

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: April 8 2009	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 2.9, 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 the responsibility of 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) and (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 PAUL NOBLET (seconded by Councillor Caroline Pidgeon)

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

Cross River Tram

1. Council notes the continuing cross-party support in Southwark for the cross river tram and reiterates its disappointment that the Mayor of London is unable to support the project on the basis that there is insufficient capital funding to bring the project to completion.
2. Council believes that the tram would increase access to employment for people from some of London's most deprived areas, support the regeneration of Elephant and Castle, Aylesbury and Peckham and provide construction jobs, while providing a clean, green transport solution for one of the few areas in central London without a tube line.
3. Council further notes the chancellor's announcement in his 2008 pre-budget report of £20bn in fiscal stimulus to be brought forward before April 2010.
4. Council notes that the leader of the council wrote to transport minister Lord Adonis, seeking funding for the cross river tram from this fiscal stimulus and that the response indicated that funding would not be available.
5. Council therefore calls on the executive to write to the chancellor asking him to review this decision and make provision for the funding of the tram as part of the fiscal stimulus package.

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

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH (seconded by Councillor Peter John)

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

Youth Provision

1. Council assembly notes that in the Liberal Democrats' 2006 election manifesto the party pledged to carry out a full audit of youth facilities in the borough. However, to date they have not fulfilled that commitment.
2. Council assembly notes that in last year's joint area review the council's youth services were given only an 'adequate' or two star rating.
3. Council assembly notes that in the 2008 residents' survey, youth facilities were the services that residents thought were most important and also the services that they were most dissatisfied with. It notes that the same was true in the 2006 residents survey and that despite massive government grants for children and young people, residents' satisfaction with youth facilities has barely improved.
4. Council assembly notes that the budget for youth services was cut by over £300,000 in the executive's 2009-10 budget.
5. Council assembly notes that Southwark has the highest levels of teenage conceptions in the country and one of the highest levels of obesity rates amongst young people in the country.

6. Council assembly notes that Southwark's levels of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) were the third highest in London in 2007, the most recent year for which statistics are available.
7. Council assembly notes the children's services and education scrutiny sub-committee's youth provision review, which was discussed by the executive in December last year. It notes that the promise to report back to the scrutiny sub-committee on the report within two months has not been kept and further notes that there has been no indication from the executive that it will adopt any of the report's recommendations.
8. Council assembly notes that the youth service is currently being restructured, but it does not believe that the executive has sufficiently demonstrated how this restructure is going to lead to improvements in provision with fewer resources.
9. Council assembly does not believe that this executive currently takes youth provision seriously enough and calls on the Executive to make youth provision a top priority, in line with the opinion of Southwark residents.
10. Council assembly calls on the executive to use scrutiny's youth provision review as the starting point for a new overarching strategy to plan how youth provision in Southwark is going to dramatically improve in the coming years. It calls on the executive to fully involve local young people in the composition of this strategy and members from across the party spectrum.

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 James Barber)

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

Bus Route 42

1. Council assembly believes that the extension of the route of the 42 bus from North Dulwich to Sainsbury's via East Dulwich Grove to Sainsbury's on Dog Kennel Hill would benefit Village, East Dulwich and South Camberwell wards.
2. Council assembly welcomes the planning consent obtained by Sainsbury's to accommodate the turn-round on their premises.
3. Council assembly regrets the previous delays by Transport for London(TfL), and welcomes a recent undertaking to review the business case.
4. Council assembly notes the widespread support for the extension evidenced by the responses to the recent Village ward councillors' questionnaire and the interest shown by "Southwark News".
5. Council assembly therefore requests the executive to ensure that the council as a whole promotes the extension with vigour.

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

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JENNY JONES (seconded by Councillor Richard Thomas)

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

A Borough-wide Food Strategy

1. That council assembly:
 - a) Notes the vitality, vibrancy and diversity of Southwark's food industries and cultures.
 - b) Notes that the production, processing and manufacturing, transport, storage and distribution, sale, purchasing, preparation, consumption and disposal of food within and beyond Southwark has significant implications for health, environmental, economic, social/cultural and security issues across the borough.
2. That this council therefore invites the executive to undertake the development of a borough wide food strategy with a view to:
 - a) improving the health and reduce the health inequalities of people living and working in Southwark;
 - b) reducing poverty and deprivation;
 - c) reducing the negative environmental impacts of Southwark's food system;
 - d) supporting a vibrant food economy;
 - e) celebrating and promoting Southwark's food culture;
 - f) enhancing Southwark's food security;
 - g) Encouraging health eating in schools.
3. This council assembly asks the executive to report back to council assembly within 6 months on progress in developing the strategy.

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

5. 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.

Council Housing for Southwark

1. Council welcomes the announcement by the Prime Minister in a speech in January 2009 that: "...if local authorities can convince us that they can deliver quickly and cost effectively more of the housing that Britain needs, and if local authorities can build social housing in sustainable communities that meets the aspirations of the British people for the 21st century, then we will be prepared to give you our full backing and put aside any of the barriers that stand in the way of this happening."
2. Council believes that Southwark is a local authority which has proven its ability to build sustainable communities and to deliver quickly and cost effectively and notes that there are three barriers to the council building new council homes:
 - a) the fact that the council is unable to access grant from the homes and communities agency (HCA) to support the cost of building new homes;
 - b) the high interest rate applying when the council borrows money under current prudential borrowing rules, which set the effective interest rate at an average of historic rates, rather than the current public works loan board (PWLb) rate; and
 - c) uncertainty over the future of housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy during the joint CLG/Treasury review, which has not yet issued any proposals.

3. Council notes with concern that despite past commitments and promises from senior Labour politicians, including the current Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, about the 'fourth option' and council home building, these three barriers have remained in place
4. Council therefore calls on the government to use the next budget to make provision for Southwark and other councils to access grant from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and to amend borrowing rules to take account of current low interest rates, thereby allowing us to build new council homes.
5. Council calls on the executive to write to the Prime Minister with immediate effect seeking a clear and unequivocal guarantee that his January announcement will be followed by genuine action, rather than repeating the empty promises of the past, which have left so many across the country trapped on housing waiting lists.

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

6. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE (seconded by Councillor Richard Livingstone)

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

Surrey Canal Road Station

1. Council assembly welcomes the joint funding of £60 million from the Department for Transport and £15 million from Transport for London (TfL) to complete Phase 2 of the East London Line Extension (ELLX).
2. Council assembly notes that funding for a new station at Surrey Canal Road, just over the border in Lewisham, has not yet been secured as part of the scheme. It notes the considerable local demand in South Bermondsey and North Peckham for a new station there and the strong regeneration case for the station.
3. Council assembly calls upon the leaders of all the political groups to write jointly to the Mayor of London and the Transport Secretary urging them to fund this vital piece of public transport infrastructure as part of the planned Phase 2 works. It calls on the executive to work with the Mayor of Lewisham to effectively lobby for the new station.
4. Council assembly calls upon the leader of the council to also support Lambeth Council in any bid made for a Brixton ELLX stop, for a better linked inner south London.

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

7. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY (seconded by Councillor Chris Page)

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

Local Income Tax Proposals

1. Council assembly notes that Liberal Democrat proposals for a local income tax would cost a couple living in a Band D Southwark home on median incomes for Southwark residents £1,475.86 more every year than council tax.
2. Council assembly believes that Southwark residents would find such an increased burden difficult to bear.

3. Council assembly therefore calls on the executive to commit to lobbying against the implementation of such a local income tax.

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

8. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD (seconded by Councillor Susan Elan Jones)

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

Fuel Poverty Bill

1. That this Council notes that 418 MPs supported the Warm Homes Act during its passage through Parliament.
2. Council further notes that a recent High Court judgment ruled that the targets in the Warm Homes Act 2000 were not targets but merely “aspirations”.
3. Council believes that urgent action is needed to help the 4 million people living in fuel poverty in the UK.
4. Council therefore supports David Heath MP’s Fuel Poverty Bill (introduced into Parliament with cross-party support on January 21 2009) which seeks to reinstate the statutory duty to end fuel poverty and focuses on increasing the energy efficiency of the housing stock of the fuel poor. It also requires energy suppliers to provide social tariffs to vulnerable customers in the short-term.
5. Council therefore resolves to call on the executive to write to Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Ed Miliband and climate change minister, Joan Ruddock urging them to support the Fuel Poverty Bill and call on the executive to write to local MPs urging them to pledge to support the bill, if it has not fallen at the second reading, or work for the inclusion of its proposals in future government policy.

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 Team Manager
Report Author	Sean Usher, Constitutional Officer
Version	Final Version
Dated	March 27 2009