

Item No. 3.3	Classification: Open	Date: 27 November 2013	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motions on the Theme – Local Business and Enterprise	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

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.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 SUNIL CHOPRA** (Seconded by Councillor Mark Glover)

Local business and enterprise

1. Council assembly welcomes this administration's commitment to supporting our residents and businesses in tough economic times and the difference this administration is making to jobs and growth across our borough.
2. Council assembly notes the council's recent economic wellbeing strategy and its important commitment to:
 - Narrow the gap between the Southwark and London employment rate
 - Make Southwark the place of choice to start and grow a business
 - Get our town centres and high streets thriving
 - Promote financial independence and resilience.
3. Council assembly welcomes the steps that the council has already taken to progress these ambitions. Council assembly further warmly welcomes the £1 million business support fund, the £1 million of youth fund a year through to 2016/17, focused on employment and assisting young people to remain in education and training and the council's ongoing commitment to securing jobs, training and employment support through section 106 and community infrastructure levy agreements with developers.

¹ Council assembly procedure rule 2.7 (3)

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

4. Council assembly recognises the progress this administration has made including:
 - Over 1000 Southwark residents finding work as a direct result of the council's employment programmes in the last 18 months
 - Over £440,000 of investment in five of our town centres through the community restoration fund
 - A £100,000 emergency fund for Herne Hill businesses affected by the August 2013 flood, eH
 - Supporting Southwark businesses over the course of this year to secure public and private sector contracts worth £1.2 million through our supply Southwark project.
5. Council assembly warmly welcomes the commitment of this administration to keep making a difference, including by:
 - Supporting 200 Southwark start-ups and small to medium enterprises (SMEs) to get investment-ready, helping to secure over £2 million worth of finance for Southwark businesses and making sure it is Southwark residents that get the job opportunities arising from this business growth
 - Supporting Southwark businesses to be 'fit to compete' for public and private sector contract opportunities, securing contracts with a value of £1.2 million this year and £3 million by the end of 2015
 - A £600,000 town centre growth initiative to help business-led groups to reinvigorate their local high streets.
6. Council assembly regrets the abject failure of the Tory Liberal Democrat government to introduce policies that would maximise the huge opportunities of regeneration in Southwark and the huge talent and potential of our residents and to instead oversee three years of austerity-induced stagnation and continuously failing living standards across the UK. Council assembly further regrets the decision of the Tory Liberal Democrat government to scrap Labour-backed schemes such as the future jobs fund which helped to get unemployed people into work, and which was scrapped by the government despite a report from the Department for Work and Pensions which showed it produced a net benefit to society of approximately £7,750 per participant.
7. Council assembly welcomes the cabinet's commitment to prioritise delivering jobs and growth across Southwark and urges them to continue to prioritise these efforts so that Southwark is a place where residents can get on and where businesses and high streets can continue to thrive.

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

2. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL** (Seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson)

Small Business Saturday

Council assembly commends the Prime Minister's efforts to encourage people to shop locally and assist small businesses in their communities by supporting the Small Business Saturday campaign.

Council assembly resolves to call on cabinet to back local businesses throughout the borough, with particular emphasis in Dulwich on Lordship Lane, Dulwich Village and the flood-hit businesses in Herne Hill, by taking part in Small Business Saturday on 7 December 2013.

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

3. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR TIM McNALLY** (Seconded by Councillor James Barber)

Introducing a supermarket levy

Council assembly:

1. Welcomes the recent campaign by Local Works, the national organisation which has promoted the adoption of a levy on large supermarkets.
2. Notes that under the proposal, local authorities would be given the power to introduce a local levy of 8.5% on large retail outlets in their area with a rateable value of over £500,000 and that the revenue would be used to promote local economic activity, local services and facilities, community wellbeing and environmental protection.
3. Notes that in Southwark this would apply to 10 retail outlets and raise in excess of £1.1 million per year.
4. Notes that a similar measure has been introduced in Northern Ireland without adversely affecting inward investment or the local economy, and that similar measures have been supported across the country by council groups from all political parties.
5. Therefore urges cabinet to consult on the supermarket levy proposal as soon as possible with a view to introducing such a levy in 2014 at a rate of up to 8.5%, and to discuss this proposal with neighbouring councils to ensure a joined up approach to local business in South London.

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

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE (Seconded by Councillor Martin Seaton)

Pay day lenders

Council assembly:

1. Notes with concern the increase in “payday loan” outfits in our high streets, particularly in Peckham, the Walworth Road, Southwark Park Road and Tower Bridge Road.
2. Recognises the negative effect these lenders can have on people on low incomes, particularly given the very high interest rates that are often charged, and the tactics used by many lenders to encourage borrowing while failing to disclose the true cost of loans.
3. Believes lending of this kind is both socially and financially irresponsible and calls for all political parties in Southwark to support and prioritise alternative affordable models of lending.
4. Welcomes the cabinet’s announcement that Southwark residents will face less exposure to payday lenders following the agreement from two of the council’s billboard advertising contractors not to display payday loan adverts. Council assembly urges the council’s other contractor, JC Decaux, to follow this example and end payday loan advertising in Southwark.
5. Recognises the importance of small businesses for the local economy and acknowledges that these businesses are often ‘priced out’ of our high streets, allowing an increased number of payday lenders to open shops.
6. Praises the work of the London Mutual Credit Union for their commitment to responsible lending in the borough and encourages the council to further promote credit unions as an alternative to irresponsible payday lenders.
7. Welcomes the commitment of the cabinet member for communities and economic wellbeing to work with officers to make it more difficult for payday lenders to open on our high streets, including tackling payday loan shops through planning powers.
8. Welcomes the council's groundbreaking approval to bring into force Article 4 planning directions on change of use to help protect our high streets. This makes Southwark the first authority nationally to make such a change.
9. Urges cabinet to call on government to follow Southwark’s lead in finding new ways of tackling the scourge of payday lenders on our high streets and better supporting local businesses.

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
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