

<b>Item No.</b> 9A.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> June 27 2007	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Motions report with officer comments	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Legal and Democratic Services	

**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)**

The planning white paper – Planning for a Sustainable Future – was published on May 21. The government describes it as an ambitious programme of proposed reforms to the planning system to be taken forward in the next three years. Some of the proposed reforms are fully explained. Others are set out as general intentions to be followed up with more detailed consultation at a later date. For example, the changes to planning for major retail development will be made through a review of planning policy statement 6 later in the summer.

A large part of the white paper is concerned with streamlining the process for major infrastructure planning (major airport and port projects, improvements to the strategic road network etc.). This is intended to provide more effective engagement with key parties such as local authorities, statutory bodies, and relevant highway authorities as well as improving public participation. It proposes an independent commission to take the decisions on nationally significant infrastructure cases within the framework of national policy statements.

Officers are likely to recommend supporting some of the positive proposals in the white paper including, for example, its support for planning as a way of achieving sustainable development and tackling climate change.

However as noted in the motion, other proposals – for example, on major infrastructure projects – appear to reduce the role of local authorities. Considerable further work will be needed on the proposals for householder applications to establish how they will work and what benefits there would be for local people.

Officers will advise the executive member for regeneration on the preparation of a detailed response to the white paper. A report will be prepared for the planning committee to consider the response which could then be cleared formally either through an individual decision maker (IDM) or through the executive.

**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 over 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)**

The Freedom Pass gives a million older and disabled Londoners free travel on buses, tubes and trains. The scheme is funded by the 32 London boroughs and the City of London. The scheme, which currently costs £226 million a year, is run on behalf of London boroughs by London Councils. The cost to Southwark Council in 2007/08 is £6,389,000, which is an increase on last year of 6.12%.

The council is committed to ensuring that older and disabled Londoners continue to enjoy the benefits of free travel and will work with London Councils to ensure that the scheme is run efficiently and offers value for money.

London Councils, of which Southwark Council is a member, has stated that it is not seeking to change the travel concessions that are available to older and disabled Londoners, which are largely determined by the Greater London Authority Act 1999. Its concern is with the method of negotiating the cost of the Freedom Pass travel concessions.

London Councils view is that the current position which enables Transport for London (TfL) to set the cost of a reserve free travel scheme unilaterally and without recourse by London boroughs to an appeals process, has a negative impact on its ability to negotiate the cost of the Freedom Pass.

TfL is the only transport authority that can set the cost of a concessionary travel scheme without there being recourse to an appeals process.

To date it has not been necessary to establish a reserve free travel scheme as TfL and London Councils have been able to negotiate the cost of the Freedom Pass. However, London Councils, concerned at the increasing cost of the scheme, is arguing that the secretary of state should act as an arbiter in the event that there is a failure to negotiate the cost of the Freedom Pass.

Amendments to the Concessionary Bus Travel Bill, which is in committee stage, would give authorities the right to apply to the secretary of state to review charges made in respect of the reserve free travel scheme. The relevant amendments were debated in Public Bills Committee on June 5 2007, but were either withdrawn or fell.

Within London Councils, responsibility for concessionary fares policy is devolved to the Transport and Environment Committee (TEC). This committee is made up of representatives from all 32 London Boroughs, including Southwark and the City of London. The policy on the Freedom Pass is the established policy of TEC.

**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)**

The council is committed to continuing to advocate for the extension of the East London line (ELL) phase 2. The leader of the council wrote in July 2006 to Peter Hendy of Transport for London asking for the ELL phase 2 to be included in its submission to the Department for Transport (DfT) for the 2007 spending review. The announcement on spending is expected to be made later this year. If funding is not allocated in this round then the council will continue to lobby future spending reviews for funding the ELL phase 2.

In addition, the council has taken the lead in preparing a brochure for the forthcoming promotional event to be held by the East London Line Group on July 2 at the Battersea Arts Centre. This event will bring together key decision makers and media, raising awareness of the need for the extension and highlighting the benefits the extension will bring to London.

As set out in the response to motion 11 at council assembly in January 2006, the council's local implementation plan notes the relatively poor public transport opportunities within southeast London and particularly highlights Peckham and Camberwell. In recognition of this the plan advocates early introduction of both the ELL and Cross River Tram. The council maintains a strong commitment to the early implementation of both of these projects and takes every opportunity to raise this with both the Mayor of London and secretary of state.

**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 Overground 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)**

Peckham Rye Station and the approach are both owned by Network Rail and managed by Spacia (the property arm of Network Rail). Thus Southwark Council's remit is currently somewhat limited to playing the role of community champion, as was highlighted in a response to council questions in January, when the council took the lead on the station cleaning issue and in relation to decision making or enforcement as the planning authority.

There has been considerable effort by the council over several years to secure highly desired improvements at the station. This has included support over a number of years for studies and approaches to Network Rail and its predecessors to secure agreement to and funding for improvements in line with their statutory duties and responsibilities. Officer contacts currently exist with all agencies referred to in section 2 of the motion and good working relationships are in place with local community organisations aimed at bringing about fundamental changes to the station and its surrounding public realm.

The importance of the area is well recognised in the Peckham Area Action Plan and in council discussions with Transport for London on the Cross River Tram. Officers are clear of the importance of considering all options open to the council to deal with the issue.

**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)**

The council has taken a tough stance to ensure the communities around Four Squares and the Kirby estates are fully supported in addressing the issue of anti-social behaviour in the area.

Following community consultation, a multi-agency meeting held on Tuesday June 12 2007 agreed that a dispersal zone order will come into effect on Monday July 16 2007 and will have a six-month duration.

The areas included in the zone will be Four Squares Estate, Slippers Place Estate, Kirby Estate, Millpond Estate and Pynfolds Estate.

Signage, newspaper publicity, letters to residents and leaflets to young people will be issued the week before beginning Monday July 9 2007.

Over the past two years the council has worked in the Four Squares area with the tenants and residents associations, in partnership with the police safer neighbourhood teams, fire service and other agencies to address the nuisance behaviour, collect evidence and progress on a wide range of issues concerning residents. This has resulted in a 50% reduction in arson in 2006/07 compared with the previous 12 months. Twenty acceptable behaviour contracts were issued against perpetrators of anti-social behaviour. These are currently being reviewed and extensions will be issued if anti-social behaviour re-occurs. In the majority of cases there has been a substantial improvement in the behaviour of these individuals.

So far insufficient evidence has been collected to take forward anti-social behaviour orders however this remains an option for the future.

At the beginning of this year the lighting was upgraded across the whole estate. In the central courtyards additional new lighting was installed. On New Place Square, contractors are currently installing a new door entry system, CCTV and additional security to the garages. These new measures

will be installed across the whole estate by the end of 2008. Consultation has already begun on all the other three squares for similar upgrading. The council will be upgrading the estate to the decent homes standard and the initial surveys have recently been completed. The council will shortly be inviting tenders for this refurbishment work to tenants properties and the building fabric.

In relation to youth activities, a number of youth events are already taking place in and around the Four Squares and Kirby estates. Community games are providing two sessions of organised football per week. A Youth Inclusion Programme is also operating in this area of the borough. In addition, regular youth activities take place at the Youth Centre in the Blue, BOSCO, Seven Islands Leisure Centre and the Salmon Youth Centre.

The Salmon Youth Centre project is developing a new community youth centre on Old Jamaica Road, within the Bermondsey Spa regeneration area. The project will provide an integrated youth sport, arts, enterprise and volunteer centre, replacing inadequate provision on the same site. It will comprise a four-court sports hall, professional-level music, performance and visual art studios, an enterprise and learning centre, youth, social club and group work spaces, and volunteer and staff offices. The council has contributed a total of £1.7 million to this project.

Cleaner, greener, safer funding has been awarded by Bermondsey community council to refurbish one of the football pitches on the Four Squares estate (near Marden and Layard) and the work will be done later this year. A section 106 agreement has been made in relation to a new block of flats on Drummond Road to fund work to the other pitch (near New Place Square and Lockwood Square).

A range of summer activities is planned for the locality including two-hour sports sessions on the Four Squares, every week in August, which usually attracts quite a lot of young people from the Kirby estate. Southwark Park will also host 'Mad about Mopeds' and Safer Cycling (cycling proficiency) tests. As part of these exciting activities young people will also have the opportunity to take part in Connexions, drugs education and healthy living workshops.

The strategic director (children's services) will present a report to the meeting of the executive on July 24 2007 on the Youth Offer. This will set out the youth facilities and services that young people in Southwark will be able to access; and agree the strategic priorities for the development of Southwark's youth services.

The council continues to look at the effectiveness of the range of measures in place and which will be put into place as part of the dispersal order to tackle anti-social behaviour and improve youth provision in the area. The council is committed to addressing anti-social behaviour on its estates and across the borough.

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



## BACKGROUND PAPERS

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Member Motions	Town Hall Peckham Road London SE5 8UB	Constitutional Team 020 7525 7228

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager
<b>Report Author</b>	Cameron MacLean, Constitutional Team Manager
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