

Item No. 4.	Classification: Open	Date: 16 March 2016	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motions	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The councillor introducing or “moving” the motion may make a speech directed to the matter under discussion. This may not exceed five minutes¹.

A second councillor will then be asked by the Mayor to “second” the motion. This may not exceed three minutes without the consent of the Mayor.

The meeting will then debate the issue and any amendments on the motion will be dealt with.

At the end of the debate the mover of the motion may make a concluding speech, known as a “right of reply”. If an amendment is carried, the mover of the amendment shall hold the right of reply to any subsequent amendments and, if no further amendments are carried, at the conclusion of the debate on the substantive motion.

The Mayor will then ask councillors to vote on the motion (and any amendments).

IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution allocates responsibility for particular functions to council assembly, including approving the budget and policy framework, and allocates to the cabinet responsibility for developing and implementing the budget and policy framework and overseeing the running of council services on a day-to-day basis. Therefore any matters that are reserved to the cabinet (i.e. housing, social services, regeneration, environment, education etc) cannot be decided upon by council assembly without prior reference to the cabinet. While it would be in order for council assembly to discuss an issue, consideration of any of the following should be referred to the cabinet:

- to change or develop a new or existing policy
- to instruct officers to implement new procedures
- to allocate resources.

Note: In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10 (7) & (8) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which motions appear in the agenda may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

¹ Council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9)

1. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS (Seconded by Councillor Ben Johnson)

Building more affordable homes in Southwark

Council assembly:

1. Notes the escalating housing crisis in London and Southwark and the desperate need for more genuinely affordable housing for residents.
2. Further notes the negative impact that policies in the Conservative government's Housing and Planning Bill will have on the construction of new affordable homes and access to existing affordable housing. These policies include:
 - Extending the right to buy to housing association tenants.
 - Requiring councils to sell vacant high-value properties to fund the extended right to buy policy.
 - Introducing a 'Pay to Stay' scheme, where households with an income over £40,000 pay a higher rent to stay in their council or housing association home.
 - Forcing local authorities to reduce tenants' rents by £1 a week and thereby reducing the council's housing budget by £62.5m.
 - Extending the definition of 'affordable housing' to Starter Homes and requiring councils to promote them.
 - A reduction in the annual benefit cap for families to £23,000 in London making private rented housing even more unaffordable.
3. Acknowledges the start the administration has made with its 11,000 new council home over thirty years, however remains concerned at the rate of progress so far and whether this target will be met.
4. Believes that the scale of the housing crisis requires additional help from the Mayor of London to build new social rent housing in Southwark and other boroughs.
5. Calls on the cabinet to support plans for the future Mayor of London to continue collection of the Olympic precept element of council tax to build additional affordable housing in Southwark

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

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS (Seconded by Councillor Tom Flynn)

Transport improvements

1. Council assembly realises how essential good public transport is for residents in Southwark to carry out their day to day lives.
2. Council assembly recognises that transport fares are one of the biggest costs many households in the borough face.
3. Council assembly also is aware of the significant transport problems on trains across south east London, including overcrowding at London Bridge, Peckham Rye and Canada Water Stations, proposed ticket office closures, and unacceptable delays, cancellations and lack of capacity on the Govia Thameslink's Catford loop affecting passengers at Nunhead, Peckham Rye, Denmark Hill, and Elephant and Castle and reiterates its call for Transport for London (TfL) to run all rail services in south east London in order to have a properly integrated transport system.
4. Council assembly acknowledges this administration's commitment to prioritising sustainable journeys, including walking and cycling, to help minimise the environmental impact of transport and make this borough a safer, cleaner and healthier place to live and work.
5. Council assembly believes that our city needs a Mayor who will stand up for Londoners and deliver affordable, reliable public transport, and therefore welcomes London Mayoral candidate Sadiq Khan's commitments to:
 - Freeze all TfL Underground, Docklands Light Railway and Overground and travelcard fares for four years, freeze bus fares following a first-year cut in fares, and introduce a one-hour bus ticket;
 - Push TfL to take on more London commuter rail services so that responsibility for all transport within London lies with the Mayor;
 - Ensure that London councils are given a central role in planning London's transport infrastructure;
 - Champion new measures to encourage cycling and walking and prioritise 'Quiet Ways' to broaden London's safe cycle network, completing the roll out of the existing town centre cycling improvement plans; and make it easier and safer for our residents to cycle around the borough.

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

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH McCALLUM (Seconded by Councillor Eliza Mann)

Low water pressure in Bermondsey

Council assembly:

1. Notes with concern ongoing reports from residents and businesses about low water pressure in Bermondsey, affecting the area north of Jamaica Road, between Tower Bridge Road and Cherry Garden Street.
2. Further notes that Thames Water has acknowledged that the low pressure is a deliberate strategy to reduce burst water mains in the area.
3. Believes that it is unacceptable that thousands of Bermondsey residents and businesses, especially those on higher floors, should have to suffer a reduction in water pressure while still being required to pay for a full service.
4. Calls on the cabinet to work urgently with Thames Water and the council's housing department (as the freeholder of many blocks) to resolve the low water pressure issue.

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

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER (Seconded by Councillor Samantha Jury-Dada)

East Street Market

1. Council assembly celebrates the rich diversity, cultural heritage and many opportunities within the East Street Market, which is one of London's oldest, largest and busiest markets and has been used by local people for decades.
2. Council assembly recognises that improvements are needed to revive the market, to encourage new traders into empty shop units and to create an easier and more sociable shopping experience for the public.
3. Council assembly welcomes the £207,000 awarded to East Street Market from Southwark Council and the Greater London Assembly (GLA) to regenerate and develop the market.
4. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to work closely with market traders and local businesses to encourage a stronger working partnership and to bring forward improvements to the market which build on the character of the market, encourage growth, and help attract a wider range of customers.

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	Andrew Weir, Constitutional Officer
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