



Council Assembly (Ordinary/Council Tax Base Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary/Council Tax Base Meeting held on Tuesday 26 January 2016 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2015/16, Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE (Chair)

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor Maisie Anderson
Councillor James Barber
Councillor Radha Burgess
Councillor Fiona Colley
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Catherine Dale
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Nick Dolezal
Councillor Karl Eastham
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Paul Fleming
Councillor Tom Flynn
Councillor Lucas Green
Councillor Renata Hamvas
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor Helen Hayes
Councillor David Hubber
Councillor Peter John OBE
Councillor Ben Johnson
Councillor Samantha Jury-Dada
Councillor Eleanor Kerslake
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Anne Kirby
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Octavia Lamb
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE

Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Jane Lyons
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Jamille Mohammed
Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Bill Williams
Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Following the by-election on 21 January 2016, the Mayor welcomed Councillor Samantha Jury-Dada to her first meeting of council assembly.

The Mayor also congratulated the Leader of the Council, Councillor Peter John, on being awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's New Year Honours. A list of other Southwark recipients had been circulated around the chamber and the meeting sent its congratulations to those who had been awarded an honour.

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

The Mayor formally moved the programme motion.

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

RESOLVED:

That the meeting be conducted as follows:

Item 3 - Themed debate

Community Evidence Submissions

To receive submissions from the group listed in the themed section of the agenda:

- The New Aylesbury Trust Ltd, Known As Creation
- Team London Bridge

Five minute presentation from each group, followed by a question from each group to the relevant cabinet member; and up to five minutes for questions from members.

Themed debate

1. Councillor Mark Williams, cabinet member for regeneration and new homes (3½ minutes).
2. Councillor Darren Merrill, cabinet member for environment and public realm (3½ minutes).
3. Councillor Rosie Shimell, opposition spokesperson, to speak on the motion and move Amendment A (5 minutes).
4. Themed debate open to all other councillors (30 minutes).
5. Cabinet member's right of reply to the debate (3 minutes).

Item 4 – Deputations

Meeting to agree to hear a deputation from:

- Southwark Defend Council Housing.

Item 5.2 - General Motions

General motions to be taken in order set out in agenda:

1. Transport in Rotherhithe
2. The power to set a real living wage
3. Blacklisting.

Each motion to have a single debate, subject to the guillotine.

Motion 3 – Blacklisting:

- To seek the meeting's consent to change 'Constructing Association' to 'Consulting Association', in paragraph 2 of page 6 of the main agenda.

Note: Relevant procedure rules will be suspended.

- CAPR 1.14(4) Single debate.
- CAPR 2.7(2) Length of themed debate.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Item 5.2: Members Motions: Motion 2 – The power to set a real living wage

Councillor Leo Pollak declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Motion 2 – The power to set a real living wage, as he is regularly employed by the Living Wage Foundation. He left the room whilst the motion was debated and voted upon.

Item 5.2: Members Motions: Motion 3 –Blacklisting

Councillor Gavin Edwards declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item as he is employed by a trade union. He left the room whilst the motion was voted upon.

Councillor Paul Fleming, declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item as he is employed by a trade union. He left the room whilst the motion was voted upon..

Councillor Victoria Mills, declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item as her partner is employed by a trade union. She left the room whilst the motion was voted upon.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillors James Barber, Renata Hamvas and Helen Hayes. Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Evelyn Akoto, Sunil Chopra, Neil Coyle, Maria Linforth-Hall and Vijay Luthra.

1.5 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2015 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

There were no questions from the public.

3. THEMED DEBATE - ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC REALM AND REGENERATION

4. COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

As part of the programme motion the meeting agreed to receive submissions from the following:

The New Aylesbury Trust Ltd, known as Creation

Council assembly heard evidence from two representatives from The New Aylesbury Trust Ltd, known as Creation. Thereafter they asked a question of the leader of the council.

The following members had questions of the submission: Councillors Ian Wingfield, Lorraine Lauder, Adele Morris and Barrie Hargrove.

At the close of the questioning, the Mayor thanked The New Aylesbury Trust Ltd, known as Creation for their submission.

Team London Bridge

Council assembly heard evidence from a representative from Team London Bridge. Thereafter she asked a question of the cabinet member for regeneration and new homes.

The following members had questions of the submission: Councillors Michael Situ, Eliza Mann, Fiona Colley and Anood Al-Samerai.

At the close of the questioning, the Mayor thanked Team London Bridge for their submission.

4.1 MOTION ON THE THEME

MOTION ON THE THEME – ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC REALM AND REGENERATION
(see pages 1 - 3 of the main agenda)

As the subject matter of the motion covered two portfolios both cabinet members spoke on the motion. The cabinet member for environment and public realm, Councillor Darren Merrill, and the cabinet member for regeneration and new homes, Councillor Mark Williams, presented the motion on the themed debate.

Councillor Rosie Shimell, the majority opposition group spokesperson, responded to the cabinet members motion and proposed Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Barrie Hargrove, Adele Morris, Samantha Jury-Dada, David Noakes, Helen Dennis, Anood Al-Samerai, Tom Flynn, Ben Johnson, Michael Situ, Damian O'Brien and Peter John), the cabinet member for environment and public realm, Councillor Darren Merrill, and the cabinet member for regeneration and new homes, Councillor Mark Williams, responded to the debate.

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

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

RESOLVED:

Regeneration

1. That council assembly recognises that Southwark is one of the most exciting boroughs in the country in terms of regeneration, with significant investment in the borough delivering new affordable homes, jobs and community benefits.
2. That council assembly commends this administration's approach to regeneration, which has secured the second highest level of affordable house-building in the country, with 3,760 new affordable homes built in Southwark between 2010-11 and 2014-15.
3. That council assembly welcomes this administration's commitment to ensuring regeneration benefits local people by delivering affordable homes to rent and for low cost home ownership, building new community facilities and creating jobs and opportunities for Southwark residents.
4. That council assembly notes that Southwark also has the most ambitious council house building programme in the country - 11,000 new council homes built by 2043, with the first 1,500 by 2018, with every one of the new homes available to Southwark residents at council rents.
5. That council assembly calls on other London boroughs to play their part in solving London's housing crisis by following Southwark's lead and building new affordable homes.
6. That council assembly condemns the previous Liberal Democrat and Conservative Coalition government's cut to the affordable housing grant, which has made it more difficult for local authorities to build new council homes.

7. That council assembly also condemns the government's proposals to limit new affordable housing and to force the sell off of council homes through the Housing and Planning Bill, which will significantly reduce council housing in Southwark, damage our ability to build much needed new homes and lead to an increase in homelessness and overcrowding.
8. That council assembly calls on the cabinet to:
 - Work with partners across the borough to increase local employment in construction so that Southwark residents are able to take advantage of opportunities from regeneration programmes.
 - Lobby the government to reconsider it's disastrous proposals on the forced sale of council homes.
 - Lobby the government for an exemption for local authorities on council house building programmes from 'starter home' quotas, which will be unaffordable for the majority of Southwark residents, to ensure new homes in the borough are genuinely affordable to households on lower incomes.

Environment and public realm

9. That council assembly recognises the importance of ensuring development in our borough is sustainable and welcomes this administration's commitment to the environment, including:
 - Reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill to less than 1%, with Southwark now the best recycling borough in inner city London.
 - Committing to run entirely on green energy by 2050.
 - Delivering a new energy hub that will deliver zero-carbon, affordable heat and hot water to residents and businesses across Elephant Park.
10. That council assembly recognises that poor air quality is a significant problem for Southwark and that 28,800 children in our borough breathe poor air and approximately 110 people die in Southwark prematurely every year from poor air quality. Council assembly therefore calls on Transport for London (TfL) to take action on air quality and to extend the ultra low emissions zone to cover the whole borough and the rest of inner London.
11. That council assembly reaffirms the council's formal objection to TfL's plans for the new Silvertown Tunnel due to the negative impact increased congestion will have on air pollution levels in Southwark, particularly on approaches to the Rotherhithe tunnel, and calls on TfL to address the council's concerns and recommendations in its proposals.
12. That council assembly welcomes this administration's commitment to sustainable transport, to promote active journeys, minimise the environmental impact of transport and improve the public realm to make the borough a safer, cleaner and healthier place to live and work.
13. That council assembly welcomes the 2.7 miles of quietways that have already been

introduced in the borough and the commitment to deliver 21.26 more miles, as well as the introduction of the Southwark Spine, which will improve cycling in the borough and help increase the number of people choosing to cycle.

14. That council assembly welcomes the steps being taken to improve the public realm, including at Canada Water, Peckham and the Aylesbury, to clean up the borough's high streets, such as Rye Lane and Walworth Road, and to invest in the social infrastructure of our borough, including new libraries, a new leisure centre and new parks, such as the new Camberwell library, the new Castle leisure centre and a £6m investment in 6 parks around Elephant and Castle.

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

5. DEPUTATIONS

(See pages 3 - 4 of supplemental agenda 3)

As part of the programme motion the meeting agreed to hear a deputation from:

Southwark Defend Council Housing

The deputation's spokesperson, Tanya Murat, addressed the meeting. The deputation asked a question of the cabinet member for housing.

Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, Bill Williams, Ben Johnson and Martin Seaton asked questions of the deputation.

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

6. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

6.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

(See pages 1 - 5 of the supplemental agenda 1 and the blue and yellow papers circulated at the meeting)

There was one late questions to the leader of the council, the written response to which was circulated on blue paper at the meeting. Two supplemental questions were asked of the leader of the council. The written questions and responses are set out in Appendix 1. There were 30 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated on yellow paper at the meeting. There were 15 supplemental questions. The written questions and responses are set out in Appendix 2

6.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

MOTION 1 – TRANSPORT IN ROTHERHITHE *(See page 5 of the main agenda)*

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Kath Whittam, seconded by Councillor Bill Williams, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillors Victoria Mills, David Hubber, James Okosun, Damian O'Brien, Eliza Mann, Richard Livingstone and Anood Al-Samerai), the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly recognises that there are significant traffic problems on the Rotherhithe peninsula, with the high demand for river crossings making the Rotherhithe area particularly susceptible to congestion from tunnel related traffic, which is detrimental to the local environment, particularly air quality, and can make local trips difficult.
2. That council assembly further recognises that the significant growth planned in the Canada Water area, including an increase in new homes and job opportunities, will require a significant investment in transport infrastructure.
3. That council assembly therefore calls on Transport for London and the Mayor of London to:
 - Upgrade the existing public transport network, including increasing capacity on the overground, tube and buses
 - Take action to tackle congestion on Jamaica Road
 - Enhance pedestrian and cycle links and bring forward plans for a pedestrian and cycling bridge from Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf to alleviate congestion
 - Extend the cycle hire scheme to Rotherhithe
 - Explore means of integrating river transport into the network to make sure that residents in Rotherhithe get the full benefit from the river as a mode of transport
 - Address in a full and proper manner the concerns and recommendations raised by the council in relation to the proposals for the new Silvertown Tunnel, which will impact negatively on the quality of life of a vast number of people who live and work in the borough.

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

MOTION 2 – THE POWER TO SET A REAL LIVING WAGE *(See pages 5 – 6 of the main agenda)*

Councillor Leo Pollak, having declared a pecuniary interest in this item, left the room for the debate and vote upon the motion.

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Hamish McCallum, seconded by Anood Al-Samerai, moved the motion.

Councillors Gavin Edwards, seconded by Councillor Maisie Anderson, moved Amendment B.

Following debate (Councillor Ian Wingfield), at 10.03pm the Mayor announced that the guillotine had fallen.

The guillotine having fallen Amendment B 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 cross-party support for the London Living Wage since the motion agreed by council in November 2008 and the steps taken in Southwark in 2012 to introduce the London Living Wage for all staff, including contractors as well as the council's directly employed staff.
2. That council assembly notes the progress in implementing the London Living Wage policy in Southwark and the proposal for a Living Wage Zone as part of the Canada Water regeneration area.
3. That council assembly welcomes the council's on-going work to support the Living Wage, including:
 - Celebrating employers who are promoting and encouraging the practice of paying the Living Wage to apprentices through our Southwark apprenticeship standards.
 - Working with organisations across London to inform the development of new policy and activities relating to Living Wage through the upcoming Living Wage Symposium.
 - Supporting the creation of a London Living Wage zone at More London.
4. That council assembly further notes that Preston City Council in partnership with 'Unlock Democracy' is considering submitting the following proposal to government under the Sustainable Communities Act:

'To delegate power to local authorities to compel all private and public sector employers within their area to pay the Living Wage. The rate of the Living Wage to be determined in accordance with the rates set by the Living Wage Foundation for London and outside London.'
5. That council assembly believes that this power could reduce in-work poverty in Southwark and benefit the local economy through a multiplier effect in each local authority area it is introduced.
6. That council assembly further believes that as part of the negotiating process with the relevant Secretary of State, all or some of the benefits to government through

increased income tax revenue and reduced welfare spending be used to enforce the new power and help local businesses which may struggle to move to the new rate. The case should also be strongly made for additional resources, so that councils can enforce the Living Wage effectively.

7. That council assembly therefore calls on the cabinet to express its interest in joining Preston City Council in any collective submission to the government under the Sustainable Communities Act, and to work together with the Unlock Democracy campaign to gain support for the proposal from other councils in London and across the country.

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

MOTION 3 – BLACKLISTING *(See pages 6 – 7 of the main agenda)*

Councillors Gavin Edwards, Paul Fleming and Victoria Mills, having declared a pecuniary interest in this item, left the room prior to the motion being formally moved and voted upon. As part of the programme motion the meeting agreed to change ‘Constructing Association’ to ‘Consulting Association’, in paragraph 2 of the motion..

The guillotine haven fallen, Councillors Richard Livingstone and Mark Williams, formally moved and seconded the motion.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly is aware of the destructive practice of blacklisting that occurred for decades in the UK construction industry and the disastrous effects it had on many of the workers that were included on the blacklist.
2. That council assembly notes that most of the workers on the blacklist of The Consulting Association were trade unionists, many of them were blacklisted for raising legitimate health and safety concerns with their employer.
3. That council assembly recognise that because of this administration’s commitment to new affordable housing, lots of new homes are being built in Southwark, which is also providing opportunities for local people in construction work. We take the safety of our residents, staff and contractors very seriously and believe strongly that people who raise health and safety concerns should not be blighted for their working life through blacklisting.
4. That council assembly notes that the council already has a process in place for Major Works contracts to identify any companies that have made use of the blacklist in the past to ensure that they have put in place actions to prevent such behaviour recurring and to compensate those victimised by the practice. Council assembly believes that this good practice should be adopted in its other contracts.
5. That this council is determined that blacklisting should never occur again and calls on cabinet to:

- Make provision in Southwark Council's public tendering procedures to exclude blacklists from public contracts if they are either still blacklisting or have not put into place genuine actions agreed by the blacklisted workers or their representatives concerning past blacklisting activities
- Make provision in the council's terms and conditions for public works that provide for the termination of the contract if a supplier is found to engage in blacklisting activities during the course of that contract
- Make provision to include blacklisting and trade union membership in the pre-qualification questionnaire for new construction contracts.

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

7. OTHER REPORTS

7.1 COUNCIL TAX BASE AND NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES BASE 2016/17

(See pages 8 - 23 of the main agenda)

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) and (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.

Following debate (Councillors Fiona Colley and Hamish McCallum), the recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly note that in accordance with the decisions of council assembly about council tax on 28 November 2012:
 - 1) That the local discretionary premium for homes counted as long-term empty (over 2 years) shall remain unchanged and be set at 150%, this premium is statutory and is the maximum that can be charged.
 - 2) That the discount for second homes shall remain unchanged and be set at 0%.
 - 3) That the discount to replace class A exemptions shall remain unchanged and be set at 0%.
2. That the local discount for empty and unfurnished properties be set to zero with effect from 1 April 2016, as discussed in paragraphs 16 to 17 of the report.
3. That the council tax base for 2016/17 be set at 91,231.00 band D equivalent dwellings, as shown in paragraph 41 of the report.

4. That the assumed council tax collection level should be increased to 97.00% noting the risks outlined in paragraph 31 of the report.
5. That the council tax base for 2016/17 for St. Mary Newington be set at 10,978.81 band D equivalent dwellings.
6. That the council tax base for 2016/17 for St. Saviour's be set at 1,174.07 band D equivalent dwellings.
7. That the council tax reduction scheme (CTRS) for both working and pensionable age claimants shall remain unchanged in 2016/17, and note the consequential reduction in tax base of 17,997 band D equivalent dwellings as shown in paragraph 50 of the report.
8. That it be noted that:
 - Any minor and consequential amendments to the CTRS written policy are to remain delegated to the strategic director of finance and governance, in consultation with the monitoring officer.
 - No changes were made under the strategic director of finance and Governance's authority during 2015/16.
9. That it be noted that, as for 2015/16, the NNDR1 return showing the national non-domestic rates base will be signed off by the council's section.151 officer (strategic director of finance and governance).

8. AMENDMENTS

Amendments are set out in supplemental agenda 3.

The meeting closed at 10.13 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: