

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: March 22 2006	Meeting Name: Council assembly
Report title:		Motions	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive (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 WILLIAM ROWE (Seconded by Councillor Toby Eckersley)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(3), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Leaseholder Services

Council assembly notes the continuing dissatisfaction of leaseholders with the overall service they receive from Southwark council, particularly in respect of:

- forward planning of major works so that leaseholders are able to plan savings for major works
- information and consultation on both major works and annual service charges.
- the overall level of both major works and annual charges.

Council assembly therefore calls on the executive to instruct officers to draw up plans during the first half of 2006 to alter computer systems, officer deployment and training as necessary to allow a step change in Southwark's service to leaseholders to be implemented at the earliest opportunity, including the following:

- a) Clear forward planning to help leaseholders save to meet major works charges.
- b) Significantly improved information and consultation on major works and annual charges ensuring that costing is properly prepared on a block-by-block basis.
- c) Improved pre-contract inspection and specification procedures.
- d) Improved purchasing and contract supervision procedures to reduce costs and improve value for money in both annual and major works charges.
- e) Involve leaseholders appropriately in pre-contract specification and in contract monitoring and review procedures.

Comments from the Strategic Director Housing

Overview and scrutiny committee (OSC) have recently scrutinised the process of identifying and managing major works and leaseholder charges, to be reported to executive on March 21 2006.

A number of the issues raised have been addressed through this process.

- a) On completion of the option appraisal, Southwark's approach to meeting decent homes will be formalised and with the assumptions on resources available and investment needs, five-year plans of major works within areas will be submitted to area forums. The target given to OSC for these submissions was by the end of summer 2006.

These plans will give an indication of the works programmes required, however, it is only following a full survey and tendered works that will give the actual costs of major schemes, and then the leaseholders' contributions.

- b) Major works service charge bills have been calculated on a block-by-block basis since January 2004 and works are procured on the basis of individual block costs which are identified as early as the notice of intention stage of procurement. The

statutory consultation process has been discussed with leaseholder representatives at leaseholder working parties and the resultant recommendations incorporated into the statutory notices.

- c) The surveying and scoping of the works is carried out by qualified surveyors, who advise on works to meet decent homes and our landlord obligations. The extent of the scope of works is considered against the stock condition survey.

The department has an approval process to ensure that these works are in line with the target to meet decent homes.

All staff who deal with contracts have been trained in relation to contract management, the decent homes standard, and the council's contract approval process.

- d) The department is developing a new procurement strategy to deliver major works that will improve delivery and will aim to make savings both on the works themselves and also the supply of materials and key components and lead to increased levels of satisfaction.

- e) A working group with residents has been set up to develop the partnering contracts.

A part of the partnering process, will be the development of a master programme agreed by a core group, which will include residents. Work programmes will now be developed through project teams, (again including residents) who will look at the scope and specification of works.

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU (Seconded by Councillor Graham Neale)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(3), council assembly shall consider this motion.

London Bridge to Victoria Train Service

Council assembly notes with concern the consultation by Network Rail on the Cross London Utilisation Strategy (RUS), which includes plans to divert the London Bridge to Victoria train service to Clapham Junction.

Council assembly believes that this will have an extremely adverse impact on Southwark residents travelling to London Victoria from South Bermondsey, Queens Road Peckham, Peckham Rye and Denmark Hill stations, as well as on those coming into Southwark to work and visit.

Council assembly notes recent debates that have concluded that good transport links in and out of the borough are vital to Southwark's economic and social development and believes that Network Rail's proposals would diminish transport links to and from Southwark.

Council assembly further notes the strong feeling against the plans within the community and the formal response of the council, which states the council does not support the proposals.

Council assembly therefore calls on Network Rail to reverse its plans and asks the Mayor of London and the secretary of state for transport to ensure that this vital rail link continues to operate.

Comments from the Strategic Director Regeneration

To Follow.

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH (Seconded by Councillor Peter John)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(3), council assembly shall consider this motion. This motion was submitted with the request that it be considered at the conclusion of item 4.3 LAS 2000 deputation request, to which it relates.

LAS 2000

Council assembly notes with concern the inaccuracies in leaseholder service charge accounting that have been discovered by LAS 2000.

Council assembly notes that despite repeated requests from leaseholders, the council has failed to respond to the report produced by LAS 2000 in Autumn 2005, which reveals £1.5 million of mistakes in service charge accounts.

Council assembly notes the council has also failed to adequately respond to the leaseholder council's concerns relating to the breakdown of charges on the integrated cleaning contract.

Council assembly notes the long period of time leaseholder council and LAS 2000 have tried, unsuccessfully, to work with the council to resolve these issues.

Council assembly therefore supports the call from LAS 2000 for these issues to be investigated by an independent third party at the earliest opportunity.

Comments from the Strategic Director Housing

To Follow.

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS (Seconded by Councillor William Rowe)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(3), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Leaseholder Accounting

Council assembly notes the continuing dissatisfaction of leaseholders with apparently incorrect and unreasonable annual service charges over a number of recent years, including significant queries researched by LAS 2000. Council assembly notes that officers acknowledge that there are problems with some charges and have been working, within the resources they have available, to progress these matters but they have not yet been resolved after some considerable time.

Council assembly calls on the executive to instruct officers to:

- a) prioritise the work and resources to investigate these matters;
- b) where errors are identified to make corrections and where appropriate refunds; and

- c) provide leaseholders with an appropriate level of re-assurance on the process and resulting revised charges by involving independent auditors and other independent professionals as necessary to an appropriate extent in order to work with both officers and Leaseholder Council.

Comments from the Strategic Director Housing

To Follow.

5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN (Seconded by Councillor David Hubber)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(3), council assembly shall consider this motion.

395 Bus route

Council assembly notes with concern plans by Transport for London (TfL) to close the 395 bus route which runs from Surrey Quays shopping centre to Limehouse.

Council assembly notes that this is the only bus route that goes through the Rotherhithe tunnel and therefore provides a vital transport link across the River Thames.

Council assembly believes that TfL's plans would adversely affect elderly people in particular as well as reducing access to local shops and services for those residents on the Rotherhithe peninsula.

Council assembly therefore calls on TfL to reverse its plans and consider how public transport can be enhanced in light of the Canada Water regeneration, not diminished.

Comments from the Strategic Director Regeneration

To Follow.

6. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH (Seconded by Councillor Sarah Welfare)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(3), council assembly shall consider this motion.

East Dulwich Street Lighting

Council assembly notes that many residents in Southwark place crime and the fear of crime high on their list of concerns. Poorly lit streets are recognised as a major contributory factor for this concern. The majority of the street lights in the East Dulwich ward are the old yellow lamps that give the roads within the ward a grim and dark appearance which causes local residents to feel uneasy when walking in many of the back streets and are reluctant to venture out of their homes after dark.

Therefore council calls upon officers to carry out an audit of the lighting in the East Dulwich ward to identify the yellow lamps in need of replacement and to give estimates of costs for replacing the existing street lights with the new generation of lamps and columns that brighten the pavements and roads but do not pollute the night sky.

Council assembly calls for a full report complete with a timetable for the replacement of the street lighting in East Dulwich to be brought to the June 2006 council assembly meeting.

Comments from the Strategic Director Environment and Leisure

To Follow.

7. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON (Seconded by Councillor Kim Humphreys)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(3), council assembly shall consider this motion.

No. 3 Bus Service

Council assembly notes the cuts to the No.3 bus service implemented last year by Transport for London (TfL), and the claim by TfL that cutting the frequency of the service was designed to improve the reliability of the route (the bus will turn up when the timetable says).

Council assembly further notes that the No.3 bus provides a vital, and in many cases the only, service to many residents in the south of the borough, an area already poorly served by public transport to their work, local hospitals and schools.

Council assembly is therefore disappointed to learn the results of a recent survey of frequent users of the route, the key findings of which are as follows;

- Of 114 respondents, 94 stated that their journey had become longer and more difficult since the cuts.
- 73 stated reliability had got even worse, 33 no difference, and only 5 said it had improved.
- The most common complaints remain those of speeding and “bunching” of buses, the very problems which TfL claimed would be resolved by cutting the frequency.

Council assembly therefore requests the executive to consider these findings and the council to support ward member’s representations to TfL and London TravelWatch that these cuts be reviewed.

Comments from the Strategic Director Regeneration

To follow.

8. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD THOMAS (Seconded by Councillor Jane Salmon)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(3), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Environmental Awards

Council assembly notes that Southwark has become the first-ever recipient of a new environmental award, the “Overall Winner” of the Environmental Campaigns (ENCAMS) Cleaner Safer Greener network awards.

Council assembly further notes that a waste management & transport manager from the environment and leisure department had won the Environmental Champion award and that Southwark took second place in the Innovation award.

Council assembly believes these awards are fitting given the huge achievements in making Southwark cleaner and greener, including:

- Cleaning up Southwark's streets from the 5th dirtiest in London in 2002 to the 4th cleanest last year, following the decision to replace multiple contracts with one newly created in-house service (Southwark Cleaning) in 2002;
- Quadrupling recycling over the last four years, by introducing doorstep recycling for all street properties, brown bins for garden waste, mini-recycling centres for blocks of flats, and trialing door-to-door collections on council estates;
- Becoming the first London borough to use bio diesel and switching nearly 50% of the council's vehicle fleet to renewable bio fuels, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from each vehicle to virtually zero.
- Cracking down on enviro-crimes, such as fly tipping, graffiti, littering and dog fouling through rigid enforcement, issuing 3,745 fixed penalty notices in the last four years and pursuing successful prosecutions.

Council assembly notes that there is still much more it can achieve but believes that Southwark's environment has improved massively and thanks all those officers who have worked hard to achieve this success, congratulates them on winning the ENCAMS award and further commits to redoubling our efforts to make Southwark cleaner and greener.

Comments from the Strategic Director Environment and Leisure

To Follow.

9. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM (Seconded by Councillor Robert Smeath)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(3), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Youth Facilities in Peckham Rye

Council assembly notes with concern the lack of youth club facilities in the Peckham Rye area, and requests the relevant executive member to bring an urgent report back to council assembly on what steps are being taken to improve activities for children and young people in the area including the provision of full time club-based youth activities.

Comments from the Director of Education

Within the community council area of Nunhead and Peckham Rye, based on our current records, there are 3,307 young people aged between 11 – 19 years living in the area and of this, 43% were in contact with the youth service in 2004/005. Many of the young people participated in a number of the following provisions within and around the area:

- 17 youth and community provisions (11 – 19 years)
- 1 Early Years Centre
- 3 After-school clubs
- 1 Adventure Play space
- 1 Playroom (one o'clock club)
- 4 sports clubs.
- The recently opened school/community sports facility at Waverley Sports college.

Within the area, a number of play, sports and youth activities have been taking place, of which a snapshot is indicated below:

1. The Youth Service Area 4 detached team is working across both Consort, Cossall and Brayards estates on Tuesday evenings, and Rye Hill Estate, Ivy Dale Rd, Tappesfield Estate, Nunhead station area and Evelina Road on Thursday evenings. The main issue identified by the detached team has been the lack of space to meet to run workshops and short-term youth activities. The Rye Hill tenants and resident's hall is currently unable to accommodate the presence of young people within the space, despite assurance that the young people would be supervised.
2. Discussions are ongoing to access the Nunhead community centre for regular youth activities. This is being coordinated with the Peckham Programme team to look at ways of opening up this provision. If this can be achieved, then there will be two sessions of youth work taking place from that venue, including Saturday opening.
3. The Salvation Army based in the area is working with young people in both Nunhead and Peckham Rye ward. This has just started up and is therefore in its early days.
4. A Youth Provider Network (YPN) covering the needs of young people in the Nunhead and Peckham Rye and Peckham community council areas is now established and is looking at provisions widely across the respective areas. This group is actively involved with the co-ordination of the summer activities programme.
5. The Peckham Panthers junior rugby club operates on Sunday mornings for young people aged 8 – 16yrs.
6. Sports programme take place over the weekends at the Waverley Sports College on both Saturdays and Sundays.
7. Work has not yet started on the redevelopment of the Peckham Rye adventure playground. When this provision is completed it will have on site a new climbing wall in addition to the usual play facilities.

With regards to steps being taken to improve facilities and opportunities, in addition to some of the points raised above (e.g. access to tenants and resident halls, redevelopment of the Peckham Rye Adventure Play ground and the opening up of the Waverley Sports College) there is work taking place across a number of agencies and service areas who are in scope for working with children and young people:

Sports and recreation:

- Development of targeted sports provision through the community games as part of a wider youth inclusion approach.
- The promotion of the healthy schools programme, including ensuring children and young people gain access to at least two hours of sports activities out of school each week.
- Delivery of sports activities in the community through the national community sports coaching scheme.

Open Spaces and Parks:

- Development of a range of fun and educational activities, such as developing the mini-beast areas, conservation activities, youth exchange to New York with other park based youth groups.
- The Young Friends of the parks (i.e. Peckham Rye Park) will be responsible for their own garden plots, involved in park audit walks to improve the physical environment.

Heritage:

- Community outreach work – engaging with five of Southwark's communities to collect personal stories and re-interpret objects from the collection as part of the new permanent exhibitions (relocation project 2006).

Arts and Media:

- Continuing development of STEP (Southwark theatre festival for children and young people) to include the chance to take part in large-scale outdoor performances and to experience working in the theatre.
- Engaging young people to participate in the Thames Festival, which provides great opportunities for taking part in a London-wide event and everything that a large-scale carnival -festival involves.
- The development of 'The Heart' which is a performance and workshop space for children and young people to take place on Peckham Square by 2009

Play:

- to provide targeted and responsive opportunities for children and young people to participate in freely chosen activities, via the Mobile Sport and Play Unit programme.
- to provide work experience and placement opportunities for those entering or developing their role within play (opportunity to increase volunteering amongst the young in the local area).

Youth and Connexions Service:

- target young people not attached to schools to enable them to fully participate in social and personal development enrichment programmes through outreach and detached work.
- provide youth provisions in well equipped locations and secure adequate opening of youth clubs (e.g. tenants and resident halls);
- provide and develop the Millennium Volunteers programme to engage with over 200 young volunteers per annum (see above)
- develop and deliver work based learning opportunities to young mothers in the local area who not in education, employment, or training (one of the areas with a high teenage pregnancy rate)

In addition to this, consideration will be given to how best to communicate what is taking place in the local area and this we propose to do through a range of outlets including:

- Flyers, posters, directory and website (Southwark and Youth Service), Kiosks, football clubs' brochures (e.g. Millwall)
- Youth council
- Youth forums
- Connexions One stop shops/access points (i.e. Rye Lane)

- Magazines and newsletters

10. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY (Seconded by Councillor David Bradbury)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(3), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Powers To Council Assembly

That this council assembly puts on record for the benefit of its successor its view that the conduct and effectiveness of council assembly meetings, the perception of the assembly as the council's sovereign body, and the morale of councillors generally, would be enhanced by the assembly reserving to itself as many powers as it can reasonably and lawfully exercise under the Local Government Act 2000 and other relevant legislation.

Comments from the Chief Executive

To Follow.

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	Cameron MacLean, Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	10.03.06