to increased heavy vehicle traffic on the local roads, which are not only narrow but also where the schools are located posing a real danger to school children and local residents.
4. Council assembly believes construction so close to residents and schools for such a length of time would be a major source of air pollution possibly causing respiratory illnesses, asthma and bronchitis.
5. Council assembly is also concerned that Southwark residents' water bills are likely to increase by £70 per year if Thames Water's proposal goes ahead and, once completed, Thames Water cannot guarantee there will not be sewage smells from the site.
6. Council assembly requests the cabinet to call on Thames Water to find an alternative non-residential site to Chambers Wharf that will have no impact on Southwark residents and welcomes the report of the Selborne

Commission which has been set up by a number of riverside London councils to examine alternatives to the Thames Tunnel.

7. Council assembly calls on all political groups in Southwark and local MPs to stand up to Thames Water in opposing Chambers Wharf as a construction site.

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	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