



**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(ORDINARY MEETING)
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 25 2006
SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA No.1**

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NOTE: Please note that the above reports have not been circulated seven clear working days in advance of the meeting (council procedure rule 1.2 (1)). Therefore, in accordance with access to information procedure rule (5), the Mayor will be asked to accept the items as late and urgent.

Circulated: January 17 2006

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Item No. 7.1	Classification: Open	Date: January 25 2006	Meeting Name Council Assembly
Report title:		The Council Tax Base for 2006/7 – Revised Appendix D	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		The Whole Borough	
From:		Finance Director	

On January 17 2006 officers identified an error in the published calculations outline on the first page of Appendix D - Total relevant amounts. Attached is a revised Appendix D setting out the recalculated total relevant amounts. You will note that the recalculation does not affect the formula set out in paragraph C or the recommendations contained within paragraph 2 of the main report.

CALCULATION OF 2006 / 2007 COUNCIL TAX BASE

FORMAL RESOLUTION

1. IN RESPECT OF THE WHOLE BOROUGH

(a) That the Council calculates the relevant amount for the financial year beginning on 1st April 2006 for each Band in accordance with the formula set out in Regulation 4(1) of the Local Authority (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992 No.612 ("the Regulations") made under section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Band -A	(C-[DE]) x F/G =	(6 - [5 x 25 %]) x 5/9 =	2.64
A	Formula as above	(11,773 – [8,666.8 x 25%]) x 6/9=	6,404.20
B	Formula as above	(35,058 – [21,950.4 x 25%]) x7/9=	22,999.20
C	Formula as above	(29,514 – [13,883.0 x 25%]) x8/9=	23,149.56
D	Formula as above	(17,145 – [6,555.6 x 25%]) x9/9=	15,506.10
E	Formula as above	(10,972 – [3,520.2 x 25%]) x11/9 =	12,334.61
F	Formula as above	(5,090 – [1,459.8 x 25%]) x13/9 =	6,825.07
G	Formula as above	(3,712 – [822.6 x 25%]) x15/9 =	5,843.92
H	Formula as above	(467 – [124 x 25%]) x 18/9 =	872.00
Number of Band D equivalents of contributions in lieu			0.00
TOTAL RELEVANT AMOUNTS			*93,937.30

(b) That the Council estimates the collection rate for the financial year beginning on 1st April 2006 to be 97.50%.

(c) That the Council calculates the Council Tax Base for the financial year in accordance with the formula set out in Regulation 3 of the Regulations, by multiplying the total of the relevant amounts calculated in 1(a) above by the rate estimated under 1(b) above = **91,588.86** (giving a figure for T in section 33(1).

*Corrected total, this does not affect (c) or the recommendations in paragraph 2
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2. IN RESPECT OF THE WHOLE AREA OF THE BOROUGH EXCEPT FOR THE AREAS COVERING ST. MARY NEWINGTON PARISH AND ST. SAVIOUR'S PARISH.

- (a) That the Council calculates the relevant amount for the financial year beginning 1st April 2006 for each Band of dwellings in that area in accordance with the formula set out in Regulation 4(1) of the Local Authority (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 No.612 (" the Regulations")

Band -A	(C-[DE]) x F/G =	(5 - [5 x 25%]) x 5/9 =	2.08
A	Formula as above	(8,228 - [6,132.4 x 25%]) x 6/9=	4,463.27
B	Formula as above	(27,699 - [17,586.4 x 25%]) x7/9=	18,124.09
C	Formula as above	(24,519 - [11,680.4 x 25%]) x8/9=	19,199.02
D	Formula as above	(15,436 - [5,902.2 x 25%]) x 9/9=	13,960.45
E	Formula as above	(9,781 - [3,124.0 x 25%]) x11/9=	11,000.0
F	Formula as above	(4,624 - [1,329.8 x 25%]) x 13/9 =	6,198.91
G	Formula as above	(3,521 - [767.2 x 25%]) x 15/9 =	5,548.67
H	Formula as above	(419 - [110 x 25%]) x 18/9 =	783.00

Number of Band D equivalents of contributions in lieu 0.00

TOTAL RELEVANT AMOUNTS 79,279.49

- (b) That the Council calculates the Council Tax Base for the part of its area covering the whole area except for the former parishes of St. Mary Newington & St. Saviour's in accordance with the formula set out in Regulation 6 of the Regulations by multiplying the total of the relevant amounts calculated in 2 (a) above by the amount shown in 1 (b) above **77,297.50**.

3. IN RESPECT OF THE AREA OF THE BOROUGH COVERING ST.MARY NEWINGTON PARISH

- (a) That the Council calculates the Council Tax Base for the financial year beginning 1st April 2006 for each band of dwellings in that area in accordance with the formula set out in Regulation 4 (1) of the Local Authority (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 No. 612 ("the Regulations").

- (b) That the Council calculates the Council Tax Base for the part of its area covering St. Mary Newington Parish in accordance with the formula set out in Regulation 6 of the Regulations by multiplying the total of the relevant amounts calculated in 3(a) above by the following formula:

Band -A	(C-[DE]) x F/G =	(1 - [0 x 25%]) x 5/9 =	0.56
A	Formula as above	(3,489 - [2,493.4 x 25%]) x 6/9=	1,910.43
B	Formula as above	(7,085 - [4,215.8 x 25%]) x7/9=	4,690.82
C	Formula as above	(4,686 - [2,047.8 x 25%]) x8/9=	3,710.27
D	Formula as above	(1,544 - [588.8 x 25%]) x 9/9=	1,396.80
E	Formula as above	(1,030 - [331.0 x 25%]) x11/9=	1,157.75
F	Formula as above	(361 - [95.2 x 25%]) x 13/9 =	487.07
G	Formula as above	(49 - [8.0 x 25%]) x 15/9 =	78.33
H	Formula as above	(11 - [4 x 25%]) x 18/9 =	20.00

Number of Band D equivalents of contributions in lieu 0.00

TOTAL RELEVANT AMOUNTS 13,452.03

Total calculated under 1 (c) above divided by (total calculated under 3(a) above plus totals calculated under 2(a) above and 4(a) below) = **13,115.72** (giving a figure for TP in section 34(3)).

4 .IN RESPECT OF THE AREA OF THE BOROUGH COVERING ST.SAVIOURS PARISH

- (a) That the Council calculates the relevant amount for the financial year beginning 1st April 2006 for each band of dwellings in that area in accordance with the formula set out in Regulation 4 (1) of the Local Authority (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 No. 612 ("the Regulations").

Band A	(C-[DE]) x F/G =	(56 - [41.0 x 25%]) x 6/9 =	30.50
B	Formula as above	(274 - [148.2 x 25%]) x 7/9 =	184.29
C	Formula as above	(309 - [154.8 x 25%]) x 8/9 =	240.27
D	Formula as above	(165 - [64.6 x 25%]) x 9/9 =	148.85
E	Formula as above	(161 - [65.2 x 25%]) x 11/9 =	176.86
F	Formula as above	(105 - [34.8 x 25%]) x13/9 =	139.10
G	Formula as above	(142 - [47.4 x 25%]) x 15/9 =	216.92
H	Formula as above	(37 - [10.0 x 25%]) x 18/9 =	69.00

Number of Band D equivalents of contributions in lieu 0.00

TOTAL RELEVANT AMOUNTS 1,205.79

- (b) That the Council calculates the Council Tax Base for the part of its area covering St. Saviour's Parish in accordance with the formula set out in Regulation 6 of the Regulations by multiplying the total of the relevant amounts calculated in 4(a) above by the following formula:

Total calculated under 1 (c) above divided by (total calculated under 4(a) above plus totals calculated under 2(a) above and 3(a) above) = **1,175.64** (giving a figure for TP in section 34(3)).

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: January 25 2006	Meeting Name: Council assembly
Report title:		Motions	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive (Borough Solicitor)	

6. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

Seconded by Councillor Robert Smeath

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

Rail Pricing

This council supports the efforts of the Mayor for London to persuade the rail operating companies to incorporate the use of oyster cards into their ticketing arrangements. Much of south London, including two-thirds of Southwark, lacks access to the underground system. Council assembly believes that as a result, Southwark rail travellers are being heavily financially penalised by the rail companies.

Council assembly calls on the executive to liaise with the mayor's office, to use whatever means are available to promote fair rail pricing and to strongly communicate this council's concerns to the rail companies operating in Southwark.

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

COMMENTS FROM STRATEGIC DIRECTOR REGENERATION

The Department for Transport oversees train ticket technology and pricing which the train operating companies then introduce and implement across the networks they manage.

The council is already working closely with the train operating companies that operate within the borough, Southern Railway and South Eastern Railways, to seek the early introduction of oyster card technology into Southwark.

Regular liaison with the train operating companies is facilitated through the transport consultative forum and the South East London Transport Strategy partnership (Seltrans). Seltrans includes representatives from neighbouring boroughs, Transport for London and all public transport operators. If the motion is passed and the executive agrees, officers will raise the concerns directly with the Secretary of State and the Mayor of London.

8. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE ZULETA

Seconded by Councillor Nick Stanton

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

Local Government Finance Settlement

Council assembly notes with concern:

- the recent local government finance settlement, announced by the government, which gives Southwark a just above the floor increase of 2.2%;
- that this compares very unfavourably with other London boroughs, such as Camden with a 3.8% increase and Kensington & Chelsea with a 3.3% increase.

Council assembly believes that this represents an enormous challenge to the council to maintain a high level of service provision whilst keeping council tax below the 5% cap that the Government has indicated it will impose.

Council assembly is particularly concerned that the local government finance settlement takes no account of relative levels of deprivation and therefore impacts disproportionately against Southwark.

Council assembly notes the escalating costs of the war in Iraq and the effects that this is having on the government's ability to properly finance front line service delivery and believes this money would be better spent on our residents.

Council assembly therefore calls on the executive member for resources and Southwark's three local members of parliament to lobby the government to provide Southwark with a settlement that takes into account the needs of the borough and the council's desire to keep any council tax increases to a minimum.

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

COMMENTS FROM DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

The settlement for Southwark leaves the council facing a cut in resources in real terms, not only 2006/7 but for the foreseeable future. No account appears to have been taken of Southwark's relative levels of deprivation and in particular the council has suffered significant losses in the formulae for Children and Younger Adults social care at a time when the council is facing tremendous pressure on the ground and is in the process of implementing the government's national policy on the Children's agenda. Since the council was first consulted on these proposed changes to the formulae in early summer 2005, the council with others has continually lobbied the government not to implement the changes but to little avail. While the settlement that we have received has been protected to some extent by damping, the council will be open to the full cash impact in the future and potentially stands to lose £13 million of resources. This is at a time when government are expecting us to make forward predictions of our council tax levels for 2007/08 and beyond. The council will continue to lobby for a review of the formulae to one that fairly recognises real levels of need in Southwark.

Furthermore, the accuracy of the government's mid-year population estimates is a major issue for Southwark. Based on the work of Southwark and others, it is now widely recognised that the population estimates are not robust for local authorities with ethnically diverse and highly mobile populations. We are asking the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to liaise with Office for National Statistics to consider ways in which Southwark and similar councils can be properly funded, whether within the formula system or outside of it.

10. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM ROWE

Seconded by Councillor Kim Humphreys

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

Street Lighting Budget

Council assembly notes that substantially the entire current budget for street light renewal has been directed to replacement of concrete lampposts with no priority being given to providing adequate lighting in roads where it is currently at an unacceptable standard.

Council assembly therefore requests the executive to instruct officers to prepare a more balanced policy for 2006/7 which:

- Includes a balance of priorities between improving lighting and replacing concrete lamp posts.
- Includes consultation with ward members and community councils on which streets should be given priority in their areas.

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

COMMENTS FROM STRATEGIC DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

The current street lighting capital programme has been developed on the basis of a risk assessment that is aimed at improving lighting and lighting assets. Poorer lighting conditions are associated with low-pressure sodium lighting (orange bulbs) and priority is given to replacing this type of lighting. Of the 239 roads that have the concrete lighting columns which require replacing, 225 (94%) also have low pressure sodium lighting. Additionally, the remaining 14 roads with concrete column lighting do not have column layouts that meet current lighting standards. Thus, by focusing the current capital programme of £2m over the next two years on concrete columns, the programme is improving lighting and upgrading assets simultaneously.

It is recognised that there are other areas where lighting does not meet current day standards and a capital bid has been submitted for a further £0.9m for lighting around train stations, schools and identified crime hotspots as part of the budget making process for 2006/7.

In addition to the capital programme, street lighting renewal is considered when major carriageway and footway works are carried out and these works are co-ordinated.

In addition, in areas that currently have no programme for lighting improvements, community councils have the option to fund such improvements from the cleaner greener safer allocation. In this and the previous years all 8 community councils between them have allocated in excess of £350k to over 30 schemes for, or containing, lighting improvements.

11. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD THOMAS

Seconded by Councillor Jeff Hook

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

South London Transport Links

Council assembly believes that south London has historically suffered from a lack of public transport links, especially compared to areas north of the river, and that areas such as Peckham and Camberwell have been particularly affected.

Council assembly further believes that decent transport links are vital to the economic and social development of an area; especially those that provide better and easier access to central London.

Council assembly welcomes plans to extend the East London Line as a railway to Clapham Junction via Peckham and up to Islington and plans for a Cross River tram to link north and south London from Camden down to Peckham via Elephant & Castle. Council assembly believes that these plans are integral to the successful regeneration of the centre of the borough.

However, council assembly regrets the ongoing delays to both of these major transport projects caused by:

(a) the Mayor of London being unable to secure funding for phase II of the East London Line extension (extending to Clapham Junction via Peckham); and

(b) the Mayor of London giving priority to the West London tram project, despite this area already being well-served by public transport, meaning there has been little or no preparatory work on the Cross River tram which could now be delayed until after the 2012 Olympics.

Council assembly therefore calls on the Mayor of London to rethink these plans and prioritise links to Peckham and Camberwell, including reconsidering adding a new branch to the Cross River tram which would serve Camberwell.

Council assembly further calls upon the leader to write to the secretary of state for transport reiterating the need for a mainline railway station in Camberwell.

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

COMMENTS FROM STRATEGIC DIRECTOR REGENERATION

The draft local implementation plan notes the relatively poor public transport opportunities within South East London and particularly highlights Peckham and Camberwell. In recognition of this, the plan advocates the early introduction of both the East London Line and the Cross River Tram. The local implementation plan will be considered at the executive meeting in March 2006 and submitted to the Mayor for approval.

The East London Line Group and the Cross River Tram Steering Group, in which the council is heavily involved, maintain a strong commitment to advocating the early implementation of both of these projects. If the motion is passed and the executive agrees, these concerns will be raised with the Mayor of London and the Secretary of State.

12. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MICHELLE PEARCE Seconded by Councillor Andy Simmons

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

Proceeds of Crime Act

Council Assembly:

- notes CIPFA's guidance on the Proceeds of Crime Act and the Money Laundering Regulations 2003.
- notes the executive member for resources comments in reply to a question on September 14 2005 that she does not "feel obliged to implement the requirements of the legislation concerning the creation of reporting systems, training, identification and record keeping and internal reporting procedures."
- requests the overview and scrutiny committee to refer this issue to regeneration and resources scrutiny sub-committee for consideration of best practice in this area.

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

COMMENTS FROM DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

The response given by the executive member for resources to the question of September 14 2005 went on to state that CIPFA's advice (that we should put in place proper policies and procedures to deal with the issue) is accepted. The advice recognises that although local authorities (including Southwark) are not likely to fall within the definition of "relevant business" activity, they should embrace the underlying principles of the legislation and regulations and deal with them in an appropriate and proportionate manner. Accordingly, the processes in operation for dealing with cash received continue to be monitored and Price Waterhouse Coopers, the council's internal auditors, will be reviewing the controls in place to mitigate opportunities for money laundering. The Society of London Treasurers is at present conducting a survey that seeks, among other things, to provide information about the approaches being taken by London boroughs. Following the results of this, the borough plans to liaise with other London treasurers to consider whether the scope exists to introduce a common and uniform approach.

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	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
	January 17 2006