

Item No. 10.	Classification: Open	Date: January 27 2010	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motions	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (9), the member moving the motion may make a speech directed to the matter under discussion. This may not exceed five minutes without the consent of the Mayor.

The seconder 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 open up to debate on the issue and any amendments on the motion will be dealt with.

At the end of the debate the mover of the motion may exercise 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 members 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 executive 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 executive (i.e. housing, social services, regeneration, environment, education etc) cannot be decided upon by council assembly without prior reference to the executive. While it would be in order for council assembly to discuss an issue, consideration of any of the following should be referred to the executive:

- 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 2.9 (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. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON (Seconded by Councillor Kim Humphreys)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Transforming Southwark Council

1. Council assembly notes the transformation of Southwark over the last eight years, from one of the worst performing London boroughs under Labour control to one of the best.
2. In particular assembly notes how prudent budgeting and financial competence has meant Southwark residents have benefited from cost of living tax rises, rather than inflation busting rises under Labour, illustrated by Band D council tax increasing 94% from £397 to £776 between 1994 and 2002 and by just 17.5% (to £912) since then, protecting pensioners and those on fixed incomes.
3. Council assembly also notes the rise in council tax collection rates from just 80% under Labour to 96% last year and believes they are set to rise further as a result of the council's decision to bring the service in-house.
4. Council assembly is pleased to record that local peoples' satisfaction with the council has increased in this time from 57% in 2000 to 67% in 2008 and notes that local environments are much improved with people feeling much safer walking outside their homes, and more satisfied with street lighting, street cleaning and recycling than they were under the previous Labour administration.
5. Council assembly further notes that after many years' delay and lack of commitment under Labour, all of the big regeneration schemes – Bermondsey Spa, Canada Water, Aylesbury and Elephant and Castle – are together on course to transform the borough.
6. In addition, council assembly notes the council's record housing investment that has seen, over the last five years, a £374m major works programme (over and above the Labour government's basic standard) including roof repairs, window replacements, electrical rewiring, boiler replacements, concrete repairs, external decorations, cavity wall and loft insulation and kitchen and bathroom refurbishment (including a doubling of spending from £4.1m pa to £8.7m pa on lifts, heating, electrics and tank room refurbishments); recognises this approach has widespread support from the tenants' movement and is reflected in increased tenants' satisfaction with housing services and believes much more could be achieved if the government ended the spending restrictions on the council.
7. Council assembly welcomes Simon Hughes MP's Town and Country Planning Act (Amendment) private member's bill which by proposing to lift restrictions on the use of planning gain would significantly increase resources for Southwark's social housing of all types, and calls on all the borough MPs to support it in the House of Commons.

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

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON FYLE (Seconded by Councillor Peter John)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Social care in Southwark

1. Council assembly is grateful for the hard work and dedication of both the council's own social care staff and those of partner organisations providing care in the borough. It believes that any institutional failings in social care services are not the fault of front-line staff who work to provide the best possible service in difficult conditions.
2. Council assembly notes the publication in December 2009 of the Care Quality Commission's Annual Performance Assessment which judged Southwark's social care service to be one of the eight worst in the country. It further notes the conclusion of the service inspection report published at the same time that "the capacity to improve in Southwark is uncertain".
3. Council assembly notes with particular concern the following findings from the service inspection:
 - that the inspectors had concerns in around half of the safeguarding cases they examined
 - that older people, carers and support organisations have reservations about the performance of the call centre
 - that access to extra care housing and community enablement and intermediate care services are limited
 - that access to telecare services had been closed to new referrals for a period
 - that out-of-hours services appear increasingly stretched
 - that the expansion of direct payments is proceeding at a pace well below that planned, with low levels of promotion and engagement
 - that there is evidence of significant delays in conducting reviews of need levels for those in receipt of social care, despite this becoming more important as a result of cuts in eligibility
 - that there has been a significant loss of long-standing and experienced staff
 - that "some partner agencies considered that a valued tradition of collaborative work with them was at risk"
 - that "practical plans were not yet in place to offer the prospect of sustainable delivery of the council's vision and strategy".
4. Council assembly believes that these serious concerns cannot be dismissed out of hand. It expresses its concern over the intention to spend thousands of pounds on employing hand-picked inspectors to conduct a new inspection, which could only be seen as a whitewash by Southwark residents.
5. Council assembly calls on the leader and the executive member for health and adult care to urgently draw up an action plan to address the findings and recommendations of the Care Quality Commission's reports and to report back to the next ordinary meeting progress against this action plan.

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

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY (Seconded by Councillor Nick Vineall)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Local rail services

In light of the potentially detrimental effect on the amenity of the Herne Hill and Elephant and Castle area, the council views with serious concern the proposals by Network Rail and/or First Capital Connect to terminate the Thameslink Wimbledon loop services at Blackfriars. Council notes concern amongst residents over adequate consultation and calls upon the executive and officers to liaise with other affected London boroughs to explore alternative options for the continuation of the current service providing through trains to Farringdon (for Cross Rail), to Kings Cross St Pancras (for Eurostar and other mainline services) and points north to Bedford.

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

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER (Seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Improving public transport on the River Thames

Council assembly notes

1. The River Thames is an integral part of the London Borough of Southwark, not just as a landmark, but as part of our transport system.
2. The recent publication of the report "At a Rate of Knots – Improving Public Transport on the Thames", that contains a number of proposals to improve river transport.

Council assembly believes:

3. That the restoration of the River Thames on the next edition of the standard tube map, recognising its potential as part of London's transport network, should be welcomed.
4. Improved river transport will attract more visitors to the borough, as demonstrated by the successful shuttle service which runs between Tate Modern and Tate Britain.
5. The council's plans to complete the Thames Path in Southwark will provide greater accessibility to river transport and enable visitors to explore the borough with greater ease.
6. In addition, more use could be made of river transport to benefit residents of Southwark in their commute to work, for very little cost, by properly integrating the River Thames into London's public transport network.

Council assembly requests the executive:

7. To consider how Southwark can promote greater awareness amongst our residents of existing river services and how they can use them.
8. To request that Southwark's transport policy team consider the proposals in the report, liaise with Transport for London (TfL) and the London Mayor's office, produce a report to executive on their viability and how Southwark could support them.
9. To request that Southwark's transport policy team also consider as part of this report any public realm improvements associated with the completion of the Thames Path.

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

5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE (Seconded by Councillor Veronica Ward)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Southwark's recycling shame

1. Council assembly notes that the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) 2008-09 waste statistics, released in November 2009, revealed that Southwark's household waste recycling rate stands at just 20.89%, which is the sixth worst in the country.
2. Council assembly notes the Liberal Democrat manifesto pledge to double recycling by 2010 to 30%.
3. Council assembly notes that if the borough's recycling rate had improved at the same pace as the national average then the Liberal Democrats would have fulfilled their pledge. It further notes that if it had improved at the same pace as Greenwich then Southwark's recycling rate would be 39% today
4. Council assembly believes that household recycling rates can be significantly increased by widening the range of items that can be recycled and through simplifying the collection system, particularly for those in flats.
5. Council assembly calls on the executive to introduce urgent measures to bring household waste recycling levels in Southwark up to an acceptable level, including learning from the successes of similar boroughs across London.
6. Council assembly further calls on the executive member for environment to present these plans at the next ordinary meeting of council assembly.

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

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Member Motions	Town Hall Peckham Road London SE5 8UB	Constitutional Team 020 7525 7228

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager
Report Author	Sean Usher, Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	January 8 2010