

Item No. 6.1	Classification: Open	Date: December 7 2005	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Report back on motions referred to executive from council assembly in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.10(3)	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Executive	

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 – TIMEBANK PILOT SCHEME

At the meeting of the executive held on November 8 2005 we considered the following motion referred from council assembly on September 14, which had been moved by Councillor Caroline Pidgeon, seconded by Councillor Beverley Bassom: -

1. Council assembly notes:
 - i) the vital role that volunteers play in our community and the importance of volunteering in improving people's lives, tackling local problems and strengthening neighbourhoods and people's sense of community;
 - ii) that volunteering can lead to a reduction in crime in the community and an increase in local trust and social capital;
 - iii) that volunteering can provide people with important work experience and skills that are useful in employment as well as providing a connection to social networks;
 - iv) that the government's Home Office led 'Together We Can' action plan and the Active Citizenship programme is promoting volunteering aimed at enabling communities to define and tackle problems affecting them.

2. Council assembly believes:
 - i) that businesses should encourage their staff to volunteer by offering more opportunities to them, advertising volunteering schemes and establishing links with voluntary organisations;
 - ii) that meaningful incentives are important in recruiting volunteers and notes the innovative idea of time banks as a way of rewarding volunteers for their time and encouraging new people to start volunteering. Council assembly further notes the success of Time Banks UK and London Time Banks in setting up time banks across the UK allowing people to share their time and resources to help one another.

3. Council assembly therefore:

- welcomes the initiative of the council's environment & leisure department in setting up a time bank pilot scheme which started in July 2005 and calls upon the council to receive a progress report on the first six months of the pilot in January 2006;
- pledges its support to time banks UK and London Time Banks and asks officers to look into meaningful ways that the Council can actively support the Southwark Timebank Consortium made up of: Aylesbury Time Bank; Cares of Life; Charles Dickens Time Bank; Hour Bank, Peckham; My Time, Your Time; SLAM NHS Trust; Time to Share, Southwark; and Cambridge House Time Bank [the Help Exchange];
- requests that, if the environment & leisure pilot proves successful, the council considers how time banking projects can be rolled out across all council departments;
- asks officers to explore ways in which Time Banks and volunteering, especially by young people could be further supported in the borough through the government's "Together We Can" action plan and the Active Citizen programme.

We agreed the motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 - NUMBER 12 BUS ROUTE

At the meeting of the executive held on November 8 2005 we considered the following motion referred from council assembly on September 14, which had been moved by Councillor Kim Humphreys and seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson and subsequently amended: -

1. That council assembly notes with disappointment the continuing inability of Transport for London (TfL) to carry out adequate consultation on proposed bus route changes, and where representations are made, reach solutions which local communities feel are acceptable, the introduction of bus stands on Friern Road being just one example of many in the borough.
2. That, whilst the No 12 bus is an important service linking Dulwich to central London, the introduction of bendy buses on unsuitable roads in Dulwich, and the bus stands on Friern Road, has had a considerable adverse impact on traffic flow, safety and the local community, especially the triangular area bordered by Etherow Street, Lordship Lane, Rycott Path and Friern Road
3. That council assembly calls on the executive to instruct the transport group to investigate the following proposals, already proposed by local residents and councillors regarding the No 12 Bus;
 - Our own feasibility study (working with Lewisham transport officers) of the viability of running the service through to Forest Hill and to examine the feasibility of siting new bus stands in either Church Rise or Westbourne. The effect of which would link the 12 bus with Forest Hill railway station and the enlarged Sainsbury's store due to reopen in November.

- A traffic and amenity study of the effects of the bus stands on Friern Road and Lordship Lane.
- Negotiate with TfL the use of a smaller bus in the late evenings to minimize current disturbance to residents on this 24/7 route.

We agreed the motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 - SAFETY AND SECURITY ON TRAINS AND AT TRAIN STATIONS

At the meeting of the executive held on November 8 2005 we considered the following motion referred from council assembly on September 14, which had been moved by Councillor Dr Abdur-Rahman Olayiwola, seconded by Councillor Nick Stanton: -

1. That council assembly notes the current heightened security status of the whole of London's transport system and the need for greater vigilance;
2. That council assembly understands the important role played by station staff in identifying possible threats to security and in reassuring passengers;
3. That council assembly therefore notes with regret the proposals put out to consultation by South Eastern Trains Ltd. to reduce the opening hours of ticket offices and to cut staffing at smaller stations;
4. That council assembly notes that the proposals as set out would result in a loss of hundreds of hours of ticket office staffing across all South Eastern Train stations, with a loss of nearly 65 hours a week in stations in and just outside the borders of Southwark (including Denmark Hill, Herne Hill, London Bridge, Nunhead, Sydenham Hill and West Dulwich);
5. That council assembly therefore calls on South Eastern Trains to reconsider these proposals to improve the safety and security of all those using their trains and stations.

We agreed the motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 - HOUSING REPAIRS CALL CENTRE

At the meeting of the executive held on November 8 2005 we considered the following motion referred from council assembly on September 14, which had been moved by Councillor Charlie Smith, seconded by Veronica Ward and subsequently amended: -

1. That this council assembly calls upon the council to undertake an urgent review of the housing repairs call centre. Inefficiencies and daily mistakes caused by poor communication systems are affecting the quality of life for council tenants especially in emergency situations. These problems must be put right as a matter of urgency.
2. That the review look particularly at three areas of concern:

- Poor recording of the problem by the call centre leading to contractors being sent out to the wrong address and the wrong problem and leading to confusion between contractors and housing office about who in the line of communication is taking responsibility for a specific repair.
 - The long time many tenants and residents wait on the phone before they get through to the call centre.
 - The need to look at the adequacy of the training given to people working at the call centre
3. That council assembly notes overview & scrutiny committee (OSC) intends to review the performance of the customer service centre on the October 11 2005 and requests that committee to adhere to that intention and give particular attention to housing repair issues and invites concerned members to submit their evidence to OSC.

We noted that the overview and scrutiny committee are keeping a watching brief on the call centre.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 - PLANNING DESIGN

At the meeting of the executive held on November 8 2005 we considered the following motion referred from council assembly on September 14, which had been moved by Councillor David Bradbury, seconded by Councillor Kim Humphreys: -

1. That council assembly notes that when members meet to determine planning applications, applicants are increasingly suggesting that “modern” designs put forward are because officers have steered them in that direction.
2. That council assembly believes it is inappropriate for the local authority to be actively encouraging “modern design” in new developments in those areas of the borough which maintain a preponderance of more traditional designs, and that in areas with a mixture of housing design, where residents wish to see a balance maintained, the authority should strictly observe a neutral stance when dealing with developers.

We noted the comments of the strategic director of regeneration in respect of the motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 - HOUSING ISSUES

At the meeting of the executive held on November 8 2005 we considered the following motion referred from council assembly on September 14, which had been moved by Councillor William Rowe, seconded by Councillor Toby Eckersley: -

That with regard to the need to improve value for money and relationships with both tenants and leaseholders, council assembly requests the council to instruct officers to bring a full report to council assembly on the risks and opportunities facing the council from current housing issues including:

- “partnering” arrangements for works contracts
- “Decent homes” targets and timetable
- capacity constraints in the construction industry
- waivers of obligations to leaseholders

and setting out in detail how the housing department proposes to address each of these areas to minimise risk and maximise benefit.

We agreed the motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 – BICENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR

At the meeting of the executive held on November 8 2005 we considered the following motion referred from council assembly on September 14, which had been moved by Councillor Ian Wingfield, seconded by Councillor John Friary: -

The council assembly calls upon the council to plan & hold suitable celebrations in Southwark led by the Mayor to commemorate the bicentenary of Admiral Lord Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 given the historic ties of this borough to the Royal Navy and maritime trade more generally.

We noted that there had been a number of celebrations that the council has been involved in and that there is no budget set aside for the proposed celebration.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 - SOUTHWARK CREDIT UNION

At the meeting of the executive held on November 8 2005 we considered the following motion referred from council assembly on October 19, which had been moved by Councillor Nick Stanton, seconded by Councillor Lorraine Zuleta and subsequently agreed an amended version: -

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.
4. 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.

We agreed the motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 - LONDON OLYMPICS

At the meeting of the executive held on November 8 2005 we considered the following motion referred from council assembly on October 19, which had been moved by Councillor Lisa Rajan, seconded by Columba Blango and agreed an amended version: -

1. That council assembly congratulates the successful London 2012 Olympic bid team and pays tribute in particular to the commitment and hard work of the Mayor of London Ken Livingstone, Tessa Jowell MP, and Lord Sebastian Coe and notes Southwark's potential as a host for events in the cultural programme of the Olympics;
2. That 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 and notes the potential benefits including improved sports facilities, promotion of sporting excellence to young people, creation of jobs and increased tourism;
3. That 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;
4. That 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 further notes that the Southwark team's achievement of third place in the London Youth Games is the highest place an Inner London Borough has ever achieved since the first games over 25 years ago, and congratulates the young people who took part.
5. That 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;

6. That council assembly 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. The report should also set out what has been done so far to engage Southwark Council in the forthcoming London 2012 Olympic activities and should outline plans to ensure that potential benefits are realised across all sections of Southwark. Council assembly also requests that the executive consider appointing a designated officer responsible for making the best use of Southwark's involvement with the Olympics.

We agreed the motion and appointed the strategic director of environment and leisure as the designated officer responsible for making the best use of Southwark's involvement with the Olympics.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 - WELLS WAY, SOUTHAMPTON WAY AND COLEMAN ROAD

At the meeting of the executive held on November 8 2005 we considered the following motion referred from council assembly on October 19, which had been moved by Councillor Ian Wingfield, seconded by Councillor Alison Moise: -

This council assembly requests the executive to commission a feasibility study into the regeneration and environmental improvements of the area bounded by the Wells Way, Southampton Way and Coleman Road Triangle. In particular this study should concern itself with a regeneration scheme of the shopping area along the lines of the Bellenden Neighbourhood Renewal Project. It is expected that the study will report to the executive early in the New Year.

We agreed the following:

1. That the Camberwell Renewal manager be requested to consider using unspent neighbourhood renewal fund (NRF) money to do a basic retail study (covering the Camberwell Green shopping area) about what is available / possible.
2. That the executive member for regeneration and economic development monitor the property ownership issue raised by the deputation.
3. That the executive member for environment and transport monitor the progress of the actions put together by officers in the environment and leisure department arising from the walkabout.
4. That a report be brought back as soon as possible next year on the retail study and the property ownership issue.
5. That the public be kept informed of progress.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 – FAIR TRADE

At the meeting of the executive held on November 22 2005 we considered the following motion referred from council assembly on September 14, which had been moved by Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, seconded by Councillor Graham Neale: -

1. That this council notes that since May 4 2004 when the council pledged its support to the principles of fair trade, the London Borough of Southwark has registered with the Fair Trade Foundation as an organisation working towards securing fair trade status and made some progress including making Café Direct products available at community council meetings, promoting fair trade principles at the fair trade fair as part of the ‘taste the flavas of Peckham’ festival, and switching to fair trade coffee/tea suppliers by some business units in the council.
2. That council assembly welcomes the work that many local groups including Christ Church Barry Road, Friends of the Earth, Oxfam, other faith groups and many local individuals have done over the years in support of fair trade and trade justice, in particular in raising awareness of fair trade issues and beginning work on a fair trade directory of shops and outlets where fair trade products are available.
3. Council assembly reiterates its commitment to Southwark becoming a fair trade borough, and notes that a report will be presented to the council in the autumn to include a 12-month action plan for promoting fair trade. To meet the standards set out by the Fair Trade Foundation, plans for achieving the following goals must be included:
 - Ensuring that fair trade tea and coffee are served at all council meetings/buildings.
 - Determining the current availability of fair trade products within Southwark.
 - Investigating ways in which fair trade products could be available more generally within the council.
 - Enlisting the support of suppliers to the campaign.
 - Raising awareness of and so stimulate demand for fair trade products, for example via articles in the Council's magazine *Southwark Life*
 - Working with local workplaces and community groups to persuade them to commit to using fair trade products
 - Seeking out further potential retail and catering outlets
 - Assembling a portfolio of evidence of meeting the five goals for submission to the Fair Trade Foundation.
4. In addition, council assembly calls on the executive to set up a cross-party steering group with members from each political group, to work urgently towards achieving fair trade status for Southwark.

We considered the motion in conjunction with an officer report on the setting up of a cross party steering group and the agreement of an action plan to achieve fair trade status for the borough. We agreed the following:

1. That a local steering group is established to include one member from each political group to work towards achieving fair-trade status for Southwark.
2. That the action plan as set out in appendix 1 to the report considered by executive as a way to achieve fair trade status for the Borough be approved.
3. That officers periodically monitor that the Fair Trade Foundation continues to provide an accreditation process for products and services and executive be informed in the event of it becoming a trading company or commercial brand.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Executive agenda and minutes November 8 and 22 2005	Constitutional Unit, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Paula Thornton 020 7525 4395

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Deborah Holmes, Borough Solicitor	
Report Author	Everton Roberts/Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team	
Version	Final	
Dated	November 25 2005	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services	November 25 2005	