

<b>Item No.</b> 7.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> October 19 2005	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Motions	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Chief Council (Borough Solicitor)	

## **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 particular responsibility for functions to Council assembly, for approving the budget and policy framework, and to the council, 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 council (i.e. housing, social services, regeneration, environment, education etc) cannot be decided upon by council assembly without prior reference to the council. While it would be in order for council assembly to discuss an issue, consideration of any of the following should be referred to the council:

- 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 LISA RAJAN** (seconded by Councillor Columba Blango)

**Please note that in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10 (3), this motion shall be considered by council assembly.**

Council assembly congratulates the successful London 2012 Olympic bid team and notes Southwark's potential as a host for events in the cultural programme of the Olympics;

Council assembly hopes that in its stated aim of helping some of the most deprived areas, the London 2012 plan will extend to parts of Southwark;

Council assembly notes the tremendous success of the Community Games in involving local people of all ages and backgrounds in sporting activities and calls on officers to promote the Community Games as a model for community involvement and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle across all London boroughs;

Council assembly notes that the success of the Community Games and also the success of the Southwark team in coming third in this year's London Youth Games, highlights the sporting potential of young people in the borough;

Council assembly therefore urges Southwark's department of environment and leisure to work closely with the London 2012 organising bodies and Tessa Jowell's Department of Culture, Media and Sport to ensure that Southwark receives the fullest benefits from the Olympic legacy;

Council requests that the executive receives a report covering all potential opportunities the Olympics and Paralympics may provide for Southwark, including opportunities for investment in sports facilities, for hosting cultural events and for attracting countries to the borough for their training and preparation camps.

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

**COMMENTS FROM THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE**

In respect of cultural Olympics the council has already made contact with the organiser of this aspect of the Games and is formulating proposals for their consideration. The council has ensured it is represented on the organising committee.

As the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) is not fully functioning we are unable to make a case for 2012 legacy funding for our successful programmes at present, however we will make the case for this funding and also encourage LOCOG to adopt the Southwark Community Games as a model for community sports development and health promotion across the London region and beyond, once they are operational.

In respect of sporting facilities it is the case that as part of the candidate file submitted in 2004 to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) London 2012 identified a number of training venues that would be used by competing nations for each of the 33 Olympic sports during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and that of the 50

identified training venues, no Southwark venue was included. The closest venue to Southwark is Greenwich Park which will host the Equestrian and the running and riding elements of the Modern Pentathlon.

As soon as the LOCOG is operating, contact will be made to scope the possibility of using Southwark Park Athletics Track, which we aim to modernise within the next two years into a high quality venue for Athletics, as a training and preparation venue for the 2012 games.

The 2012 Olympics in London will bring unique opportunities including a huge peak in visitor footfall within London during the event, and an associated approximate spend of £8 billion. The economic opportunities can be categorised into four main themes: business and enterprise; employment opportunities; inward investment, and the borough profile. Southwark businesses, before and during the event, are in a good position to benefit from the supply chains needed to complete such an extensive development, and local businesses - including those in the HLTT (hospitality, leisure, tourism and travel) sector - could benefit significantly. Pre-Olympics there will be a high demand for construction related workers, a large proportion of which can be met through local engagement programmes, involving local residents. The event itself will also provide a large number of job opportunities with many being at entry level, providing the opportunity for some of the harder to help groups to get real work experience. Southwark has already offered lists of potential property to relocate businesses and has also had enquiries about hotel and hospitality development opportunities.

Within a co-ordinated framework of events and activities the needs of media, residents, workers and visitors will be met and marketed.

Officers will prepare a full report for council and submit this to the meeting in the coming months.

**2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON** (seconded by Councillor Lorraine Zuleta)

**Please note that in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10 (3), this motion shall be considered by council assembly.**

Council Assembly notes:

- That personal debt in the UK has already topped £1 trillion and is rising;
- The dangers of relying on credit without proper financial advice;
- The expansion of the high-interest, easy-to-access loan and credit industries;
- That the people least able to afford extortionate interest rates are the most likely to feel that they have to turn to such high-interest companies;
- The recent YouGov survey that found only 20% of people say they are saving enough for a comfortable retirement, 52% of the over 50s are still paying off debts, and 45% of the over-60s are in a similar situation;
- The fact that debt charity the Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS) has seen a rise in the proportion of clients in the 18-25 age group from less than 6% in 2002 to nearly 13% in 2005.

Council Assembly therefore applauds the work of Southwark Credit Union in providing excellent incentives to save and providing low-interest loans with no penalties for early repayment to Southwark residents.

Council Assembly further welcomes the link between the Council and Southwark

Credit Union and the work that has been done to promote the Credit Union within the Council and to residents.

Council Assembly therefore:

- calls on officers to find ways for the Council actively to further promote Southwark Credit Union across the Borough; and
- calls on Members to provide information on the services of Southwark Credit Union, and other organisations that provide savings and debt counselling services, to residents through surgeries and other meetings.

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

### **COMMENTS FROM ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (PERFORMANCE & STRATEGY)**

Southwark Credit Union (SCU) started many years ago as a service for council employees. Subsequently it was mutually agreed that the organisation should widen its sphere of operation, and become a stand-alone organisation serving all the residents of the borough. Some Southwark employees continue to be members and deductions for savings and loans is facilitated through payroll. Currently some £130,000 per month of staff salaries are paid into the credit union.

The council supports the organisation in a number of ways.

- They are a member of the Southwark Community Legal Services Partnership, to provide strategic advice on financial exclusion and issues of debt facing Southwark residents.
- They are a Southwark representative with the council on the South London Financial Exclusion Strategy Steering Group which is developing a plan for sub-regional services.
- They receive £30,000 funding from the council as part of the anti-poverty programme to undertake a range of activities that promotes financial literacy involving schools, voluntary sector, the Southwark Works initiative and Sure Starts.
- The Southwark Works initiative (funded by NRF) has enabled SCU to fund a dedicated outreach worker to link directly with the employment agencies, to help focus in ways to ease the financial transition from benefits to work.
- They work closely with the Rightfully Yours Team in revenue and benefits and are exploring with them a potential role in facilitating the new local housing allowance system and are linked in to the housing department annual tenants conference.
- They are contributors to the annual revenue and benefits stakeholder conference.
- They are working closely with the various area-based programmes particularly in Camberwell, Peckham and Aylesbury.

The council is aware that SCU would like to do more to re-establish their contacts with Southwark Council employees. In order to support this, the council has recently attached information about the Southwark Credit Union to all staff payslips. However, more can be done to promote the work of SCU and to that end, the council will invite SCU to host a number of sessions with staff, so that awareness of the service can be raised, and staff can have an opportunity to learn more about the organisation and

the potential benefits of signing up to it. The council is happy to hear from SCU on any further proposals they have for promotion of their service to council staff.

In relation to provision of information on the SCU by members, officer will ensure that information is made available for members via the members services team, is available at community councils and that it is made available at public access points across the council.

**3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHON HUNT** (seconded by Councillor Dermot McInerney)

**Please note that in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10 (3), this motion shall be considered by council assembly.**

Council Assembly recognises its huge debt to Lord Ouseley for:

- 1) Investigating how Southwark Council fails to provide equal services to many of our BME citizens, particularly small business owners, and how some victims have “had their lives destroyed” as a result of Southwark Council actions; and
- 2) His report and recommendations;

Council assembly is also aware of the reprehensible censorship, including a failure to publish his annexe, and the disgraceful treatment Lord Ouseley received, and offers him a full and unreserved apology on behalf of the Council.

**COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

To follow.

**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 Officer
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