

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

25 NOVEMBER 2020

AMENDMENTS

ITEM 3.2 – MOTION ON THE THEME: RESILIENT SOUTHWARK: RESPONDING TO THE ONGOING PANDEMIC

AMENDMENT A

Moved: Councillor Nick Johnson

1. Insert after paragraph 1b:

c. According to Trust for London¹, before the COVID-19 crisis, close to a third of Londoners lived in poverty and London had the highest poverty rates in the UK. In Southwark this included an even greater-than-average amount of income deprivation - 50% worse than the average London neighbourhood.

d. This second rise of the pandemic has brought further devastating repercussions for Southwark businesses, families and individual residents already suffering from financial pressures.

2. Delete paragraph 2c third bullet point and replace with:

- Implemented measures to help local businesses such as distributing millions of pounds of grants, changing public spaces to enable social distancing (in over 100 locations), and providing marshals to reopen high streets safely.

3. Insert after paragraph 2d:

e. Financial security is critical to a stable and thriving society and the pandemic has demonstrated how vulnerable both people and the economy are to sudden shocks. The importance of financial resilience has led over 100 MPs and Peers from Labour, the SNP, the Liberal Democrats, Plaid Cymru and the Greens to sign a letter² of support for a 'Recovery Basic Income'. The great and good are now posing the question of the concept of a universal basic income (UBI) as a matter of course.

f. Many local authorities around the UK including Leeds³, Sheffield⁴ and Hull⁵ have passed Motions to lobby the Government for UBI pilots.

¹ <https://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/data/>

² <https://www.basicincomeconversation.org/recovery-ubi>

³ <https://ubibleeds.co.uk/leeds-council-motion-calls-for-ubi-pilot-in-city/>

Such a pilot for Southwark could potentially generate additional money into the local economy - and it is in Southwark's economic interests to be part of a pilot scheme to provide more financial resilience for its residents.

4. Insert at end of paragraph 3 after third bullet point, a fourth bullet point:
 - Deliver a benefit system that is fit for purpose - with Universal Credit causing irreparable hardship to many individuals, families and even communities in Southwark, whilst adding significant extra pressures to our food banks and charities.
5. Insert after paragraph 5a:
 - b. Immediately establish a cross-party UBI steering group to engage with key stakeholders in Southwark, the UBI Lab Network⁶ and other partners to cooperate in setting up and funding a UBI lab for Southwark – the aim of the lab being to consult with residents, establish the feasibility and lobby the Government for the funding for a Southwark UBI pilot.

and renumber all subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

6. Insert after existing paragraph 5b seventh bullet point:
 - support piloting a UBI scheme in Southwark by writing to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State at the Department for Work and Pensions to fund and legislate as appropriate.

⁴ <https://www.centreforwelfareform.org/news/sheffield-baincome-pilot/00466.html>

⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jan/19/hull-universal-basic-income-trial>

⁶ <https://www.ubilabnetwork.org/>

ITEM 5.2.1 – Calling on the government to end child food poverty

AMENDMENT B

Moved: Councillor Victor Chamberlain

Seconded: Councillor Anood Al-Samerai

1. Delete paragraph 1d and replace with:

d. Free School Meals has been a flagship Southwark Labour policy for 10 years. In contrast to the Conservative Government, Labour and Liberal Democrats MPs recently voted to extend Free School Meals provisions over all holidays which would have fed more than 1.4 million children during their time off from school until Easter 2021.

e. In the Welsh Coalition Government, Liberal Democrat Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, has guaranteed free school meal provision for school holidays until at least Easter 2021.

f. Since being in power this current Conservative Government have all but abandoned commitments to eradicate child poverty which they promised to achieve in their 2010 manifesto by 2020. New research shows over 40% of children living in Southwark are now living in poverty. The End Child Poverty coalition shows this affects over 50% of children in Bermondsey and Old Southwark and over 46% in Camberwell and Peckham constituencies.

2. Insert after paragraph 2b:

c. Liberal Democrat Councillors for recommending to Southwark Council's Chief Executive and Leader of the Council in their letter of 24 April 2020 that they extend Free school meals to holidays and weekends.

3. Delete paragraph 3a and replace with:

a. Lobby government to ensure that local authorities have sufficient funding to provide Free School Meals to all children (including those with no recourse to public funds) who need them in the school holidays (and any periods of lockdown)

4. Insert after paragraph 3c.

d. Extend eligibility for Free School Meals to Southwark pupils from low-income families whose parents or guardians have no recourse to public funds and destitute asylum seekers under s4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

ITEM 5.2.2 – End our cladding, external wall fire review form EWS1 and snagging scandal

AMENDMENT C

Moved: Councillor Sarah King

Seconded: Councillor Tom Flynn

Remove 1a, replace with:

- a. Following the human tragedy of the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire taking 72 lives, which is attributed to Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding, this has rightfully led to a focus on fire safety in buildings across the country.

Remove 1c, d, replace with:

- a. In parallel, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the UK Council of Mortgage Lenders agreed the industry External Wall System fire review and certification process resulting in what is known as an EWS1 form. Only circa 300 professional fire safety engineers nationally are qualified to issue these whilst demand is high - creating a bottleneck across the country including in Southwark.
- b. Without an EWS1 form, many lenders are now refusing to provide mortgages and many leaseholders are having to battle with owners to obtain one. Remediation costs are also skyrocketing in the £100,000s and many owners are forcing this back on leaseholders via financially ruinous service charges – including for those in shared ownership.

Addition of 1f:

- a. Previous to 21 November 2020, the ESW1 form was intended for use with high rises (18m or higher), yet Southwark saw an increasing demand of this being requested for almost all types of buildings, regardless of height or construction type.

Remove 2a, replace with:

- a. The cladding issue is symptomatic of a wider problem of lack of national legislature for snagging in new build blocks -- snagging meaning the process of checking a new building for faults that need to be rectified -- a process that has been deregulated by a Conservative government. Snagging is largely left to the

responsibility of the residents to take up with the developer post purchase.

Remove section 3, replace with:

- a. The combination of this cladding, EWS1 and snagging scandal is having an impact on many Southwark residents. In order to tackle this, the Council has created a Building Safety Board (BSB) Chaired by Michael Scorer, Strategic Director of Housing, and including the LFB Borough Commander of Southwark. The Board's remit is to provide residents of Southwark with guidance on the EWS1 process, a progress tracker of private and social housing blocks in the borough, as well as an opportunity for residents to log complaints for the Building Safety Board to pick up and action.
- b. Southwark has currently employed one Fire Engineer to look at a pilot of 5 buildings who have enquired about EWS1 forms (out of a total 40 current enquiries). Unfortunately due to the large fees which can be offered by the private sector to prioritise their buildings, recruitment and retainment of staff in the public sector has been difficult.
- c. The current industry EWS1 process and public funding of remediation works is not fit for purpose and needs rapid attention to unblock the mortgage process. The Government has largely adopted a 'hands-off' approach and insisted that making properties safe is the responsibility of building owners.
- d. The Cabinet have taken significant steps to lobbying government in this area; Leader of the Council Councillor Kieron Williams has met with the Minister for Building Safety and Communities to discuss cladding, and with the London Councils Lead for Housing Councillor Darren Rodwell to facilitate exchanging and sharing of intelligence to support the Council's lobbying commitment on this issue.
- e. Councillor Kieron Williams has also written to Christopher Pincher MP, the Housing Minister, and the RICS setting out Southwark's concerns about EWS1 surveys and asking for a better deal for Southwark leaseholders.
- f. Southwark has updated the Council Plan to reflect the important work the council is doing on this issue and will continue to do over the coming months.
- g. The council has signed up to the cross-party End Our Cladding Scandal campaign, registering our support and signing the related petition.
- h. That as a result of sustained lobbying, as of the 21st November the government has announced that only buildings with cladding will

require an EWS1 form, which is expected to significantly reduce the number of buildings in Southwark requiring a survey.

Remove section 4, replace with:

- a. Commit to working with MHCLG and LFB to ensure any non-compliant non council owned buildings in the borough are dealt with in accordance with our enforcement powers. Southwark has already appointed a Lead Officer for All Buildings in the Borough to lead on this.
- b. Commit to the creation of a web based cladding FAQ and reporting platform in the New Year to provide assistance to Southwark residents so they are able to lodge complaints to the council for consideration.
- c. Work with the government, in light of their announcement of nearly £700,000 to train more assessors, to speed up the valuation process for homeowners in cases where an EWS1 form is required. According to government this training will be delivered by RICS from January and will mean up to 200 additional assessors will be qualified to carry out the EWS1 assessment within a month, 900 within three months, and 2,000 within six months.
- i. Lobby all private building owners and Housing Associations in Southwark to act immediately in rectifying issues and achieve EWS1 certification when required – noting that some of these owners may not be the original developer and therefore will need the Council's assistance to engage and trace such developers or other routes to remedy to avoid any cost to their Leaseholders.
- j. Lobby and work with the MPs, MHCLG and the Mayor of London to:
 - Devolve powers to Southwark Council in order to have jurisdiction over enforcing remediation of housing of all tenures and to obtain local control over the relevant compensation funds from the Government for Southwark so the Council can actively support affected residents in Southwark of all tenures.
 - Grant additional government funding to support additional powers and further speed up remedial cladding works across the country.
 - Adopt the sensible recommendations of the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee that the EWS1 process could be reformed to urgently revise and implement a process (at no cost to leaseholders) that offers clarity to lenders, insurers and peace of mind for homeowners and buyers to re-instate re-mortgaging and property sales provided there is no immediate danger.

- Adopt the 10 asks of the End Our Cladding Scandal campaign.

ITEM 5.2.4 – The future of transport in Southwark

AMENDMENT D

Moved: Councillor Kath Whittam

Seconded: Councillor Richard Livingstone

Delete all and replace with:

1. Council Assembly notes that:
 - a. In April 2019, the Council published its 'Movement Plan' which marked a shift in focus towards transport as 'movement', renewing the emphasis on active travel and prioritising the most sustainable methods of transport. Southwark is now currently significantly above the national average for the percentage of residents who regularly walk and cycle, with 60% of residents choosing to do so 3 times a week or more, and 51% of residents 5 times a week or more.
 - b. Fortunately, Southwark has benefited from many improvements in public transport infrastructure over the past 20 years which have helped residents travel more sustainably - including the complete transformation of London Bridge station, two additional tube stations for the Jubilee line at Bermondsey and Southwark, commissioning of the London Overground, Thameslink upgrades, transformation of Blackfriars station and improvements to Denmark Hill and Peckham Rye stations and extension of bus routes.
 - c. Opportunities for cycling and walking have been improved by the Millennium Bridge and the creation and expansion of the cycle hire scheme, and the council has worked with TfL to deliver new cycling infrastructure such as Cycle Route 4.
 - d. A key recommendation of Southwark's Environment Scrutiny Air Quality report is to 'Drive down total private vehicle usage over time so that by 2030 only a limited number of EV [electric] vehicles are in common use on Southwark roads'. In order to achieve this the Council has introduced 251 electric vehicle chargers in the borough, a step towards ensuring that every resident is within walking distance of a charging point.
 - e. Southwark has also introduced a 20mph speed limit on all council-owned roads, created 20 School Streets and widened pavements for increased walking space; all measures which initiate behaviour change and encourage residents to reconsider their transport choices.

- f. Linked to this, the Council is currently developing the Low Traffic Southwark strategy which aims to radically reduce car travel, and therefore emissions, in the borough and enable a modal shift to walking and cycling.
 - g. Air quality throughout London continues to be a major issue, impacting on both residents' immediate health and wider climate change. On a local level, Southwark has introduced engine idling fines, school air quality audits, and invested in many tree planting initiatives in an effort to improve air quality for all residents.
2. Council Assembly also notes that:
- a. Public infrastructure improvements such as the Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf Bridge and the Bakerloo Line extension will support Southwark to reach air quality, road traffic, and active travel targets.
 - b. The Canada Water master plan for the Rotherhithe peninsula - one of the largest regeneration programmes ever undertaken in Southwark would benefit from investment in public transport infrastructure such as the Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf bridge, -and increased capacity on the London Underground Jubilee line.
 - c. The Old Kent Road area action plan also sets out an ambitious programme for housing, with 20,000 new homes (including at least 35% affordable homes). The Bakerloo Line Extension will support the delivery of over 10,000 of those new homes to be built (of which at least 2,500 will be social homes), and delivered more quickly.
3. Council Assembly recognises:
- a. The huge budget challenge that TfL is facing, as one of the only city transport networks in the world which does not receive government funding to cover its operating costs. Ticket sales make up 70% of its income (compared to under 40% in other cities such as Paris and New York) and during the pandemic TfL has taken a large financial hit with stations closing, journeys falling by 90% and advertising revenue lost.
 - b. That the government's 'levelling up' agenda for the UK and its transport networks is welcomed, but should not be code for underinvesting in London transport.
 - c. An efficient and properly funded London transport network is essential to ensure that the capital continues to contribute much more to the UK economy than it takes out – circa £30bn annually before Covid-19 – which in turn is redistributed for infrastructure projects in other regions.

- d. Southwark welcomes and will champion any transport infrastructure proposals which fit with the Council's values and would provide environmental advantages.
 - e. Therefore, Southwark is concerned at proposals to 'pause' work on Rotherhithe Bridge and the delay in seeking funding for the Bakerloo Line Extension; projects that would both improve life for Southwark residents and reap wider benefits.
 - f. As part of a sustained campaign advocating for the Bakerloo Line Extension, the Leader of the Council Councillor Kieron Williams, Cabinet Members and local Councillors have written to Heidi Alexander (the Deputy Mayor of London for Transport) raising Southwark's concerns about deprioritising the project, and will be meeting herself and Deputy Mayor Pipe at the GLA Growth Partnership board to update and discuss steps forward.
 - g. Southwark Labour and Liberal Democrat councillors have raised objections to the Silvertown Tunnel proposal -- a proposal which would encourage road traffic and would therefore be at odds with Southwark, London, and national strategies to reduce road traffic for environmental reasons and encourage active travel.
4. Council Assembly therefore calls on Cabinet to:
- a. Continue to lobby the Mayor of London and TfL leadership to deprioritise the Silvertown tunnel project and instead prioritise the Bakerloo line extension and the Rotherhithe bridge.
 - b. Lobby government, with the help of Southwark's MPs, to provide adequate funding to TfL for the Bakerloo Line Extension, allowing South East London to 'level up' their transport infrastructure with the rest of London.
 - c. Continue to act within their power to reduce road traffic, improve air quality and encourage active transport through the initiatives listed in the 2011 Transport Plan and the 2019 Movement Plan, and in particular to continue to commit fully to Low Traffic Southwark as a radical and transformative plan of action for Southwark's streets.
 - d. Continue to work with TfL, Councillors and communities across Southwark to work to improve public transport infrastructure across the borough in line with Southwark's Movement Plan.
 - e. Commit to working with neighbouring councils and strategic partnerships such as London Councils and Central London Forward to advocate for just investment in London transport networks which will support the capital, and therefore Southwark, to reach its sustainability goals.

ITEM 5.2.6 – Misogyny as a Hate Crime

AMENDMENT E

Moved: Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall

Seconded: Councillor William Hougbo

1. Delete paragraph 2a and replace with:
 - a. Campaigners across the country including Citizens UK, Hope Not Hate, Southall Black Sisters, Tell MAMA UK, the Fawcett Society, and the cross party working lead by Wera Hobhouse Liberal Democrat MP who introduced the Hate Crime (Misogyny) Bill 2019-21 in March 2020⁷ supported by Sarah Olney, Christine Jardine, Layla Moran, Munira Wilson, Wendy Chamberlain and Stella Creasy, who have all worked hard to further this campaign.

⁷ <https://www.parallelparliament.co.uk/bills/2019-21/hatecrimemisogyny>

ITEM 5.2.7 – Supporting the Albrighton Community Fridge

AMENDMENT F

Moved: Councillor David Noakes

Seconded: Councillor Adele Morris

Delete all and replace with motion title “**Supporting Southwark food banks into the next decade**” and Insert the following:

1. Council Assembly notes, congratulates and thanks:
 - a. Southwark’s food banks and their partners who are an essential part of provision of support to the most vulnerable in our community - whether independently run by volunteers, tenants and residents associations, as well as those supported by the Council’s recent Community Hub programme.
 - b. The excellent work of all Southwark Building Services staff, Southwark Food banks and their partners throughout the Covid-19 pandemic who have delivered more than 25,000 meals to those in need.
 - c. The Community hub’s eight incredible organisations Pecan, Pembroke House, Albrighton Community Centre, Central Southwark Community Hub, St George the Martyr, Time and Talents, Paxton Green and Lewington.
 - d. The efforts of regional charities such as the London Food Alliance supporting access to surplus food and fridges, as well as local businesses Fooditude, Bermondsey Employment Skills and Training and London based environmental charity Hubbub who have pivoted to provide access to equipment or cooked meals to supplement food parcels.
 - e. The particular work of the Albrighton Community Fridge, run by volunteers from the Albrighton Community Centre in Champion Hill ward.
2. Council Assembly further notes:
 - a. The massive increase in the numbers of those who have applied to Southwark’s food banks across the borough for support since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, and the ongoing need for food support services which are provided to so many Southwark residents.

- b. Under this Conservative Government, poverty is expected to continue to rise in Southwark as the impact of Brexit hits on top of the devastation to our community from the Covid-19 pandemic, and continued issues for those with no recourse to public funds.
3. Council Assembly calls upon Cabinet to:
- a. Continue implementing the 16 recommendations regarding the future of the Southwark Community Hub as per its October 2020 Cabinet report⁸ to transform it into the Southwark Community Support Alliance, not just as an offer of emergency support, but also to achieve a long-term step change in the way we support those most in need in our community together.
 - b. Recommit to the recommendations in its September 2020 Cabinet report⁹ regarding scaling up more “Community run low cost food projects” where it noted that “Partners in Southwark share a long-term aim to end food insecurity and poverty and the need for foodbanks” and the “strong interest in collaborating to develop more affordable community run food options” and to build on the range of initiatives already happening across the borough – working through the Southwark Food Action Alliance to develop options for affordable food provision that support people’s dignity and independence (including community supermarkets, pantries etc), linked to the review of the food security plan.
 - c. Continue to work with organisations like the Albrighton Community Fridge, other food banks and similar support services and to provide as much financial and “in kind” support as practically possible to enable them to support Southwark residents and those in our borough with no recourse to public funds facing financial hardship at this time.
 - d. Continue to lobby government for increased funding for Southwark food banks as part of any future submission on the financial needs of Southwark Council for the remainder of this financial year, 2021/22 and as needed into the next decade.

⁸ Update on Implementation of the Southwark Community Support Alliance, Southwark Council Cabinet report October 2020

⁹ Community Hub - supporting the needs of the most vulnerable, Southwark Council Cabinet report September 2020

ITEM 6.1 – REFRESH OF THE COUNCIL PLAN 2018-2022

AMENDMENT G

Moved: Councillor Nick Johnson

Seconded: Councillor William Hougbo

1. Council Assembly notes that:
 - a. It is normal to update the Council Plan from time to time for items achieved already by the Council, to set new targets for the period ahead, as well as reflect changes in direction due to the impact this pandemic has had on the borough.
2. Council Assembly believes that:
 - a. It is not good practice to remove items from the Council Plan or alter them when such items are still needed and relevant to Southwark.
3. Therefore Council Assembly agrees to amend the report 'Appendix A: Southwark's Borough Plan 2020':
 - a. page 7, 'Southwark Together' **add** additional bullets from the original Council promise made in 2018:
 - "Support a range of cultural celebrations across the borough"
 - "Continue to make culture in Southwark accessible and work with cultural organisations in the borough to offer opportunities to Southwark residents"
 - b. page 9, 'Climate Emergency' **add** additional bullet from the original Council promise made in 2018:
 - "Support the creation of community led sustainable energy projects on estates to help residents reduce their energy bills"
 - c. page 10 'Tackling health inequalities' **add** additional bullet points from the original Council promise made in 2018:
 - "Set up an innovation fund for projects that tackle sexually transmitted infections"
 - "Double the proportion of journeys in Southwark done by bike"
 - d. page 11 'Homes for all' **delete** first bullet point paragraph and **replace** with original Council promise made in 2018:
 - "Build at least 1,000 more council homes and secure 1,000 new homes at London Living Rent by 2022"

- e. page 11 'Homes for all' **add** additional bullet from the original Council promise made in 2018:
- "If estates need to be redeveloped, increase the number of council homes and build to the highest standards"
- f. page 12 'A great start in life' **add** additional bullet points from the original Council promise made in 2018:
- "Drive up standards so that every school exceeds London averages at every stage"
 - "Help parents spread the costs of childcare over a longer period by setting up an affordable loan scheme"
 - "Ensure that every primary child gets a free visit to the theatre every year"