

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: January 30 2008	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motions	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Legal and Democratic Services	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10, 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 3.10 (6) & (7) (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 LEWIS ROBINSON (seconded by Councillor Caroline Pidgeon)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(4), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Public Transport in Dulwich

1. Council assembly notes the continuing poor public transport links in the south of the borough. In particular:
 - i) The reduction in the frequency of the No.3 bus service which provides the only partial link from the Kingswood Estate to vital local services in Dulwich.
 - ii) The introduction of “bendy buses” on the No. 12 route have created traffic safety problems on Barry Road.
 - iii) The completely unsatisfactory No.12 route terminus at the junction of Friern Road/Lane, widely opposed by local residents when the service could be run onto Forest Hill.
 - iv) Transport for London’s (TfL) lack of progress in extending the No.42 route from Red Post Hill to Dog Kennel Hill Sainsburys via Dulwich Hospital.
2. Council assembly believes many of these routes provide a vital lifeline for local residents who have no other way of accessing local services. Transport for London (TfL) has achieved little to improve public transport services in Dulwich. Bus service frequencies have been reduced, and the introduction of “bendy buses” on the No.12 route, as on other routes have created more problems than they solved. The experience of local residents is that TfL are at best uninterested in their views.
3. Council assembly requests the executive to:
 - i) Raise the concerns regarding the No.12 in the forthcoming review of this route and lobby for consideration of a route extension.
 - ii) To lobby TfL for progress on the No.42 route extension.
 - iii) To lobby TfL to review transport links to the Kingswood Estate and how they could be improved.
 - iv) To write to candidates seeking election to the Greater London Assembly to ascertain what their stance is on public transport issues raised in the motion.

Comments of the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

1. Transport for London does consult the borough formally on changes to timetables and services as well as inviting comments at any time from elected members, residents and service users, however the optimum time to make representations is as bus contracts come up for review. Service 12 is being reviewed at present and a response was made that included the issues raised in this motion as well as taking the opportunity to raise concern over the delay in rerouting the 42.

2. Representatives of Transport for London and bus operators do attend the Transport Consultative Forum and have responded to issues such as these through that forum. Officers will arrange for the local transport for London service change advocate to attend a future Dulwich community council meeting so that ward members and residents can raise their concerns directly with him.

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

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES (seconded by Councillor Peter John)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(4), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Decent Homes Standard

1. Council notes the requirement of local authorities to improve their housing stock up to a 'decent level' and notes the guidance provided by the Department for Communities & Local Government as to what constitutes 'Decent Homes'.
2. Council notes previous commitments and announcements by the administration that no wholesale or partial stock transfer will be required to finance the Decent Homes standard in Southwark.
3. Council notes recent press reports speculating on the 'gap' in funding to secure Decent Homes, as well as continued uncertainty as to whether Southwark will meet the standard by the previously agreed deadline.
4. Council notes that no authoritative figure is available to quantify the gap in finance, but that various sums include £50 million, over £100 million and even £300 million over the next few years.
5. Council believes that bringing Southwark's housing stock up to a decent standard is essential so as to ensure council tenants and leaseholders enjoy housing of a high quality.
6. Council further believes that the Decent Homes standard is an important requirement and that residents cannot be left to live in homes which are not of a sufficient quality or offer decency.
7. Council assembly resolves to request the executive to establish a cross-party working group of councillors, tenant and leaseholder representatives and others to examine options for Decent Homes.
8. Council assembly further resolves to request the executive to set clear terms of reference for the working group which will assist the development of policies and approaches which will secure decency for Southwark's tenants and leaseholders as quickly as possible.

Comments of the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

To follow.

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

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES (seconded by Councillor Michelle Holford)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(4), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Local Government Grant Settlement & Social Care Services

1. Council assembly notes that the three year grant settlement for local government announced on December 6 amounts to a real-terms cut of 0.5% and 0.7% in the second and third years – an average real terms decrease of 0.3% per year in contrast to the government's assertion of an average 1% increase per year over the period;
2. Council assembly further notes that London Councils has described the settlement as 'devastating' and has said that councils in London will be the 'hardest hit';
3. Council assembly notes that Southwark was rated 3 out of 4 by the independent Audit Commission for 'use of resources' and has managed to secure significant efficiency savings across service areas;
4. Council assembly notes that the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) has awarded Southwark Council the highest rating of 'excellent' for adult social care services, something achieved by only 12% of councils in the country;
5. Council assembly notes that Southwark is one of only 8 boroughs in London – together with Islington, City of London, Westminster, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, Richmond and Sutton – which still provides social care to those with "moderate" needs; and that by the end of the financial year it is predicted that nearly three-quarters of local authorities in England and Wales will only be able to provide care for those people whose needs are considered to be substantial or critical.
6. Council assembly notes the increasing costs of supporting people with learning, physical disabilities and mental health problems. These increases reflect both increasing numbers of people supported and the complexity. The number of people with learning disabilities receiving services has increased from 652 in 2004/05 to over 800 in 2006/07- with a consequent increase in the pooled budget from £24m to £28.5m;
7. Council assembly believes that these increased costs have not been recognised by the government settlement and that as a result of the poor grant received by Southwark, the future provision of social care services at a moderate level is at grave risk;
8. Council assembly believes that the government's decision to force a significant real terms funding cut on Southwark Council will have a serious impact on the ability of the council to meet the needs of some of its most vulnerable residents;
9. Council assembly therefore supports the efforts of the executive members for health and social care and resources to secure a fairer settlement for Southwark;

10. Council assembly calls upon the leader of the council and the executive member for health and adult care to seek a meeting with health ministers to discuss the impact of the current settlement on the provision of social care services and to continue to lobby the government for a fairer funding settlement for Southwark.

Comments of the Strategic Director of Health & Community Services and Finance Director

To follow.

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

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW PAKES (seconded by Councillor Veronica Ward)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(4), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Climate Change

1. Council assembly notes the autumn residents survey conducted by councillors and volunteers from South Camberwell into residents' understanding of their role in tackling climate change.
2. Council assembly notes the four main reasons given by residents who took the survey for not doing as much personally about tackling climate change as they would like to as being:
 - i) that there is not enough information about how to save energy and access alternative technologies;
 - ii) that residents lack time to do all they could;
 - iii) that residents often lack the money to innovate in their own homes e.g. put in insulation;
 - iv) that residents live in old houses which they believe are difficult and expensive to modify or are tenants who depend on the council or other landlords to make any modifications.
3. Council assembly notes the final report of the Local Government Association's Climate Change Commission and the unique position that local authorities are in to take on this huge challenge and encourage residents to take action.
4. Council assembly believes that financial "pressures cannot be an alibi for inaction".
5. Council assembly therefore calls on the executive to adopt the 'easy wins' set out in the report and to develop them beyond Southwark's existing initiatives:
 - The promotion of existing grants and energy efficient schemes;
 - Promotion of a local energy advice service;

- The establishment of a dedicated budget for council building energy management;
 - A focus on planning policy which promotes renewable energy;
 - Setting clear energy efficiency/carbon-based standards for procurement of own equipment, services and buildings.
6. The executive should report back to council on their progress on securing these 'easy wins' in not more than six months time with proposals for how to move forward to taking the 'big strides' highlighted in the report.

Comments of the Strategic Director of Environment and Housing

To follow.

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

5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL (seconded by Councillor David Hubber)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(4), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Visible Policing to Tackle Crime

1. Council assembly believes that one of the primary roles of the police is to provide a visible and reassuring presence to the communities in Southwark in their task of tackling crime and anti-social behaviour;
2. Council assembly also believes that this reassurance to the public of their safety is achieved not just by high visibility policing on the streets but by the range of services that the police provide from well-known and strategically placed police stations;
3. Council assembly notes that at present, Southwark's 890 police officers, 156 police staff and 100 PCSOs are located in facilities in a number of key locations across the borough in Camberwell, East Dulwich, Peckham, Southwark, Walworth, Rotherhithe;
4. Council assembly calls upon the executive member to continue his efforts to campaign for 1,000 police officers dedicated to serving Southwark;
5. Council assembly further notes that in November, the Metropolitan Police Authority published its asset management plan for Southwark, which sets out the authority's proposals for changes to the Southwark police estate to provide buildings and facilities which meet the needs of the police;
6. Council assembly notes that the asset plan envisages "...a review of the future of East Dulwich New, Camberwell and Rotherhithe police stations with the re-provision of all the facilities currently housed there in more specialised and more appropriate facilities...";
7. Council assembly notes with dismay that with only a matter of weeks to go before the end of the consultation period on the March 6 2008 nothing has been done by the Metropolitan Police Authority and the Mayor of London to

explain their asset management plan to the public, and how it will affect the future of police stations and other buildings and bases in Southwark;

8. Council assembly believes that the borough's police stations play a vital role in high-visibility policing and that the stations in East Dulwich, Camberwell and Rotherhithe are central to tackling crime in their respective areas;
9. Council assembly reaffirms its commitment to modernisation of the police estate but believes that no police station in Southwark should be closed until a full and open consultation has taken place about the asset management plan, and whether there is not a better plan to spend less money in the long run by a process of modernisation of existing premises;
10. Council assembly believes that the re-provision of existing services must mean more than the creation of safer neighbourhood team bases which will not provide the level of public access currently available at the stations in East Dulwich, Camberwell and Rotherhithe;
11. Council assembly further believes that existing parts of the police estate should be maintained for use by the local community, and not be sold off to private developers;
12. Council assembly calls upon the executive member for community safety to work with Southwark Police to explore ways of making all of Southwark's police stations more viable by co-locating council-run services such as the community wardens schemes, enforcement officers, crime prevention teams and other services;
13. Council assembly calls upon the executive member for community safety to write to the Metropolitan Police Authority and the Borough Commander to express the need for a full and proper consultation on the future of Southwark's police estate and to seek the reopening of the Tower Bridge police station.

Comments of the Strategic Director of Environment and Housing

To follow.

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

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager
Report Author	Everton Roberts, Constitutional Team
Version	Final
Dated	January 18 2008