

Item No. 86	Classification: Open	Date: 30 th April 2003	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motions Submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive (Borough Solicitor & Secretary)	

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9: PROCEDURAL ADVICE ON MEMBERS MOTIONS

A Member may not move more than one Motion. All Motions must be signed and seconded and delivered to the Borough Solicitor & Secretary not later than fifteen clear days before the meeting.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9 the Member moving the Motion will be asked by the Mayor to move the motion. The Mover may then 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 NEW CONSTITUTION

The new constitution allocates particular responsibility for functions to Council Assembly, for approving the budget and policy framework, and to the Executive, 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 reserved to Executive (i.e. housing, social services, regeneration, environment, education etc) can not 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

1. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD** (seconded by Councillor John Friary)

Please note that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9 (3), this motion shall be considered by Council Assembly.

'Council notes the negative approach taken by the Liberal Democrat administration to the voluntary sector in Southwark demonstrated by:

- Cutting funding CAB, which had followed good practice by prudently maintaining sufficient reserves to ensure long-term survival.
- Putting some organizations with Service Level Agreements on three month rolling funding making it impossible to plan or secure services for staff in the future.
- Failing to recognize that while funding of the voluntary sector may often not meet a statutory requirement, it is not an 'optional extra' and plays a key role in delivering the priorities and vision as set out by this Council. In particular the voluntary sector has an important role in the reduction of poverty and the involvement of the community in meeting priorities – for example in reducing crime and improving the community in Community Councils. The voluntary sector supports many of the most vulnerable in our community and attracts alternative funding to meet Council priorities.

The Executive is therefore urged to revisit the compact with the Voluntary sector discussed at the Executive on 22nd October 2002 and to give higher priority to recognition of the sector in improving the lives of the people in Southwark.'

COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The recommendations for funding for Advice & Legal Services grant-aided groups were based on a formula approach introduced following a Best Value review and over a period of months of extensive consultation and negotiation with the sector. The proposal to reduce the cushioning to the CAB was based therefore on the introduction of this formula as well as the level of reserves and the ability of the organisation to sustain a partial reduction.

The CAB holds a substantial level of reserves equivalent to in excess of 3 months salaries and running costs. The organisation contests that this level is held due to the fact that late payments from funders can lead to serious cashflow problems.

The issue of some organisations being put onto 3 month rolling funding relates to a number of Social Services groups. At the present time a review of day care services is underway and until such time as this review is complete and the potential impact on day care providers is known, the Executive was not asked to take any decisions in relation to levels of funding to these groups. It was proposed that funding for organisations providing day care be extended quarterly until such time as the review is completed.

The Council recognises and values the contribution of the voluntary & community sectors to community involvement and social cohesion. This is demonstrated by the investment of £7.7 million to over 200 groups throughout the borough. The Council is also a key party in taking forward a local Compact, the overall objective of which is to develop understanding and consensus around the contribution of all relevant stakeholders.

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BRADBURY (seconded by Councillor Toby Eckersley)

Please note that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9 (3), this motion shall be considered by Council Assembly

‘This Council calls for a report from the Director of Environment and Leisure on the Council’s current performance dealing with abandoned vehicles and what steps are planned to improve it.’

COMMENTS FROM THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

The Director of Environment and Leisure submitted a report on the current performance of the Abandoned Vehicles service, and the plans to improve it to the Council Executive on 11th March. This showed a continuous improvement in performance from an average of 18 days 2000/01 to 16 days in 2001/02, 10 days in 2002/03 and a target performance level of an average of 6 days for 2003/04.

Essentially the report set out that this will be achieved by:

- Utilising the Environment Call Centre as the primary contact point for all reports with full integration to the back office using Environment and Leisure’s new “Confirm” software.
- Council provision of the inspection service jointly with housing, with increased staffing resources.
- Moving from re-active reporting to pro-active identification using all the front line inspection resources in Environment and Leisure and Housing.
- A new contract for the removal and disposal.

Also, we will engage in a high profile campaign of prosecuting offenders who dump vehicles.

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY (seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson)

Please note that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9 (3), this motion shall be considered by Council Assembly

‘This Council notes some expressions of interest from residents in the Dulwich Village area in the extension of the conservation area there, and calls for a report from the Director of Regeneration setting out the Council’s plans to review the Dulwich Village conservation area.’

COMMENTS FROM THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION

I can confirm that the Dulwich Village Conservation Area is currently under review and that in the preliminary opinion of the Conservation & Design team there is a strong case to extend the boundaries to include a number of surrounding streets. We plan to consult further with local residents through the new Community Council.

We are presently preparing a Conservation Area Appraisal for the existing Dulwich Village Conservation Area and plan to present a draft of this plus recommendations

for the possible extension of the area to Planning Committee in September or October.

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD PORTER (Seconded by Councillor Columba Blango)

Please note that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9 (3), this motion shall be considered by Council Assembly

‘Council welcomes the Home Office gun amnesty this month and wholeheartedly encourages Southwark residents who possess dangerous weapons to give them up.

Council regrets that new measures announced by the Government in January failed to tackle the problem of replica weapons – many of which can be easily converted into firearms.

Council welcomes, in particular, the efforts of Simon Hughes MP and Diane Abbott MP in lobbying the Home Office for urgent gun law reform.

Council acknowledges that the Council is limited in its power to stop the sale of replica weapons and that voluntary codes are more likely to succeed if there is cross-border co-operation amongst boroughs.

Council calls on the Government to further review gun laws as a matter of urgency and calls on officers to approach Lambeth and Lewisham with a view to developing a cross borough voluntary code.’

COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Council fully supports the gun amnesty. To date (11th April) 12 firearms and 67 rounds of ammunition have been handed in to police stations in Southwark.

The Council is already trying to establish a voluntary code for the sale of replica weapons and will seek to gain the active support of our neighbouring boroughs. Trading Standards are currently identifying local shops, which sell air guns, imitation guns, replica and de-commissioned guns. Evidence to date indicates that there are very few specialist gun shops, selling either real or replica guns, in Southwark. However, Trading Standards will be advising shops to bring them within a local code of conduct on sales. A similar scheme already exists in relation to a range of products such as knives and cigarettes. Trading Standards are already developing cross borough working and anticipate that eventually these types of voluntary codes will be London wide.

The main area of concern is the wide range of replica guns available, and the need for workable definitions which can lead to enforcement action by police and/or trading standards. The Council will continue to work with the police to develop detailed proposals which the Government can implement in legislation.

5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN (seconded by Councillor Richard Porter)

Please note that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9 (3), this motion shall be considered by Council Assembly

‘This Council notes:

Up to 10,000 mobile phones are stolen every month.

Mobile phones are involved in 28% of street robberies with under-18s being the most common victims.

The recent development of a national mobile database allowing handsets to be cancelled and barred across all networks.

This Council resolves:

To look at launching an education programme, possibly in conjunction with another agency, to inform mobile phone users - particularly the under-18s - of recent developments and of basic steps they can take to ensure mobile phone safety.

This Council calls on:

All Council members and officers to lead by example and register their mobile phones with the database as soon as possible.'

COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Council welcomes the new national database for mobile phones and fully supports any measures to reduce the number of mobile phone thefts and increase personal safety when using mobile phones.

The national database operates between network operators. When a stolen phone is reported to the network operator, they will now be able to cancel it like a stolen credit card. This applies to both pre-pay and contract phones. The Council will work to ensure that all Member and Officer mobile phones are registered and will advise staff to register personal phones.

The Council has in the past undertaken publicity campaigns promoting property marking for mobile phones and the police have property marked phones in schools. Currently advice on mobile phone use and de-activation of phones is promoted by the police as part of the Safer Streets work.

The Home Office will shortly be issuing educational material for use in schools and other settings on mobile phone safety. In Southwark co-ordinated use of this material can take place through the Agencies Supporting School Programme which provides co-ordinated support to secondary schools on PHSE, crime and citizenship elements of the curriculum.

6. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD (seconded by Councillor Norma Gibbes)

Please note that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9 (3), this motion shall be considered by Council Assembly

'This Council

(1) Notes the report of the April 2002 OFSTED inspection which stated that:

- "elected members provide sound leadership in education."
- "substantial progress" had been made by the LEA and its contractor

- there was “a widespread belief amongst headteachers, governors and others in the contractor's capacity to bring about improvement”.

(2) Notes, that since the OFSTED report,

- the severe disruption caused to schools provided with incorrect provisional budgets
- the letter of no confidence in WS Atkins sent from headteachers to the Leader and to the DfES in February 2003
- that two more primary schools have recently gone in to special measures

(3) Notes the concerns of headteachers, governors and Councillors about the quality of work being undertaken by the Schools Improvement division

(4) Asks the Chief Executive to urgently tackle the performance of the Schools Improvement division as a first step to restoring confidence in the LEA.'

COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A wide range of formal and informal interventions have already been made and will continue to be made in order to encourage W S Atkins to put in place improvements to their performance. W S Atkins have however now requested that their contract with the Council be terminated. If terms acceptable to the Council can be agreed, it is intended that the contract will terminate by 31st July. Both the Council and Department for Education & Skills (DfES) recognise that there is a capacity problem associated with the Atkins contract and DfES will be requiring the Council, under direction from the Secretary of State, to put in place a contract for strategic management arrangements to enhance capacity. It is intended that these new arrangements will deal with the staffing problems in the schools improvement division by improving the level of senior management resources.

School headteachers and governors are being kept informed of developments. A review of the main strategic options for delivering Local Education Authority services is planned over the coming months and it is intended that schools, headteachers and governors will be extensively involved and will have a real role in influencing the form and shape of education support services in the longer term.

7. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY (seconded by Councillor Charlie Smith)

Please note that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9 (3), this motion shall be considered by Council Assembly

'This Council Assembly agrees to change its representation to the Southwark Alliance from Councillors Stanton and Porter and the Chief Executive to Councillors Humphreys, Stanton and Wingfield with immediate effect.'

COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The membership of the Southwark Alliance is set down in the Standing Orders of the Alliance. In respect of the Council's membership, this states that the Council's membership is to comprise: Leader, Chief Executive and one other councillor.

Council Assembly should note that in respect of the Council, police, and the health sector, at least one Alliance place has been allocated for a person with governance

responsibilities, (Leader and one other councillor, Member of the Metropolitan Police Authority, and Chair of Primary Care Trust (PCT)), and one place has been allocated for the most senior paid official with strategic responsibility for service delivery (Chief Executive, Borough Commander, PCT Chief Executive/ Health Partnership Board).

Under the Alliance's Standing Orders, the Membership structure of the Alliance is fixed for two years, and will be reviewed at the Stakeholder Event in October 2003. The Standing Orders also state the total membership is 26 and that less than 50% of the membership should be from the Statutory sector.

8. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM (seconded by Councillor Mark Glover)

Please note that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9 (3), this motion shall be considered by Council Assembly

'Council notes that the fear of gun crime in Southwark is a major issue of concern for the local community, especially the involvement of young people in crime and the use of offensive weapons.

In the past four months community representatives have organised a street march and two public meetings where local people have demonstrated their solidarity in protesting together against the killings and the carrying of guns.

Council supports the courage of 'Mums Against Guns' and their refusal to let young deaths go unnoticed.

Therefore Council:

- Welcomes the one-month amnesty to allow people in possession of firearms to hand them in to the police;
- Welcomes the steps taken by the Government to place a five-year minimum sentence on anyone found in possession of a firearm following the end of the amnesty;
- Draws the attention of the Government to the alarming growth in the use of converted replica weapons in Southwark and calls upon the Government to ban the sale of replica guns;
- Calls upon the Executive to investigate and propose further initiatives to tackle gun and other forms of crime amongst young people in Southwark.'

COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Council fully supports the Home Office gun amnesty. To date (11th April) 12 firearms and 67 rounds of ammunition have been handed in to police stations in Southwark.

The Council takes the issues of guns and the impact on all members of the community extremely seriously. To this end the Council has already put in place a number of measures to inform young people about the dangers of gun use, the impact of a criminal record and tackle the imagery and glamorisation of guns.

Support to Schools

A new initiative "Mobilising Southwark Youth Against Gun Violence" was launched in January at a conference involving secondary schools, youth forums and pupil referral units. The police led the initial multi-agency event with support from the Youth

Offending Team and voluntary sector groups like Boyhood to Manhood. A working group has been set up to take the findings of the conference workshops further working with local youth service providers. In addition, Decima Francis and the Boyhood to Manhood foundation will be looking specifically at youth perceptions and views on gun violence, which will supplement the work being carried out by SREC - Community Engagement – Impact of Gun Violence in Southwark'. A further conference is planned for the end of May which will report on these findings.

The Agencies Supporting Schools Programme has already included work on guns in its citizenship curriculum support work in five secondary schools with presentations by CBM International "Don't Shoot". The programme provides support to secondary schools on the crime, drugs and citizenship elements of the curriculum by coordinating external support services providing a quality assurance framework and into schools to support curriculum led work on citizenship. Agencies Supporting Schools Programme have also commissioned the Big Fish Theatre Company to develop a new project for secondary schools on gun crime.

Youth Offending Team

The Youth Offending Team (YOT) has a range of projects in place with primary and secondary schools to divert young people away from crime. Two projects are particularly relevant. Firstly a new project targeted at serious violent crime (section 1 offences that is "any offence involving bodily injury to a person under 18 years"), it will take place with two secondary schools. This will compliment a second existing YOT early intervention project already taking place in schools to reduce young people's involvement in gangs.

The YOT also deliver an offensive weapon programme, which in the past has been focused on knives. They are planning with support by the police to refocus the programme to include firearms.

Police

A firearms strategy for Southwark Police is in development. The process of consultation has already started, with a multi-agency and community problem solving consultation meeting held at Southwark police station in January 2003.

Safer Southwark Partnership

The Partnership is able to access Home Office funds through the Communities Against Drugs programme (CAD) which aims to tackle availability of drugs and strengthen the local community response to drug use and its impacts.

A police drugs focus desk is funded through the CAD programme and there is currently a proposal to increase the capacity of the desk to increase its effectiveness in intelligence gathering around firearms.

There is currently also a proposal under the CAD programme to purchase police detection equipment which will determine whether or not an arrested person has handled either drugs or firearms. The new emphasis on tackling availability of drugs within the borough will incorporate gun related crime.

Strategic co-ordination of this wide ranging issue by partners is undertaken by Superintendent Ed Bateman, Chair of the Serious and Violent Crime Sub Group of the Safer Southwark Partnership.

9. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN (seconded by Councillor Veronica Ward)

Please note that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9 (3), this motion shall be considered by Council Assembly

‘Council Assembly calls on the Executive to receive an urgent and comprehensive report on the East Dulwich Estate to include:

(1) A description of the refurbishment needed to achieve the decent homes standard and other estate improvements requested by residents at their Planning for Real Day together with estimated costs of carrying out this work to the Estate and all existing blocks via capital and planned maintenance.

(2) A clear explanation of the financial strategy which the Council has adopted to date to fund refurbishment and regeneration on the Estate, including how this relates to the Southwark Estates Initiative (SEI) and the consequences and outcomes of decoupling works to the estate from the SEI programme and refurbishing all of the blocks without any demolition, (eg. time frame, extent of work which could be carried out, etc).

(3) A detailed explanation of how any demolition and rehousing would be carried out so that it conforms to the Council’s Decanting Policy, given the residents and tenants consistent opposition to such proposals.

(4) A full explanation of how residents have been consulted to date and how their choices have been explained to them.

Council Assembly also requests the Executive to consider how residents should be consulted on the implications of the financing choices above and urges that this consultation should take place with every tenant on the Estate, and any outcome truly reflect their individual views through a ballot.

Council Assembly further suggests that the content of the consultation document should be examined with the resident project team, officers and ward councillors prior to its circulation to ensure it is fair, neutral, comprehensive and in plain English.’

COMMENTS FROM THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

The detailed costed options for improving the East Dulwich Estate have been developed over the last couple of years in consultation with the East Dulwich Estate Project Team. The estimated cost of bringing the estate up to a decent homes standard based upon the 1998 Stock Condition Survey is 12 million.

At a meeting of the Leader, the Executive Member for Housing, South Camberwell Ward Members and representatives of the East Dulwich Estate Project Team in October 2002, it was agreed that Counsel’s opinion should be sought on the legal basis of funding the improvements to East Dulwich Estate. This advice was intended to explore whether the Project Team’s preferred option of no demolition and disposal could take place. The clear opinion received was that the only option for significant

investment under the current funding arrangements was for a level of disposal on the estate.

The new decanting policy agreed in December 2002 would apply to East Dulwich. Under this policy, the scheme itself needs to generate new or improved units to rehouse tenants into rather than decanting into existing Council stock or existing Registered Social Landlord nomination arrangements. The current proposals for the estate reflect this policy. Under these proposals, the intention is to rehouse all secure tenants affected by the demolition proposals locally.

Residents have been consulted over the last four years about proposals for the estate through exhibitions, planning for real events, meetings, newsletters, opinion surveys and questionnaires. The consultation process has been steered by the Project Team.

The Government has introduced a floor target under which all social housing needs to meet a defined decent home standard by 2010. On the basis of the 1998 Stock Condition Survey, East Dulwich Estate is 95% non-decent and it is estimated would require at least £12 million of investment to make it decent. Due to the limited resources in the Housing Investment Programme, there is little scope for funding this scale of improvements to the estate from other resources. If the decision was taken not to proceed with the East Dulwich Estate scheme at this stage, the land receipt resources currently identified would need to be redirected towards another project which meets the funding criteria due to time constraints on their use. The obligation to meet decent homes would result in officers presenting a further set of proposals for the estate at a later stage which is likely to require a higher level of disposal in order to generate an increased level of land receipts from the scheme.

The issue of holding a ballot on East Dulwich Estate was discussed by the Leader and the Executive Member for Housing with the South Camberwell ward members on 5th March. At that meeting it was agreed that due to the obligation to meet decent homes, there was no point in carrying out a ballot. On 18th March, representatives from the East Dulwich Estate Project Team were advised by these Members of the Council view that given the condition of the estate and the obligations under decent homes, the Council has to invest considerable resources in the estate. As the ability to use the Southwark Estates Initiative funding is dependent upon the scheme taking place as currently proposed, it is the considered view that it is not practical to carry out a ballot as a negative result is not a viable option.

Officers are continuing to develop the scheme for the estate in accordance with the Strategic Committee decision of January 2000. On this basis and reflecting the detailed consultation that has taken place with Members and tenant representatives on these issues, there would be limited value in preparing a further report for Executive to consider.

10. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR TONY RITCHIE (seconded by Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle)

Please note that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9 (3), this motion shall be considered by Council Assembly

‘Council notes the concern expressed by disabled residents on being unable to park in disabled parking bays either outside or near their homes.

Council therefore requests that the Executive create a cross party working group which includes local organisations representing disabled people.

The objective of the working party will be to consider current Council policy and to make recommendations to the Executive on how, in future, severely disabled residents can park near their homes.'

COMMENTS FROM THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION/ STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The London Borough of Southwark is part on the national Blue Badge Scheme relating to disabled parking on the public highway. This allows disabled people who hold such a badge to:

- Park in dedicated disabled parking bays for an unspecified length of time
- Park for up to 3 hours on yellow lines
- Park free at parking meters.

In addition to the above the Executive agreed at its meeting on 22nd October 2002 to allow holders of Blue Badges to park in permit bays in the new parking zone that the Council is introducing and subject to a 6 month review extending this measure to other parking zones within the Borough.

Currently when a disabled resident requests a disabled parking bay near to their home on the public highway an assessment of the site is made to ensure that the introduction of such a bay is feasible and safe. Should it meet these provisions then the bay is introduced.

The national scheme allows holders of Blue Badges to park in any available disabled bay thus allowing Southwark residents to park in disabled bays in other authorities when visiting those areas. Similarly the same concessions apply to people from other authorities when parking in Southwark.

The Regeneration Department is currently in the process of creating a Mobility and Access Forum, which will look at issues involving the mobility problems of all sections of the community. As such this Forum could look at the issues relating to the needs of disabled residents parking both on and off of the public highway. In addition to this a Parking and Enforcement Programme is being produced which will also look at the issues of disabled parking in the Borough

11. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH (seconded by Councillor Sarah Welfare)

Please note that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9 (3), this motion shall be considered by Council Assembly

'This Council Assembly is alarmed at the continuing crisis in Southwark's heritage and tourism organisations.

The Southwark Heritage Association (SHA) is facing a funding shortfall that will lead to its imminent demise and the closure of the Southwark Heritage Centre in Hay's Galleria. This will have a dramatic effect on Southwark's tourist trade that is still recovering from the consequences of the 9/11 atrocities. The well-respected services

of the SHA are largely provided by a small team of dedicated staff and volunteers who receive little recompense for their love of our Borough's rich history.

The Council's response so far has been disinterested and misleading. In recent correspondence to Cllr. Simmons the Strategic Director of Regeneration referred to an officer who had already left the employ of the Council some weeks before the letter was written and that post is still vacant.

In the same letter the Director makes no reference to the SHA or its invaluable activities on providing assistance to the Borough's tourists that Council does not provide itself. Indeed it is the SHA that has been actively promoting Southwark's Tourism Plan rather than the Council.

Council Assembly therefore requests the Council's Executive to urgently consider a report on the funding crisis threatening the future of our heritage and tourism organisations and to report back to this Assembly on its decisions.'

COMMENT FROM THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION

1. London Borough of Southwark (LBS) officers are currently working in partnership with a range of organisations to review the impact of recent world events on the tourism industry. LBS has been a leading agent on the Cross River Partnership Tourism Sub Group, chaired by the London Tourist Board (LTB). This is a sub-regional group including key players from neighbouring boroughs, the private sector, the LTB and the London Development Agencies (LDA). Officers have commissioned and supported research on Overseas Visitors and economic activity (STEAM - Scarborough¹ Tourism Economic Activity Monitor), which will inform the development of local and sub-regional strategies throughout the next year. Southwark was one of the 5 boroughs invited to attend the recent London tourism lunch hosted by the Duke of York.
2. In a more local context, Officers work on a daily basis to support members of the Bankside Marketing Group, which LBS also services, and which includes big attractions like the Tate and The Globe, hotel groups, the service sector and smaller attractions. More specifically officers have been supporting new attractions like the Zandra Rhodes Textile Museum and more established attractions like the Old Operating Theatre to develop sustainable business plans. Following the closure of the Southwark Information Centre at London Bridge, discussions are ongoing with developers and landowners to establish an information service in a more accessible location, such as the Station. In the meantime work is progressing to establish an information centre on Bankside adjacent to Tate Modern and the Millennium Bridge.
3. In a general sense, the work that Officers do to promote the borough both nationally and internationally at trade fairs and conferences, and through promotional material such as the "Walk this Way" series of promotional walking tours, does much to benefit the businesses and attractions within the area.

Southwark Heritage Association

4. SHA operates as a small private enterprise that derives income from the sale of souvenirs and ticketing services. It has in the past worked with the Council and other local partners to provide tour-guide training for young and older people, e.g.

¹ Scarborough, Ontario, was the first city to use this model

Southwark Young Pilgrims. These projects have now come to an end and officers are not aware of any current bids or proposals of a similar nature. SHA have approached the Council with a commercial proposal to provide tourist information at London Bridge. A detailed response will be given but for the reasons given above it is unlikely that an information service will be viable at this location in the short term. No decision has been made on the management arrangements for the proposed for service at Bankside.

5. Tourism is clearly a significant driver in the economic regeneration of the north of the borough and the Council continues to strive to put in place the infrastructure that supports tourism and heritage organisations and attractions. The Council is unable to support private business with core funding, but can sign-post to services such as Business Link, or can identify specific project based funding.
6. The Tourism function is part of the Strategic Partnerships Team, within the Economic Development and Strategic Partnerships Unit. The Tourism Manager left LBS in early March. The post will be advertised within the next four weeks. In the meantime, information services are being covered by officers within the Business Unit.

Lead Officer: Ian Millichap, Constitutional Support Manager
Report Author: Kevin Flaherty, Constitutional Support Officer

Background Papers
Original Motions

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