

<b>Item No.</b> 8.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 2 July 2014	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		Delivering a Fairer Future for All in Southwark	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>		Leader of the Council	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That cabinet:
  - agrees the mission, the new fairer future promises, the fairer future principles and the commitments of the council for the next four years
  - instructs officers to develop a new council plan to deliver them.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

2. Four years ago I set out the cabinet and council's mission to create a fairer future for all in Southwark and I feel an enormous sense of pride in what we have achieved since then. In the last four years, our values have informed the decisions we have made. In the next four years, we will continue to put our values at the heart of everything we do. Our policies and our work will be informed by our values. And our values will be informed by our residents: the people who use and often rely on our services.
3. Working together with residents, businesses and partners, we have begun to transform public services for the people of Southwark, creating new opportunities for individuals and communities to realise their potential. With the government making deep cuts to local authority budgets, councils up and down the country have struggled to keep going and still balance their books. The cuts have hit Southwark hard too, but we have been determined to find new and better ways of doing things, rather than scaling back our ambition and ceasing provision of cherished front line services.
4. We all have a role to play in building a fairer future: businesses creating new jobs and paying a living wage; the voluntary and community sector providing essential help and advice; neighbours and family members looking out for one another; individuals striving to gain qualifications and get and hold a job. But I firmly believe that the council bears the greatest responsibility, to lead the continuing transformation of the borough and ensure that every resident has the opportunity to achieve their potential, with nobody left behind.
5. Our employment programmes and regeneration schemes have provided access to fantastic new jobs for many hundreds of residents, including those who were really struggling to find their way into work. Some of our least affluent but brightest and most public-spirited young people are now studying at university with the financial support of the council as Southwark Scholars. And we are attracting the investment and driving the economic growth that will provide

sustainable business and employment opportunities here in Southwark for years to come.

6. We have delivered on every promise we made to the people of Southwark in 2010: from providing free healthy school meals to every primary pupil to halving the price of meals on wheels for our vulnerable older residents; from cutting violent crime and anti-social behaviour to investing in our parks and keeping every library open. We are on track to make every council home warm, dry and safe by 2016 and we are taking forward major programmes of regeneration at the Aylesbury and the Elephant & Castle, transforming the landscape and making radical improvements for the benefit of the people who live there now and future generations of residents.
7. And we have achieved all this while the government cut our budget by more than a quarter, without raising council tax by so much as a penny. Four years ago, I promised that the council would manage its money as carefully as local families look after their own household budgets, and that is what we have done.
8. For the next four years, our mission remains the same: delivering a fairer future for all in Southwark. We will do this, following the same core principles which we agreed with the public in 2011. By embedding these principles into the council they now shape our plans and objectives. In this report we will again set out our principles and also set out ten new “fairer future promises” as well as dozens of specific commitments that we are inviting residents to judge us against. Our promises are bold and ambitious, reaffirming our belief that our staff and residents have the creativity, talent and strength of purpose to overcome the challenges we face and make a positive difference for all the amazing and diverse communities that make up this borough.
9. No other council has committed to building 11,000 new council homes, to making swimming and gym use free for all residents, to introducing an ethical care charter at the earliest opportunity, and to ensuring that every council tenant has a quality kitchen and bathroom. No other council is more determined to secure the benefits of inward investment and economic growth, including access to new jobs and apprenticeships for local people.
10. In 2010 we promised to keep council tax rises at or below inflation. By spending wisely, we actually froze it for four years. Despite facing yet more government cuts, our commitment remains the same and our record shows that we can be trusted to deliver. By continuing to spend every penny as if it were coming from our own pockets, the council will make the resources it does have stretch as far as humanly possible. Balancing the budget has been anything but easy over the past four years and it is only going to get tougher. Some difficult choices will inevitably have to be made and we will collaborate closely with residents, businesses and partners to develop imaginative new models of service delivery and more efficient and cost-effective ways of achieving positive outcomes for the people of Southwark.
11. But whatever the financial climate, we have consistently demonstrated we can be relied on to keep getting the basics right. That means keeping the streets clean and clamping down on people who litter or don't clean up after their dogs. It means continuing to drive up recycling rates and divert rubbish from expensive and wasteful landfill. And it means effective enforcement action against crime and anti-social behaviour.

12. Four years ago I said that we the council needed to treat our residents with respect and compassion, just like we would treat a valued member of our own family. By bringing our customer services in-house and setting new standards of customer care, we are making that vision a reality. And now we need to go further still, in order to fully reflect the values and aspirations of our residents and fully realise our potential.
13. We will bring together residents, businesses and partners to re-shape the place where we live and create new opportunities for the people who live here. We will turn the unprecedented growth and investment we have secured for the borough into the quality affordable homes, rewarding jobs and world class civic amenities that our residents need and expect. And we will continue to tackle some of the most intractable issues facing the residents of Southwark and London today: whether as a parent, finding quality, affordable childcare; or as a school leaver, securing that first training, apprenticeship or employment opportunity; or as an older person, staying fit, healthy and active for longer.
14. I am confident that over the next four years we will deliver on our new promises and together create a fairer future for all in Southwark.

### **Our fairer future promises**

#### *Promise 1 – Value for Money*

We will continue to keep council tax low by delivering value for money across all our high quality services.

#### *Promise 2 – Free Swimming and Gyms*

We will make it easier to be healthier with free swimming and gyms for all residents and doubling the number of NHS health checks.

#### *Promise 3 – Quality Affordable Homes*

We will improve housing standards and build more homes of every kind including 11,000 new council homes with 1,500 by 2018. We will make all council homes warm, dry and safe and start the roll out of our quality kitchen and bathroom guarantee.

#### *Promise 4 – More and Better Schools*

We will meet the demand for primary and secondary school places and drive up standards across our schools so at least 70% of students at every secondary get at least five good GCSEs.

#### *Promise 5 – Nurseries and Childcare*

We will help parents to balance work and family life including investment in our children's centres to deliver more quality affordable childcare and open two new community nurseries.

#### *Promise 6 – A Greener Borough*

We will protect our environment by diverting more than 95% of waste away from landfill, doubling the estates receiving green energy and investing in our parks and open spaces.

#### *Promise 7 – Safer Communities*

We will make Southwark safer with increased CCTV, more estate security doors and a Women's Safety Charter. We will have zero-tolerance on noisy neighbours.

### *Promise 8 – Education, Employment and Training*

We will guarantee education, employment or training for every school leaver, support 5,000 more local people into jobs and create 2,000 new apprenticeships.

### *Promise 9 – Revitalised Neighbourhoods*

We will revitalise our neighbourhoods to make them places in which we can all be proud to live and work, transforming the Elephant and Castle, the Aylesbury and starting regeneration of the Old Kent Road.

### *Promise 10 – Age Friendly Borough*

We want you to get the best out of Southwark whatever your age so we will become an age friendly borough, including the delivery of an ethical care charter and an older people's centre of excellence.

## **Our fairer future principles**

We will continue to be guided by the principles which we agreed with the public in 2011. By embedding these into the council they will continue to shape our plans and objectives.

- Treating residents as if they were a valued member of our own family
- Being open, honest and accountable
- Spending money as if it were from our own pocket
- Working for everyone to realise their own potential
- Making Southwark a place to be proud of.

## **Our commitments**

We will deliver a fairer future for all by:

### *Creating Quality Affordable Homes*

- build more homes of every kind
- build 11,000 new council homes, with at least 1,500 by 2018
- finish our programme to make every home Warm, Dry and Safe by 2016 and then start a programme to deliver a quality kitchen and bathroom for every council tenant
- introduce licensing in the private rented sector and further crack down on rogue landlords
- set up an independent leaseholder and freeholder management company
- introduce resident housing inspectors
- further reduce illegal subletting of our council homes
- have a lettings policy which means that 50% of all new council homes go to people from that area, with the rest going to other Southwark residents
- keep council rents low.

### *Supporting the best start in life*

- invest in the borough's children's centres
- work with local parents to open two new community nurseries
- find new ways to guarantee care and early education to help parents
- ensure 70% of students at every secondary get at least 5 good GCSEs
- deliver more quality affordable childcare places

- guarantee a local primary place for every child
- open new secondary schools to meet demand including on the Dulwich Hospital site in East Dulwich
- ensure a top quality children's playground in every local area
- provide free fruit for all primary school children as a healthy morning snack
- invest more in 'early support' for families
- help more people to foster and adopt by paying their council tax for them
- double the number of Southwark Scholarships
- establish a new Childcare Commission, bringing together experts, parents, providers and employers to find new ways to guarantee care and early education.

#### *Building a strong local economy*

- make sure young people are ready for work
- guarantee education, employment or training for every school leaver
- deliver an hour's free parking in our shopping parades
- open a credit union account with a £10 opening deposit for every 11 year old
- deliver good money advice for secondary school students
- establish a Southwark Business Forum
- stop the spread of pawnbrokers, betting shops, gambling machines and pay day lenders
- invest in more affordable business space, street markets and encourage pop-up shops to help start up businesses
- support 5,000 more local people into jobs
- create 2,000 new apprenticeships
- make sure local residents benefit from new jobs and apprenticeships.

#### *Supporting healthy and active lives*

- make swimming and gym use free for all residents
- improve homecare standards, making sure our staff are only ever judged by the quality of care they provide to our older and more vulnerable residents
- deliver a safer cycling network
- extend bike hire across the borough
- implement an ethical care charter to drive up the quality of homecare, with better paid carers and an end to zero hours contracts
- establish a commission to enhance the vital work of the voluntary and community sector
- double the number of free NHS health checks to catch problems like heart disease and diabetes
- become an 'age friendly borough'
- introduce 'play streets', where some streets are closed to traffic during school holidays.

#### *Getting the basics right*

- keep council tax at or below inflation
- deliver value for money in council services
- maintain clean streets
- increase penalties and capture of people littering

- increase penalties against people who don't clean up after their dogs
- increase recycling rates
- divert more than 95% of waste away from landfill
- zero tolerance on noisy neighbours
- increase CCTV coverage
- increase estate security doors
- double capital investment into roads
- deliver a new Women's Safety Charter
- deliver a Domestic Violence Strategy
- introduce estate deep cleans.

*Taking pride in our borough*

- revitalise our neighbourhoods to make them places that we can all be proud to live and work in
- invest in our libraries and keep them open, including Dulwich and Kingswood House
- increase library access with a free library card to every secondary school child
- bring 10 more parks to green flag standard
- double the number of estates receiving green energy from SELCHP
- enhance and expand affordable studio and performance space
- award scholarships to local young people from low income backgrounds to study art foundation courses
- introduce a new diversity standard to make sure that people from every community get their voices included when decisions are made
- campaign for the 300 Southwark police officers and PCSOs cut since 2010.

*Working for all of Southwark*

- open a new civic centre in Walworth
- campaign for the Bakerloo Line to be extended south of the Elephant and Castle to Camberwell
- invest in Camberwell including a new library
- bring superfast broadband to Rotherhithe
- secure the long term future of Greendale
- campaign for Seeley Drive police base in the south of the borough
- start work on the regeneration of the Old Kent Road
- support Business Improvement Districts including around the Blue in Bermondsey
- campaign against the super sewer in Chambers Wharf
- invest in Peckham town centre to support arts and business
- deliver a free cashpoint in Nunhead
- improve playgrounds including in Peckham Rye Park
- open new pedestrian crossings outside Borough Station and between Trinity Street and Great Suffolk Street.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
<a href="http://www.southwarklabour.co.uk/manifesto.aspx">http://www.southwarklabour.co.uk/manifesto.aspx</a>		

**AUDIT TRAIL**

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