



Council Assembly (Ordinary)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary) held on Tuesday 29 November 2011 at 7.00 pm at The Charter School, Red Post Hill, London SE24 9JH

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 James Barber	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Catherine McDonald
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 Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton	Councillor Helen Morrissey
Councillor Rowenna Davis	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Patrick Diamond	Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor Toby Eckersley	Councillor the Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Mark Gattleson	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Norma Gibbes	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Stephen Govier	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

- Thanked all the teams who competed in her quiz night on 18 November, when a grand total of £1,127 was raised for her two charities.
- Announced that on the 2 and 3 December Councillor Poddy Clark would be taking part in a Charity Sleep Out from 9.00pm to 7.00am in the grounds of Southwark Cathedral in aid of The Robes Charity. This charity aims to provide overnight accommodation to homeless people through the winter. A sponsorship form was available at the meeting for anyone who wished to sponsor Councillor Clark.

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

There were no late items of business.

With the meeting's consent the Mayor announced that she intended to vary the order in which the deputations were considered as there were children present who were involved in two of the deputations. Therefore the deputations from the 23rd Camberwell Scouts Group and the Lollipop Campaign/Safe Routes to School would be considered first followed by the deputations from the Leathermarket Joint Management Board and the Southwark Trades Union Council.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Item 3.3 – Members motion on the theme - Housing

Councillors Althea Smith, Graham Neale, Lorraine Lauder, Martin Seaton, Michael Bukola declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this item as council tenants.

Councillors Catherine Bowman, Eliza Mann, Linda Manchester and Wilma Nelson declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this item as council leaseholders.

Councillor Stephen Govier declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this item as his partner is chair of the tenants council.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Chris Brown. Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillors Columba Blango and Denise Capstick.

1.5 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2011 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

2.1 PETITIONS

There were none.

2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(See page 1 of supplemental agenda 1 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. One of the public questioners asked a supplementary question. The questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

2.3 DEPUTATION REQUESTS

(See pages 2-4 of the main agenda)

The deputations are listed in the order taken at the meeting.

Deputation from the 23rd Camberwell Scouts (St Giles) Scout Group

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from the 23rd Camberwell Scouts (St Giles) Scout Group.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Daniel Hosier, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Peter John, leader of the council, who provided an oral response.

Councillors Peter John, Mark Williams and Anood Al-Samerai asked questions of the deputation.

Deputation from Lollipop Campaign/Safe Routes to School

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from the Lollipop campaign/safe routes to school.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Celia Robertson, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Peter John, leader of the council, who provided an oral response

Councillors Robin Crookshank Hilton, Lewis Robinson and Andy Simmons asked questions of the deputation.

At the close of questions to the deputation Councillor Michael Mitchell, seconded by Councillor James Barber, moved that in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.6 the order of business be varied so that item 4.2. (Motion 1: Retention of school crossing patrols in Dulwich) could be considered at this juncture.

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

The meeting then debated the motion on the retention of school crossing patrols in Dulwich (see item 4.2: Motion 1).

Deputation from Leathermarket Joint Management Board

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from the Leathermarket joint management board.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, John Paul Maytum, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Ian Wingfield, deputy leader of the council and cabinet member for housing management, who provided an oral response

Councillors Claire Hickson, Tim McNally and Fiona Colley asked questions of the deputation.

Deputation from Southwark Trades Union Council.

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

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Sue Plain, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Richard Livingstone, cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety, who provided an oral response

Councillors Helen Morrissey, David Noakes and Patrick Diamond asked questions of the deputation.

3. THEMED DEBATE - HOUSING

3.1 CABINET MEMBER STATEMENT

Councillor Ian Wingfield introduced the theme of the meeting.

At the invitation of the Mayor, the lead opposition spokesperson on housing, Councillor Tim McNally, replied to the cabinet members' statement.

3.2 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE THEME

(See supplemental agenda 2, page 2 and green papers circulated at the meeting)

There was one question from the public, the answer to which was circulated on green paper at the meeting. The public questioner was not at the meeting. The question and written response are attached as Appendix 2 to the minutes.

3.3 MEMBERS' MOTIONS ON THE THEME

MOTION 1 - HOUSING

(See pages 9-11 of the main agenda)

Councillor Paul Noblet, seconded by Councillor Michael Bukola, moved Motion 1.

Councillor Gavin Edwards, seconded by Councillor Cleo Soanes, moved Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Peter John, Anood Al-Samerai, Toby Eckersley, Ian, Wingfield, Nick Stanton, Helen Morrissey, Poddy Clark, Stephen Govier, Patrick Diamond and Adele Morris), Amendment A 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 assembly believes Southwark faces immense challenges in relation to its housing stock over the next 30 years that can only be resolved by taking a long-term, strategic approach.
2. That council assembly notes that Southwark Council still owns 31% of Southwark's housing stock (down from 70% in 1981) – around 40,000 homes. Despite this reduction in local authority control, there are nearly 17,000 people on the council's waiting list.

3. That council assembly believes that decent housing – where communities are mixed – is key to securing a better future for our young people, developing stable and vibrant communities, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and improving public health.
4. That council assembly notes the immediate challenge faced on estates with high investment needs including Abbeyfield Estate, Four Squares Estate and Hawkstone low rise and calls for dialogue between council and tenants and leaseholders to continue.
5. That council assembly notes the uncertainty many tenants and leaseholders faced under the last housing investment programme, and welcomes the new £326 million, five year programme which will ensure every council home is warm, dry and safe by 2015/16.
6. That council assembly also welcomes the review of leaseholder charges to ensure Southwark has an accurate, fair and transparent system of charging leaseholders for the services they receive.
7. That council assembly notes the focus of the debate as outlined to all councillors in advance:
 - How do we balance the increasing demand for the council to supply housing with the need to maintain existing stock and with the limited geographical and financial resources available?
 - The proportion of housing stock in the private rented sector has ballooned in the last 30 years to a point where the numbers of private rented, privately owned and council homes are roughly equal. How do we ensure tenants rights and responsibilities are guaranteed in a sector over which the council has less control?
 - What role can other social landlords play in helping to ensure we deliver the housing which Southwark needs?
8. That council assembly welcomes the council's decision to set up an independent housing commission to investigate these issues outlined above and calls on members and residents to contribute their views.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

MOTION 2 - HOUSING

(See pages 9-11 of the main agenda)

The time allocated for the themed debate having expired, Motion 2 and its amendments were formally noted having not been moved and seconded at the meeting.

4. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

4.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

(See pages 3-11 of supplemental agenda 2 and the blue and yellow papers circulated at the meeting)

There was one urgent question to the leader, the written response to which was circulated on blue paper at the meeting. Two supplemental questions were asked of the leader by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, the leader of the majority opposition group. The questions and responses are attached as Appendix 3 to the minutes.

There were fifty-four members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated on yellow paper at the meeting. There were eight supplemental questions, the questions and responses are attached as Appendix 4 to the minutes.

At 10.10pm the bell was rang and the Mayor informed the meeting that the guillotine had fallen. The remainder of the members' questions were formally noted.

4.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

MOTION 1 – RETENTION OF SCHOOL CROSSING PATROLS IN DULWICH

(See pages 19-21 of the main agenda)

This item was considered after the deputation from the Lollipop campaign/safe routes to school, prior to the guillotine having fallen.

The Mayor stated that following consultation with the whips and in line with council assembly procedure rule 1.6 she had agreed to vary the way that Motion 1 was considered as follows:

- The motion and each amendment would be moved and seconded and then all the items would be opened up for debate
- The Mayor would move to the vote on each amendment and the substantive motion.

Councillor Toby Eckersley, seconded by Councillor Michael Mitchell, moved Motion 1.

Councillor Rosie Shimell, seconded by Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton, moved Amendment D.

Councillor Richard Livingstone, seconded by Councillor Helen Hayes, moved Amendment E.

Following debate (Councillors Barrie Hargrove and Lewis Robinson), Councillor Helen Morrissey, seconded by Councillor Ian Wingfield, moved that the vote be put.

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

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

Amendment E 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 assembly;
 - Notes the unprecedented financial situation the council must deal with following estimated Tory/Liberal Democrat government cuts over three years of £90 million to the council's non-housing budget.
 - Notes that as part of looking for all possible sources of funding or ways of continuing to run school crossing patrols, senior council officers are currently in discussions with local schools; both private and community and local residents across the borough.
2. That council assembly further notes following the deliberations of the Democracy Commission, the cabinet intends to propose as part of the forthcoming budget process the introduction of a cleaner, greener, safer revenue budget, equating to £10,000 per ward, for community councils to determine from 1 April 2012.
3. That, therefore, council assembly invites Dulwich and those community councils affected by previously agreed budget savings to school crossing patrols to consider whether they wish to prioritise the continued funding of those crossing patrols as part of this cleaner, greener safer revenue spend from 2012/13 onwards.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

MOTION 2 – SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAM SERGEANTS

(See pages 19-21 of the main agenda)

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Catherine Bowman and Robin Crookshank Hilton, formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Kevin Ahern and Neil Coyle, formally moved and seconded Amendment F.

Amendment F 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 assembly regrets the loss of five safer neighbourhood team sergeants in Southwark which is a direct result of the government's 20% cut in the police grant. Council assembly further regrets the decision by the Mayor of London to make these cuts irrespective of the level of crime in any borough.
2. That council assembly notes that MPs from all parties had an opportunity to vote against this 20% cut in funding if they wanted to preserve police numbers in Southwark. It welcomes the fact Harriet Harman and Tessa Jowell voted against this cut, but regrets that Simon Hughes, once again, abstained.
3. That council assembly notes that the council's budget allocated £5.5 million in

contingency funds and that the figure of £9.5 million is incorrectly calculated. Council assembly further notes that the quarter 2 revenue monitoring report considered by cabinet on 22 November indicates that £2.6 million of this contingency fund may need to be used to offset pressures in departmental budgets this year.

4. That council assembly believes the council has demonstrated its ability to protect people from the worst excesses of the government; for instance, by introducing a £3 million youth fund as a direct response to the cut to educational maintenance allowances and the trebling of tuition fees.
5. That, in the circumstances, council assembly urges the government to reverse its reckless cut to the Metropolitan Police's budget and calls on Mayor Boris Johnson to maintain police numbers in Southwark.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

MOTION 3 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

(See pages 19-21 of the main agenda)

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Patrick Diamond and Mark Glover, formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors James Barber and Paddy Clark, formally moved and seconded Amendment G.

Amendment G 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 assembly notes that the local government pension scheme is a sustainable, good quality pension scheme that benefits from being funded and locally managed. It is valuable to employers and employees alike.
2. That council assembly is concerned by proposals announced by the Chancellor in the last comprehensive spending review to impose an extra 3.2% contribution tax on scheme members, increasing scheme average member contributions from 6.6% to 9.8%.
3. That council assembly also notes that none of the additional revenue raised from this increase will go towards improving the financial security of the scheme and risks the sustainability of public sector pension schemes in the long term by encouraging people to opt out of occupational schemes because they cannot afford to pay this increase; ultimately costing the tax payer more in the future.
4. That council assembly welcomes the recent but limited change in position from the government and hopes that this indicates, after months of grandstanding, a willingness to finally enter into proper negotiations with trade unions.
5. That council assembly believes that both private and public service workers have suffered as a result of the austerity measures of the Conservative/Liberal Democrat

government and regrets the impact any industrial action will have on people in Southwark who rely on council services. We urge both the government and unions to explore every other possible course of action.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

5. OTHER REPORTS

6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT - MID YEAR UPDATE 2011/12

(See pages 22-31 of the main agenda and lilac paper 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 two questions on the report, the answers to which were circulated on lilac paper at the meeting. Two supplementary questions were asked of the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety. The questions and responses are attached as Appendix 5 to the minutes.

The recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

That the 2011/12 treasury management mid-year update be noted.

6.1 APPOINTMENT OF AN HONORARY RECORDER OF SOUTHWARK

(See pages 32-34 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

The recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That pursuant to section 54 of the Courts Act 1971, His Honour Judge Roger Chapple be appointed to the office of Honorary Recorder of Southwark during his tenure as Senior Resident Judge at Inner London Crown Court.
2. That the appointment be formally recognised at an appropriate civic ceremony.

The meeting closed at 10.25pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: