

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: June 27 2007	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 (5) & (6) (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 JAMES GURLING (seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(3), council assembly shall consider this motion.

The Government's Planning White Paper

Council assembly notes:

1. The recent publication of the government's white paper on planning.
2. The proposals to change the existing planning rules regarding large-scale planning applications and the scrapping of the "needs test" when determining large supermarket applications.
3. That government spin has claimed that the white paper will ease the burden on small scale home improvements but that independent experts have suggested that most home improvements will still require planning permission.

Council assembly believes that planning matters should continue to be decided by the democratically elected local councillors working in co-operation with local residents.

Council assembly calls upon the executive to formulate a detailed response to the government's white paper on planning urging them to retain local democratic control over the planning system.

Comments of the Strategic Director (Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)

To follow

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

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN (seconded by Councillor Barrie Hargrove)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(3), council assembly shall consider this motion.

The Freedom Pass

Council assembly notes:

1. The London Councils' statement complaining that 'any increase in the cost of the pass impacts on London's council tax payers' and focusing on the fact that London free travel scheme is different to the rest of the country, and calls for national government to be the ultimate arbiter of London's Freedom Pass;
2. That London Councils has sponsored parliamentary amendments calling for the abolition of the Mayor of London's reserve fund which guarantees the Freedom Pass.

3. The Transport and Environment Committee of London Councils received a briefing 'Concessionary fares – update on 2007/08 negotiations and introduction of national off peak bus concession from 2008'.
4. The Freedom Pass provides for free travel for overs 60s on the tube, DLR, bus, and tram after 9.00am Monday to Friday, weekends and Bank Holidays and for the disabled at any time. The amount Southwark contributes towards the scheme reflects the number of Freedom Pass holders resident in the borough.
5. Under existing arrangements, if London Councils fails to reach agreement with Transport for London (TfL) by the end of the calendar year then the cost is determined by TfL under the reserve fund, effectively ensuring that the concession cannot be watered down or under-funded.

Council assembly believes that London Councils should be criticised for calling on the government to abolish the reserve scheme that allows the Mayor to guarantee the concession if there is no funding agreement.

Council assembly disagrees with other criticisms including those by Councillor Phil Taylor, an Ealing Councillor and blogger, who recently argued that the Freedom Pass should be "re-targeted" away from most pensioners to the "very old".

Council assembly believes the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone is correct to say:

"The attack on the Freedom Pass by the body that is supposed to protect it shows that there is now a real attack on this concession. London Councils says it wants to keep the Freedom Pass but all its activity is aimed at undermining it. The Freedom Pass is one of the most popular policies ever introduced on London's transport system, but there is now a clear and sustained attack on the Freedom Pass, this time over its funding scheme. Older Londoners and disabled Londoners should be under no illusion - the basis of the Freedom pass is now under repeated attack."

Council assembly believes that free travel on public transport means many older residents are better able to get to the shops or visit family and friends. The scheme cuts the cost of travel for the elderly by hundreds of pounds a year

Council assembly resolves to:

1. Calls upon the executive ensure that their representatives at London Councils will support the Freedom Pass, and the Mayor's ability to guarantee it will not be watered down.
2. Calls upon the Executive to write to London Councils to disagree with recent criticisms of the Freedom Pass, and to Southwark's MPs asking them to oppose any attempts to remove these powers from the Mayor.

Comments of the Strategic Director (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 BARRIE HARGROVE** (seconded by Councillor Fiona Colley)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(3), council assembly shall consider this motion.

East London Line Extension

Council assembly notes the plans for Phase 2 extension of the East London Line Tube which would connect Surrey Quays to Clapham Junction with a new station at Surrey Canal Road, Peckham Rye, Queens Road Peckham and Denmark Hill.

Council notes that this is currently unfunded.

Council welcomes Phase 1 of the East London Line extension.

Council believes that this infrastructure project could make an important contribution to encouraging sustainable modes of transport, regenerating our communities and underpinning the economic health of the capital.

Council assembly calls upon the executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport urging the government to make funding available for this vital piece of transport infrastructure.

Comments of the Strategic Director (Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)

To follow

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

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER (seconded by Councillor Gordon Nardell)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(3), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Peckham Rye Station

Council assembly notes the strong support of the local community, the London Assembly Member for Lambeth & Southwark and the Nunhead & Peckham Rye Community Council for the regeneration of Peckham Rye Station and surroundings.

Council assembly calls on the executive to commit itself in principle to the refurbishment of the station buildings and reclamation of the former station approach as high quality public realm, fitting the current and future role of the station as a gateway to the area and with the arrival of the London Over-ground and Cross River Tram, as a major public transport hub.

Council assembly calls on the executive to:

1. Undertake an early feasibility study;
2. Work with the London Assembly Member for Lambeth & Southwark to progress negotiations with key partners including Cross River Partnership, Design for London, Transport for London (TfL), the London Development Agency (LDA), and Network Rail on future options for the site;

3. Ensure that the council's own planning and transport policies (including the Peckham Area Action Plan and the council's response to the Cross River Tram route consultation) promote and safeguard the regeneration of the site.

Comments of the Strategic Director (Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)

To follow

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

5. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY** (seconded by Councillor Kirsty McNeill)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(3), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Four Squares Dispersal Zone

Council assembly notes that the Four Squares and Kirby estates are suffering from widespread and persistent anti-social behaviour. In response to a recent survey conducted by Valerie Shawcross AM, the London Assembly Member for Lambeth & Southwark, 82% of respondents said they had seen or experienced anti-social behaviour and 93% said they would support a dispersal zone. 73% said the estates need more activities for young people.

Council assembly notes that the local police support the call for a dispersal zone for the Four Squares and Kirby estates, a measure which gives the police additional powers to disperse groups acting in an anti-social manner and which was successfully used in the Albion Street area.

Council assembly calls on the executive to support residents and the police by taking the appropriate legal steps to install urgently a dispersal zone on the Four Squares and Kirby estates.

Council assembly also calls on the executive to bring forward plans to provide more activities for young people on these estates.

Comments of the Strategic Director (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	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager
Version	Final
Dated	June 15 2007