



## Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting) held on Wednesday 26 March 2014 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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### **PRESENT:**

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2013/14, Councillor Abdul Mohamed (Chair)

Councillor Kevin Ahern	Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Linda Manchester
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Chris Brown	Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Michael Bukola	Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Poddy Clark	Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Patrick Diamond	Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE	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 Gettleson	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

- Announced that on 13 April he would be running in the London Marathon with a team of other people to raise funds for the Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal. Councillor Lisa Rajan would also be running in the London Marathon for her chosen charity, Time and Talents. The Mayor encouraged all to complete the sponsorship forms which were circulated at the meeting.
- Welcomed new Borough Commander, Zander Gibson, to Southwark.
- Took the opportunity to say a farewell to those members who were retiring from office. He wished them well in their retirement.

The leader of the council, Councillor Peter John, also stood to say farewell to those members who would not be standing in the local elections in May. He thanked them for their hard work and commitment to Southwark.

With sadness the Mayor announced the passing of

- Ted Bowman. Ted was a former chair of the Bermondsey Labour Party, he served as a trustee of borough market for four decades and chaired the North Southwark Community Development Group which contributed to the creation of Coin Street Community Builders.
- The former Mayor of Southwark, Harold Young. Harold was elected to represent Rotherhithe Ward in the 1970s and 1980s and was Mayor during the Queen's Silver Jubilee Year - 1977/78.

There after, the meeting stood for a minute's silence.

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

The Mayor explained that the whips had agreed to comply with council assembly procedure rules and only hear three deputations; two on the theme and one general deputation . However, one of the groups wished to hear the deputation on selling council homes rather than the deputation on the council's constitution. The decision was put to the vote and it was declared that the meeting would hear the deputation on the council's constitution.

A procedural motion was then moved and seconded to suspend council assembly procedure rules in order to hear a fourth deputation, the motion was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

The Mayor stated that the whips had agreed that the meeting would suspend procedure rules to allow a revised debate on the themed motions. All the motions and amendments

would be taken as formally moved and seconded and a speaker from the four groups on the council would speak on the theme for three minutes, thereafter the debate would be open to any member who indicated to speak.

The Mayor announced that he had allowed the circulation of two revised Amendments, Amendment G and Amendment R. The meeting agreed to accept Revised Amendment R but voted upon the receipt of Amendment G; upon concluding the vote the Mayor declared that Revised Amendment G had been accepted.

The meeting agreed to suspend the following council assembly procedure rules in order to consider the above:

- CAPR 1.14 (4) Order of debate – varying order of business
- CAPR 1.14 (15) Alteration of an amendment.

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

There were no declarations.

### **1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Rowenna Davis. Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillors Columba Blango, Mark Gettleson and Victoria Mills.

### **1.5 MINUTES**

*(See supplemental agenda 1, pages 1 – 21)*

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2014 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

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

### **2.1 PETITIONS**

There were no petitions.

### **2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

*(See page 1 of supplemental agenda 2 and lilac papers circulated at the meeting)*

There was one question from the public, the answer to which had been circulated on lilac

paper at the meeting. The public questioner asked one supplemental question of the leader. All questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

## **2.3 DEPUTATION REQUESTS ON THE THEME - FUTURE VISION FOR SOUTHWARK**

*(See pages 2 - 5 of supplemental agenda 2)*

### **Deputation on Meat Free Day**

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation on Meat Free Day.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Thomas Micklewright, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Catherine McDonald, cabinet member for health, adult social care and equalities. Councillor Catherine McDonald provided an oral response.

Councillors Graham Neale, Stephen Govier, Robin Crookshank Hilton, Rosie Shimell and Wilma Nelson asked a question of the deputation.

Thereafter the deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

### **Deputation on Draper House**

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation on Draper House.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Catherine Comfort, addressed the meeting.

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

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai asked a question of the deputation.

Thereafter the deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

## **3. THEMED DEBATE - FUTURE VISION FOR SOUTHWARK**

### **3.1 CABINET MEMBER STATEMENT**

The leader of the council, Councillor Peter John, introduced the theme of the meeting.

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, the leader of the majority opposition group responded to the cabinet member's statement.

### **3.2 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE THEME**

There were none.

### **3.3 MEMBERS' MOTIONS ON THE THEME**

The Mayor reminded the meeting that it had previously agreed to waiver procedure rules to allow a revised debate on the themed motions. All the motions and amendments would be taken as formally moved and seconded and a speaker from the four groups on the council would speak on the theme for three minutes, thereafter the debate would be open to any member who indicated to speak.

The Mayor also reminded the meeting that it had previously agreed to accept revised Amendment G.

#### **MOTION 1 – FUTURE VISION FOR SOUTHWARK** *(see pages 1 - 4 of the main agenda)*

Councillor Lisa Rajan, seconded by Councillor Rosie Shimell, formally moved the motion.

#### **MOTION 2 - A VISION FOR SOUTHWARK** *(See pages 4 – 5 of the main agenda)*

Councillor Mark Williams, seconded by Councillor Michael Situ, formally moved the motion.

Councillor Althea Smith, seconded by Councillor Stephen Govier, formally moved Amendment A.

Councillor Andy Simmons, seconded by Councillor Renata Hamvas, formally moved Amendment B.

Councillor Paul Noblet, seconded by Councillor Jonathan Mitchell, formally moved Amendment C.

Councillor James Barber, seconded by Councillor Tim McNally, formally moved Amendment D.

#### **MOTION 3 - VISION FOR LOCALISM** *(see pages 5 – 6 of the main agenda)*

Councillor Michael Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson, formally moved the motion.

Councillor Martin Seaton, seconded by Councillor Mark Glover, formally moved Amendment E.

Councillor Graham Neale, seconded by Councillor Adele Morris, formally moved Amendment F.

Councillors Lisa Rajan, Mark Williams, Althea Smith and Michael Mitchell rose to speak on the motions and amendments.

The following councillors then spoke on the theme - Councillors Rosie Shimell, Veronica Ward, Paul Noblet, Reneta Hamvas, Lewis Robinson, Gavin Edwards, David Noakes, Michael Situ, Mark Gettleson and Neil Coyle.

The Mayor announced that the time allocated to the themed section of the meeting had expired. The clerk announced that the amendments and the substantive motions would be voted on separately.

### **Vote on Motion 1 - Future Vision for Southwark**

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

### **Vote on Motion 2 - A Vision for Southwark**

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

Amendment B was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

Amendment D 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 welcomes the work that this administration has done over the last four years to deliver the council's vision of creating a fairer future for Southwark.
2. That council assembly notes that since 2010, the council has faced almost £80 million in government funding cuts, which have caused significant budget pressures. This year alone the council has lost over £25 million in funding, equating to £249 for every single person in Southwark.

These cuts have meant the council has been required to do more with less. Council assembly welcomes the fact that the administration – in line with the preferences of Southwark residents - has protected frontline services and delivered savings through efficiencies in back-office and support services, cutting councillor allowances, cutting the cost of consultants and temps and cutting bills for catering, taxis and publicity.

3. That council assembly applauds the success of this administration in delivering on its "Fairer Future" promises, including:
  - i. Ensuring every primary school child in Southwark receives a free healthy, nutritious hot meal every day – delivering nearly four million free school meals each year and saving families £340 a year per child
  - ii. Supporting residents in Southwark through the current cost of living crisis by

freezing council tax for four years in a row and keeping council rents low

- iii. Ensuring that every employee, contractor and agency staff employed by the council are paid the London Living Wage
  - iv. Doubling Southwark's recycling rate and bringing a record 17 council parks up to green flag standard
  - v. Investing £326 million to make every council home in the borough warm, dry and safe
  - vi. Supporting older people in the borough by halving the price of meals on wheels, introducing a social care hotline providing expert advice, and building a new Centre of Excellence to deliver cutting edge facilities for dementia patients
  - vii. Supporting 26 talented young people from Southwark facing financial hardship to go to university
  - viii. Supporting 1,000 Southwark residents to find work through the council's employment programmes in the last 18 months.
4. That council assembly calls on the cabinet to continue working towards delivering a fairer future for all in Southwark, and in particular by:
- i. Creating quality affordable homes in Southwark, building more homes of every kind for local people, including 11,000 new council homes, improving the quality of existing council homes, driving up standards in the private rented sector and keeping rents in Southwark among the lowest in London
    - London faces a housing crisis and needs new homes. Council assembly welcomes that this administration has already given permission for over 11,000 new homes of every type in the borough and has also started building 11,000 new council homes. Council assembly supports Labour's commitment to:
      - Ensure there are more homes for local people, whether your home is privately rented, shared ownership, council or private.
      - Ensure that at least 50% of all new council homes go to people from that area, with the rest going to other Southwark residents.
      - Keep improving council homes and deliver a quality kitchen and bathroom for every council tenant.
  - ii. Supporting the best start in life by continuing to deliver free school meals for all primary school children, investing in affordable childcare for families in Southwark and expanding school places across the borough
    - Council assembly welcomes Labour's commitment to quality affordable childcare and the administration's decision to keep all our popular nurseries open despite the Liberal Democrat/Tory government cutting the money available for nurseries. Council assembly supports Labour's commitment to:

- Invest in the borough's children's centres and work with parents to set up two new community nurseries to increase the number of affordable places in the borough.
  - Launch a Childcare Commission to bring together experts, parents, providers and employers to find new ways to guarantee care and early education to help parents and carers to balance work and family life.
  - Guarantee a local primary place for every child and open new secondary schools to meet demand.
- iii. Building a strong local economy by leading the campaign for the London Living Wage, working with local businesses to support job creation and ensuring that young people in Southwark are ready for work
- Southwark is a borough of growth and opportunity: a great place to do business, and to work. Council assembly supports Labour's commitment to:
    - Ensure that this growth continues, by supporting 5,000 local people into jobs and creating 2,000 new apprenticeships over the next four years.
    - Ensure that our young people are ready for work; we will guarantee that every school leaver has something to do whether training, education or a job.
    - Provide an hour's free parking in our shopping parades to support small shopping parades, which rely on local and passing trade, and to help residents to shop locally.
- iv. Continuing to deliver value for money and get the basics right in the face of significant government cuts, continuing to drive up recycling rates, investing in our roads and working to keep our streets clean and safe
- Council assembly condemns the Liberal Democrat/Tory government for their savage cuts to Southwark's budget. Council assembly condemns Liberal Democrats and Tories in Southwark who have failed to stand up for the interests of people putting party interest before local need. Council assembly welcomes that this administration has been using money wisely, so even with 25% less money from the coalition government the council is keeping our streets clean, improving bin collection and making the borough safer. This administration has doubled recycling rates; council assembly supports Labour's commitment to continue to drive up recycling rates and divert more than 95% of waste away from landfill.
  - Historic underinvestment in roads means the council is faced with expensive bills to fill potholes. Council assembly supports Labour's commitment to double capital investment into roads making them safer with better surfaces for all roads users.
- v. Supporting people of all ages in Southwark to lead healthy and active lives, preventing barriers that prevent people from getting fit, investing in cycling to improve safety and take up, supporting our more vulnerable residents and becoming an "Age Friendly Borough", to help people get the best out of Southwark, whatever their age



- Council assembly notes that this administration wants to make it easier for people to be healthy, so that residents in Southwark can live a full life, whatever their age. Council assembly supports Labour's commitment to help residents to keep fit by making swimming and gym use free for all residents in our leisure centres.
  - Council assembly welcomes the council's investment in better cycling and is making Southwark a 20mph borough to make our streets safer. Council assembly supports Labour's commitment to use Dutch expertise to deliver Southwark a safer cycling network and work with the Mayor to extend bike hire across the borough.
- vi. Taking pride in our borough, investing in our parks and libraries, continuing to invest in green energy and transforming our town centres through regeneration to make them places that we can all live, work and enjoy.
- After years of the Liberal Democrats and Tories talking down Southwark, council assembly welcomes that Labour is transforming our borough, through huge investment in Walworth, Camberwell and Peckham, and big improvements at the Elephant and Castle and Canada Water. Government cuts mean lots of councils are closing libraries. Council assembly supports Labour's commitment to invest in Southwark's libraries and keep them open, increasing access by giving a free library card to every secondary school child.
  - The Tory Mayor has cut over 300 Southwark police officers and PCSOs since 2010. Council assembly supports Labour's commitment to campaign to get them back.
5. That council assembly also calls on cabinet to help local parents by funding additional childcare hours on top of those already offered by government.

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

### **Vote on Motion 3 - Vision for Localism**

Amendment E was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The clerk explained that as Amendment E had been carried Amendment F fell

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

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly notes the persistently low turnouts in local elections, indicating a lack of connection with the voters; and also the wide disparity in turnout between the wards.
2. That council assembly believes the future of Southwark will be best served when the people are empowered and encouraged to engage with local politicians.

3. That council assembly warmly welcomes the steps that have been taken by this administration to improve consultation with local people through community conversations with thousands of residents. Council assembly welcomes the fact that this feedback from residents has been used to shape policy on issues such as priorities for council services, setting the budget and the future of council housing, and that the outcomes of this consultation have then been fed back to the community.
4. That council assembly also welcomes the council's work as an acknowledged leader in devolving control of housing services to residents through the creation of tenant management organisations (TMOs). Council assembly notes that residents on the D'Eynesford and Gloucester Grove estates have recently voted to create TMOs for their areas, and will join Styles House which launched in January 2014 and 12 other TMOs in Southwark who provide housing services to over 4200 homes.
5. That council assembly notes that this administration has also successfully sought to allow residents even greater control through the creation of the country's first 'self-financing' TMO in the Leathermarket Joint Management Board (JMB), giving residents control of all rents and service charges in their area.
6. That council assembly calls on the cabinet to continue working with local people in Southwark to encourage community involvement in decision-making and to ensure council policies reflect the priorities of local people.

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

#### **4. OTHER DEPUTATION REQUESTS**

*(See supplemental agenda 2, pages 10-12)*

##### **Deputation on the Council's Constitution**

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation on the council's constitution.

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Mick Barnard, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Fiona Colley, cabinet member for regeneration and corporate strategy. Councillor Fiona Colley provided an oral response.

Councillors Stephen Govier and Anood Al-Samerai asked a question of the deputation. Following a point of order the monitoring officer advised that the meeting should move on to the next item of business.

The deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

## **5. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS**

### **5.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

*(See pages 7 - 14 of the main agenda and the green and yellow papers circulated at the meeting)*

There was one urgent question to the leader, the written response to which was circulated on green paper at the meeting. Two supplemental questions were asked of the leader. All questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 2 to the minutes.

There were 55 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated on yellow paper at the meeting. There were 14 supplemental questions. All questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 3 to the minutes.

### **5.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

The Mayor reminded the meeting that it had previously agreed to accept Revised Amendment G.

#### **MOTION 1 - LOCAL DECISION MAKING** *(see page 16 of the main agenda)*

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, seconded by Councillor Paul Noblet, moved the motion.

Councillor Darren Merrill, seconded by Councillor Sunil Chopra, moved Revised Amendment G.

Following debate (Councillors Claire Hickson, Eliza Mann, Patrick Diamond, David Hubber, Nick Dolezal (point of personal explanation by Councillor Graham Neale) and Peter John), at 10.04pm the Mayor announced that the guillotine had fallen and the meeting would move to the vote on the outstanding motions and amendments.

Revised Amendment G was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The Mayor announced that as Revised Amendment G had been carried Amendments H to Q fell.

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

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly believes that decisions are best made by the people closest to them and supports devolving decisions from central government to local government, as well as within local government to community councils, wards and neighbourhoods.
2. That council assembly notes that the government has devolved some powers to local councils, such as neighbourhood plans, community right to bid and community right

to challenge. However, council assembly is concerned that despite its rhetoric, the coalition government has failed to really deliver localism properly and has in fact centralised more decision making in Whitehall.

3. That council assembly notes that the coalition government has imposed new limits on the ability of councils to make local decisions on schools, council tax, or how we speak to the community. Council assembly notes with concern that the coalition government has now acquired sweeping powers to shut down hospitals at short notice without local consultation, even if they are performing strongly, despite opposition by Labour MPs.
4. That council assembly
  - i. Believes the council still has an important role to play in promoting the devolution of powers to local communities, and supporting ward councillors with local issues where appropriate.
  - ii. Calls on cabinet to review what further decisions and funding could be passed from the centre of Southwark Council to community councils and ward councillors.
5. That council assembly:
  - Welcomes work by Labour councillors and Val Shawcross AM to tackle the issue of slow broadband in Rotherhithe and Surrey Docks.
  - Condemns Liberal Democrats councillors and Simon Hughes MP for failing to deliver on this issue for local people in the area.
  - Welcomes that the leader of the council is working with broadband providers to discuss progress on the issue of slow broadband in the Rotherhithe peninsula and pressing them to take meaningful action.
  - Welcomes Southwark Labour's commitment to bring superfast broadband to Rotherhithe.
6. That council assembly:
  - Welcomes Southwark Labour's commitment to open new secondary schools in the borough including one in East Dulwich.
  - Notes that the Supplementary Planning Document for the East Dulwich hospital site states that "The use of part of this site for a school would help to meet the requirements of the planning brief".
  - Calls on cabinet to work closely with the steering group and deliver a new secondary school on the East Dulwich hospital site, rather than the following the Liberal Democrats suggestion of embarking on a long winded and unnecessary bureaucratic exercise of amending the planning brief, which in any case already allows for community facilities on the site, provides only guidance and will have little impact on the delivery of the school.
7. That council assembly:
  - Welcomes the proposed rebuild of Elephant and Castle shopping centre and

welcomes that this administration is delivering on the Elephant and Castle regeneration after years of dither and delay under the previous Liberal Democrat administration.

- Welcomes the council's commitment and vision for the area and work that is already going on to deliver this.
- Notes that the council is not the owner or landlord of the shopping centre, however calls on the cabinet to work with key landlords such as Delancy, Lend Lease and Network Rail to draw up a retail strategy for the Elephant & Castle, Walworth Road and East Street which protects the vibrant mix of businesses in the area and allows local businesses meaningful involvement in plans for the area.
- Welcomes the recommendation to the cabinet member for communities and economic wellbeing to allocate £22,000 from the first round of The High Street Challenge to the Latin Elephant group to fund business planning, which is the first step of realising this administration's vision for creating a Latin American quarter at the Elephant & Castle.

8. That council assembly

- Welcomes this administration's investment of £5.96 million for parks in the Elephant & Castle area, including Dickens Square Park in Chaucer ward (£1.5m), Pullens Open Space in Newington (£350k), St Mary's Churchyard in Cathedrals (£1.25m) and Nursery Row Park (£600k) and Victory Park (£1.8m) in East Walworth, through the capital refresh programme.
- Notes that as a result of cabinet's decision of 18 March, consultation with residents on proposals to revitalise Dicken's Square Park will proceed with all due haste.
- Welcomes the proposals developed by this administration to revitalise Dicken's Square Park, which will include tree planting, sightline and accessibility improvements, new footpaths, new green space as well as new links to other green space, and improved recreational and play-space.

9. That council assembly:

- Recognises the concerns of residents in South Bermondsey about the need for good quality affordable housing in the area, and in particular family-sized council homes, and welcomes this administration's commitment to delivering 11,000 new council homes in Southwark – the biggest house building programme in the country.
- Condemns the Liberal Democrats for falsely accusing Labour of a “mass sell-off of council homes”, when the number of council homes sold or demolished under the current Labour administration is actually four times less than the amount in previous years under the Liberal Democrats.
- Condemns Liberal Democrat councillors in South Bermonsey for spreading misleading information about the sale of council homes in the area, and in particular for telling local residents that a property on Longley Street is being sold by the council, when the council is in fact renovating the property to let to council tenants as a family home.

10. That council assembly:

- Welcomes this administration's investment of £326 million to make every council home in Southwark warm, dry and safe.
  - Welcomes Southwark Labour's commitment to deliver quality kitchens and bathrooms for every council tenant, including residents on the Arnold Estate.
  - Condemns the attempt by Liberal Democrat councillors to ignore need across the borough by prioritising particular council properties in wards they currently hold rather than where the need in the borough is greatest.
  - Notes the failure of the Liberal Democrat/Tory council to deliver improvements in housing where they left a housing department judged as failing and a £600m hole in the housing budget.
  - Calls on cabinet to guarantee that every council home in Southwark will be made warm, dry and safe and to install new kitchens and bathrooms where they are needed for all council tenants in every ward in the borough.
11. That council assembly:
- Recognises the pressure on school places across the borough, including in Rotherhithe.
  - Notes that Liberal Democrats in Rotherhithe have failed to raise this important issue with cabinet.
  - Praises local residents who have pressed for a new primary and a new secondary school in the area.
  - Welcomes Labour's commitment to new schools in the borough to meet demand.
12. That council assembly:
- Notes that traffic management in the very busy London Bridge is continually being reviewed by highways engineers and network planners, all part of Southwark Council's public realm department.
  - Notes that councillors who are concerned about traffic movements should in the first instance contact the public realm division or the relevant cabinet member.
  - Notes that the timescale to conduct a full traffic management study for streets in Grange Ward has passed, and regrets that Grange ward councillors have thus far failed to raise concerns about traffic problems in the ward.
  - Calls on the cabinet to actively follow up any requests from future Grange ward councillors who wish to call for a traffic study in selected roads.
13. That council assembly:
- Notes that payments negotiated from developers in-lieu of on-site affordable homes are being spent within the communities affected by the new development and are helping to fund 1,000 new council homes, including 165 council homes in SE1 and 76 council homes in SE16.
  - Calls on cabinet to work with local ward councillors across the borough to identify sites that could be used to deliver more affordable housing.
14. That council assembly:

- Notes that due to savage cuts to government funding the council has to make savings wherever possible, including the cost of committee meetings.
  - Notes that planning committee meetings are currently held in Tooley Street and at Queens Road, Peckham, because of the significant cost implications of holding these meetings elsewhere.
  - Calls on the cabinet to hold planning committee meetings in locations across the borough whenever it is financially feasible to do so.
15. That in addition council assembly calls on the cabinet to continue delivering a fairer future for all by:
- Creating a new world class civic centre in Walworth.
  - Delivering £11million investment in Camberwell Green including a new state of the art library and keep campaigning to extend the Bakerloo Line.
  - Securing the long term future of Greendale.
  - Campaigning to ensure a Dulwich police base remains open on Seeley Drive on the Kingswood Estate.
  - Continuing improvements in Nunhead including a free cash point and a bigger and better playground in Peckham Rye Park.
  - Working with the community to transform Peckham town centre including support for local arts organisations and businesses.
  - Working with businesses to deliver a business improvement district on Southwark Park Road at The Blue.
  - Continuing to campaign with Bermondsey residents to stop the super-sewer at Chambers Wharf.
  - Restoring the Old Kent Road to its former glory with plans to build new homes and support for businesses.
  - Transforming the Elephant and Castle with a new leisure centre, affordable homes and shopping centre.

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

**MOTION 2 - FREE SCHOOL MEALS** *(see pages 16 – 17 of the main agenda)*

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Cleo Soanes and Gavin Edwards formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Nick Stanton and Anood Al-Samerai formally moved and seconded Amendment R.

Amendment R 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 notes the recent London Assembly Labour report on food poverty in London, which shows that more people than ever in the capital are relying on food banks - the use of foodbanks in London has gone up by 400% in the last two years. Council assembly condemns the shameful rise in the numbers of families

being forced to rely on emergency handouts from foodbanks, as Tory/Liberal Democrat welfare reforms push more families into poverty, and supports the report's call for free school meals for all children in London to combat the growing food poverty crisis.

2. That council assembly is concerned at reports that the national plan to give free school meals to the youngest primary school children across the country is "in chaos" and that young children are unlikely to get a hot, nutritious meal as promised by the government. Council assembly notes the concerns of primary schools about how the policy will be implemented, given that the Liberal Democrat Leader has failed to take into account the cost of upgrading school kitchen facilities in the plans for the national scheme.
3. That council assembly notes that a former Liberal Democrat Minister has described the policy as being dreamt up "on the back of a fag packet". Council assembly believes that the utterly shambolic implementation of free school meals by Liberal Democrats in government shows that free hot healthy school meals are not safe in the hands of the Liberal Democrats.
4. That council assembly urges the cabinet to call on government to put forward a fully costed, implementable plan for the roll out of free school meals nationally; to provide reassurance to schools that they will be given the necessary support to upgrade kitchen facilities in order to meet the demand of the new policy; and to follow Southwark's lead by extending free school meals to the youngest children.

That council assembly also calls on the cabinet to provide reassurance that regardless of the outcome of the national scheme, this council will continue to provide free, hot healthy school meals for every primary school child in the borough.

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

### **MOTION 3 - MEAT FREE MONDAYS** (see page 17 of the main agenda)

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Graham Neale and James Barber formally moved and seconded the motion.

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

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly notes the benefits to personal health and the environment of lowering the consumption of meat.
2. That council assembly therefore calls on cabinet to promote meat free options in schools and council buildings every Monday, and also promote the benefits of reducing meat consumption to council staff.

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

### **MOTION 4 - REGULATION OF PAYDAY LENDERS** (see pages 17 – 18 of the main agenda)



The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Neil Coyle and Rebecca Lury formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Geoffrey Thornton and David Hubber formally moved and seconded Amendment S.

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

Councillors Catherine Bowman and David Noakes formally moved and seconded Amendment T.

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

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

**RESOLVED:**

That council assembly:

1. Notes that payday lenders are trapping millions of people in spirals of debt.
2. Believes that the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA's) new proposals for regulating payday lenders are a step in the right direction, but do not go far enough.
3. Considers the FCA's proposals:
  - i. Would not prevent payday lenders from drip feeding new loans to people who already have payday debts and are struggling to pay them back
  - ii. Would not prevent people from being hit with escalating penalty fees
  - iii. Would not stop payday lenders from raiding people's bank accounts without telling them.
4. Welcomes the steps that this administration has taken to stop the spread of payday lenders in Southwark, including:
  - i. Refusing to let council buildings to pay day lenders
  - ii. Using Article 4 planning directions on change of use to protect high streets
  - iii. Reducing the exposure of residents to payday lenders by getting agreement from two of the council's billboard advertising contractors not to display payday loan adverts
  - iv. Lobbying the government for the power to levy payday lenders in Southwark.
5. Welcomes that some of Britain's biggest debt, consumer and anti-poverty organisations – including Which, Citizens Advice, StepChange Debt Charity, Church Action on Poverty and the Centre for Responsible Credit – and MPs from every party represented at Westminster have come together to support the Charter to Stop the Payday Loan Rip-Off.
6. Council assembly supports the Charter to Stop the Payday Loan Rip-Off which calls

on the FCA to introduce tougher regulation of payday lenders. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:

- i. Encourage residents of Southwark to support the Charter by signing the online petition at <http://www.change.org/paydayloancharter>
- ii. Promote and support the development of local credit unions and more affordable lending
- iii. Work with partners on campaigns against increasing levels of personal debt
- iv. Send a copy of this motion to Martin Wheatley, Chief Executive of the Financial Conduct Authority, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

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

**MOTION 5 - FIXED ODDS BETTING TERMINALS** *(see pages 18 – 20 of the main agenda)*

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Helen Hayes and Nick Dolezal formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Michael Bukola and Eliza Mann formally moved and seconded Amendment U.

Amendment U 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 notes:
  - i. The prevalence of Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) in betting shops, often referred to in the media as “the crack cocaine of gambling”.
  - ii. That, unlike fruit machines in pubs, bingo halls and amusement arcades where cash stakes are limited to £2, gamblers can bet with cash or via a debit card up to £100 every 20 seconds on FOBTs, more than four times as fast as the rate of play in casinos.
  - iii. That in 2012, over £1.5 billion was lost on FOBTs across the UK. More profit was made from FOBTs than from the National Lottery, when according to the most recent British Gambling Prevalence Survey, 56% of the population play the Lottery, but just 4% play FOBTs.
  - iv. Empirical evidence that suggests FOBTs are the most addictive form of gambling.
  - v. Research carried out by Geofutures, which found there to be four times as many betting shops in areas of high unemployment than in areas of low

unemployment.

- vi. Research carried out by 2CV in Newham, which found that the average bet per spin on FOBTs is £17, and the average amount of cash inserted into the machine is £55 per session, with one in five putting in over £100 a time.
  - vii. Nationally, more than 80% of turnover in betting shops and more than half of profits are derived from FOBTs. Less than 20% of stakes in betting shops are over the counter.
  - viii. A recent economic analysis undertaken by Landman Economics, commissioned by the Campaign for Fairer Gambling, which assessed the impact of FOBTs on local economies and across the wider economy. The report concluded that every £1 billion spent on FOBTs produces a net reduction of 13,000 jobs, compared to if spent in the wider consumer economy. The projected doubling of revenue from FOBTs by 2023 could cost a further 23,000 jobs across the economy.
  - ix. The position in the Republic of Ireland where the government has introduced legislation to outlaw FOBTs in betting shops.
2. That council assembly notes with concern the prevalence of high-speed, high-stakes gambling machines in the most deprived areas of the country. In the 55 most deprived boroughs of the country £13 billion was gambled and £470 million lost to fixed-odds betting terminals last year, in 2,691 betting shops – double the amount staked in the richest areas. Council assembly is concerned that it appears bookmakers are targeting the poorest areas with the highest unemployment and lowest income level. In Southwark, £523 million was gambled and £18.6m lost at fixed odds betting terminals in 81 shops last year.
  3. That council assembly notes that the gambling industry has recently announced a new code of conduct, introducing optional time and money limits for gamblers and mandatory alerts to betting shop staff, but believes that this voluntary code does not go far enough to protect people from the risks of these high-stakes betting machines.
  4. That council assembly is concerned that the government has not addressed the issues caused by fixed-odds betting terminals (FOTBs) and has resisted calls to reduce stakes on FOBT, claiming that “it is currently not clear how great an impact a reduction would have on gambling related harm”.
  5. That council assembly applauds the work of Labour MPs in calling for local authorities to be given new powers to restrict the growth of fixed-odds betting terminals (FOTBs) and is disappointed that this motion was rejected by Tory and Liberal Democrat MPs, who failed to support the proposals despite the Liberal Democrats’ previous support for “Stop FOBT” campaigns.
  6. That council assembly believes that the increase in FOBTs is causing significant problems and believes that the government should either use the existing legislative framework, or introduce legislation to outlaw B2 casino games in betting shops. At the very least, local authorities should be given the powers to protect the local

amenity and wellbeing of communities by (1) stopping the proliferation of betting shops and (2) reducing the maximum stakes and slowing down the speed of play.

7. That council assembly therefore calls on the cabinet to:

- a) Write to the Secretary of state for Culture, Media and Sport to outline the terms of this motion and demand urgent action against FOBTs by the government
- b) Explore the use of the Sustainable Communities Act as a means to reduce the maximum stake on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals to £2 per spin.

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

**MOTION 6 - PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL** *(see page 20 of the main agenda)*

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Dan Garfield and Cleo Soanes formally moved and seconded the motion.

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

The Mayor stated that he had received one nomination for the vacancy of vice chair of Peckham and Nunhead community council. It had been proposed and seconded that Councillor Michael Situ be elected vice-chair. No further nominations were forthcoming, therefore the nomination was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Councillor Althea Smith be removed as the vice chair of Peckham and Nunhead Community Council with immediate effect.
2. That Councillor Michael Situ be appointed vice chair of Peckham and Nunhead Community council for the remainder of the municipal year.

**5.3 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

**6. REPORT BACK ON MOTIONS REFERRED TO CABINET FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**

*(See pages 21 - 30 of the main agenda)*

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**6.1 SPECIAL URGENCY AND URGENT IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS - ANNUAL REPORT**

*(Pages 31 – 40 of the main agenda)*

**RESOLVED:**

That the schedule of special urgency and urgent implementation decisions (set out in Appendix 1 of the report) taken in accordance with access to information procedure rules 19 and 20, be noted.

## **7. OTHER REPORTS**

### **7.1 SECTION 15 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 - PROPORTIONALITY**

*(see pages 41 – 48 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 formally moved by the Mayor.

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

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That following the formation of a new political group on the council, council assembly notes the review of proportionality and agrees the following in respect of the representation of different political groups on the council's committees and panels:

#### **Ordinary committees**

2. That the overall number of seats on ordinary committees be increased from 35 to 37 to accommodate one extra Labour place and an All People's Party Group (APP) place. That the two additional seats be allocated to the standards committee as set out in Table 2 (see paragraph 17 of the report). The allocation of places to the Liberal Democrat and Conservative groups remain unchanged.

#### **Other committees**

3. That council assembly notes that the current allocation of places on the overview and scrutiny committee remains proportionate: Labour 6; Liberal Democrat 4; Conservative 1. No change was required.
4. That council assembly notes that the current allocation of places on the licensing committee remains proportionate: Labour 8, Liberal Democrat 6 and Conservative 1 place. No change was required.

#### **Sub-committees**

5. That council assembly notes that the current allocation of Labour 4 and Liberal Democrat 3 places on sub-committees remains proportionate. The allocation of

seats on each sub-committee bears the same proportion to the number of the seats held by that group on the council.

### **Panels**

6. That the memberships of council assembly business panel and constitutional steering panel (CSP) be changed to include the APP group whip and an extra Labour group place (see Table 5 and paragraph 26 of the report). No change was required to voluntary bodies appointments panel.

### **Pensions advisory panel**

7. That it be noted that the membership of the pensions advisory panel is contained in the constitution. Council assembly would have to refer this issue to CSP to consider whether it wished to recommend any constitutional change to the membership of the panel. No change was recommended at this stage.

## **7.2 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES 2013/14**

*(see pages 49 – 56 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:**

That the following constitutional changes be adopted by council assembly, as recommended by the constitutional steering panel:

### **Urgency arrangements between the elections and annual meeting 2014**

1. That the changes identified in paragraphs 9 – 15 of the report and amendments in Appendix A to the urgency arrangements during the interim period between a municipal election and annual council assembly be agreed. These arrangements will apply until the annual meeting (constitutional meeting) on Wednesday 11 June 2014.

### **Annual meeting in 2014**

2. That the amendment to the notice period for the annual meeting (mayor-making and constitutional meetings) to allow it to be held as soon as reasonably possible following the municipal elections (see amendment in paragraph 22; background information in paragraphs 16 – 23 of the report), be agreed.

## **8. COUNCIL'S PAY POLICY STATEMENT**

*(see pages 57 – 70 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.

There was one question on the report the response to which was circulated on blue paper at the meeting. One supplemental question was asked of the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety. The questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 4 to the minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (2), the report was formally moved by the Mayor.

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

**RESOLVED:**

That the council's pay policy statement, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be agreed.

**8.1 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK AND PERFORMANCE OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE IN 2013/14**

*(see pages 71 – 79 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 Mark Glover, chair of the audit and governance committee, moved the report.

At this juncture the meeting took the opportunity to formally thank Councillor Toby Eckersley for all his years of service to the council.

Following debate (Councillor Nick Stanton), the recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:**

That the work and performance of the audit and governance committee in 2013/14 be noted.

**9. AMENDMENTS**

See Supplemental Agenda No.3 and Revised Amendments G and R circulated at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.27pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**