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| Item No. 9. | Classification: Open | Date: 24 March 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 Lewis Robinson)

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

Labour's failure in tackling poverty and inequality

Council assembly notes:

1. The promise made by former PM, Tony Blair in 1995 that "If the Labour government has not raised the living standards of the poorest by the end of its time in office, it will have failed."
2. The National Equality Panel, set up by Harriet Harman MP, whose report from January 2010 states:
 - 1) "inequality in any dimension is wider in London than in any other region, and inequality in earnings and income has increased faster in London over the last decade than anywhere else"
 - 2) "People's occupational and economic destinations in early adulthood depend to an important degree on their origins. Moreover rates of intergenerational mobility in terms of income are low in international terms and in terms of occupation are below the international average for men and the bottom of the range for women."
 - 3) "The top tenth of households having wealth above £853,000 and the bottom tenth having less than £8,800".
3. The Marmot Review 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives' (February 2010) that showed in England, people living in the poorest neighbourhoods, will, on average, die seven years earlier than people living in the richest neighbourhoods and the average difference in disability free life expectancy is 17 years. So, people in poorer areas not only die sooner, but they will also spend more of their shorter lives with a disability.
4. Statistics from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation 'poverty site' show in 2007-08, 13½ million people in the UK were living in poverty (defined as incomes below 60% of median income after deducting housing costs), representing (22%) of the population and an increase of 1½ million compared with three years previously. In addition more households were on incomes below 40% of median income than had ever been recorded in history with the proportion of people living in relative poverty in the UK almost twice that of the Netherlands, and one-and-half times that of France.
5. That after 13 years of Labour government more than 20,000 children (42% of all 0-15 years olds) in Southwark are still living in poverty – enough to fill 66 primary schools.

Council assembly believes:

6. It is clear by their own objectives on fighting poverty and raising living standards for the poorest that Labour in government has failed.

7. That this is due in no small part to Gordon Brown's economic policies which have:
 - 1) over-centralised public sector budgets and social policy making.
 - 2) created a command and control ethos in Whitehall which impedes local authorities in both taking action or devising appropriate local strategies to tackle poverty and inequality.
 - 3) introduced an overly complicated tax and benefit system that has increased welfare dependency, made benefit take up more difficult – for example more than half of all low-income households are now paying full council tax, much higher than a decade ago – and directly hit those on very low incomes with the withdrawal of the 10p tax rate.
 - 4) wasted hundreds of millions of pounds on failed 'public/private partnership' schemes, such as Metronet estimated to have lost the taxpayer more than £400 million – more than enough to pay for the Cross River Tram.
8. That a change of government and direction is now long overdue.
9. A radically new and different approach from government to allow local authorities to more effectively tackle poverty and inequality and maximise employment, training and skills opportunities across the public, private and voluntary sectors should be introduced.
10. Continued improved opportunities for local young people to get a good education with investment in new schools and classrooms will build on the record GCSE results and primary school achievement.
11. The council must continue to use major regeneration schemes – particularly the Elephant and Castle – to provide opportunities to transform employment and training prospects for local people.

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

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY (Seconded by Councillor Peter John)

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

Tackling the fear of violent crime with CCTV

1. Council assembly notes the CCTV strategy agreed by the executive earlier in the year. It notes the plan in that strategy to cut CCTV coverage across the borough.
2. Council assembly further notes that the same strategy admitted that CCTV makes people feel safer.
3. Council assembly notes the borough's continued problems with violent crime and believes that a cut in CCTV coverage would make residents feel less safe.

4. Council assembly calls on the executive to draw up plans for an expansion in CCTV coverage.

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

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR TAYO SITU (Seconded by Councillor Althea Smith)

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

Human Rights, Race and Equality

1. Council assembly notes the withdrawal of council funding from the Southwark Human Rights, Race and Equality Board (SHRREB).
2. Council assembly notes that there is no longer any independent organisation solely dedicated to scrutinising human rights and equality abuses in the borough.
3. Council assembly notes the concerns about the effectiveness of SHRREB but believes that the lack of an alternative body is deeply concerning.
4. Council assembly further believes that the Southwark needs an organisation with the avowed aims of the SHRREB, but which is effective, particularly given the council's failure to ever properly respond to the Ouseley Review and poor levels of staff training in equalities issues.

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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|----------------------|--|
| Lead Officer | Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager |
| Report Author | Sean Usher, Constitutional Officer |
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