

Item No. 6.1	Classification: Open	Date: September 13 2006	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Report back on motions referred to executive from council assembly	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Executive	

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 – FOUR SQUARES ESTATES

Executive on June 26 2006 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on March 22 2006, which had been moved by Councillor Nick Stanton and seconded by Councillor Eliza Mann:-

That the following be noted:

1. That in common with many estates in Southwark the Four Squares is suffering from a legacy of under-investment and poor maintenance over many years.
2. That a previous package of major works had to be cancelled due to the overspend on the Canada Estate
3. That funding has been secured from the London Housing Board to introduce security measures
4. That a contract is being awarded this month for the installation of security measures including CCTV and security doors in New Place Square.
5. That tenants and leaseholders in Lockwood Square are currently being balloted on whether they want similar security measures.
6. That consultation is about to begin with residents of Marden and Layard Squares about security measures.
7. That a programme of lift replacements on each of the Four Squares is well underway.
8. That each of the Four Squares will benefit from the package of decent homes works to be completed over the next 4 years.
9. That part of the section 106 agreement for building works at Southwark college includes funds for improving play facilities on the Four Squares.
10. That the Four Squares has suffered from many years from arson attacks and that the council is one of the first in London to produce an arson reduction strategy which highlights the need to tackle arson in this area.
11. That the Bermondsey Together Action Zone has been concentrating

resources on tackling complaints of anti-social behaviour on the Four Squares including issuing acceptable behaviour contracts, regular police and community warden patrols, and enforcement against complaints of noise nuisance and overcrowding in HMOs.

12. That both Bermondsey East housing area forum and Bermondsey community council have prioritised efforts to deal with concerns raised by residents of the Four Squares and receive regular updates on progress.

We noted the motion and comments of the strategic director of housing.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 – LEASEHOLDER SERVICES

Executive on June 26 2006 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on March 22 2006 (subsequently amended), which had been moved by former Councillor William Rowe and seconded by Councillor Toby Eckersely:-

1. That the continuing dissatisfaction of leaseholders with the overall service they receive from Southwark council, particularly in respect of the following, be noted:
 - 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.
2. That it be noted that much work has already been undertaken to address these concerns, including:
 - preparing five-year plans of major works under Decent Homes to be submitted to area forums;
 - calculating bills on a block-by-block basis since January 2004, following requests from leaseholders;
 - ensuring that surveying and scoping of works is carried out by qualified surveyors, with specific training in the decent homes standard and the council's contract approval process;
 - developing a new procurement strategy for major works to improve delivery and make savings on the works and materials;
 - setting up a working group with residents and project teams to look at the scope and specification of works.
3. That council assembly noted with concern that leaseholders are having to bear a proportion of the costs of decent homes major works and further notes that the council is legally obliged to recover these costs from them. Council assembly therefore supports calls for national legislative reform to assist leaseholders in meeting these financial demands.

4. That council assembly called 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, where appropriate:
 - 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.

We noted the motion and comments of the strategic director of housing.

We also noted that a report on the management of major works in response to the report from overview and scrutiny committee would be submitted to the executive meeting in September, 2006.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 – LEASEHOLDER ACCOUNTING

Executive on June 26 2006 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on March 22 2006, which had been moved by Councillor Kim Humphreys and seconded by former Councillor William Rowe:-

1. That council assembly noted 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 noted 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.
2. That 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.

We noted the motion and comments of the strategic director of housing.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 – CHAMBERLAIN COTTAGES

Executive on July 18 2006 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on March 22 2006, which had been moved by Councillor Ian Wingfield and seconded by Councillor John Friary:-

That in light of the true intentions of the residents of Chamberlain Cottages wishing only for a gate to be sited at the entrance to their cul-de-sac for safety reasons, this council assembly requests the council executive to consider progressing negotiations with residents and agreeing funding for the gate as soon as possible.

We amended the motion as follows:

That pending the greener, cleaner, safer funding applications being considered by Camberwell Community Council later in the year, community safety measures will be used including the use of CCTV and wardens patrolling Chamberlain Cottages. Highly visible CCTV should be used to deter and identify offenders of anti-social/criminal behaviour. In addition, the council's acting borough solicitor will report to the Camberwell Community Council in the autumn on the lawfulness of an unlocked gate being placed at the entrance to the cul-de-sac at Chamberlain Cottages.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 – LONDON BRIDGE TO VICTORIA TRAIN SERVICES

Executive on July 18 2006 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on March 22 2006, which had been moved by former Councillor Beverley Bassom and seconded by former Councillor Graham Neale:-

1. That concern be noted on the consultation by Network Rail on the Cross London Utilisation Strategy (CRUS), which includes proposals to divert the London Bridge to Victoria train service to Clapham Junction.
2. That it is noted 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 those coming into Southwark to work and visit.
3. That it be noted that 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. Furthermore, rather than considering

cuts to these South East London lines, Network Rail should be increasing and promoting services to these stations, which are located in a part of London which is currently very poorly served by transport options.

4. That it be further noted that there is strong feelings against the plans within the community, notes the formal response of the council which states the council does not support these proposals, and fully supports the robust objections to these proposals made by local representatives, such as the MP for Dulwich and West Norwood, the Greater London Authority member for Lambeth and Southwark, and members of this authority.
5. That Network Rail be called on to abandon any proposals to cut services between London Bridge and Victoria, and asks the Mayor of London and the secretary of state for transport to ensure that this vital rail link continues to operate and also to increase services to these South East London stations.

We agreed this motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 – 395 BUS ROUTE

Executive on July 18 2006 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on March 22 2006, which had been moved by Councillor Lisa Rajan and seconded by Councillor David Hubber:-

1. That concern be noted for plans by Transport for London (TfL) to close the 395 bus route which runs from Surrey Quays shopping centre to Limehouse.
2. That it be noted that this is the only bus route that goes through the Rotherhithe tunnel and therefore provides a vital transport link across the River Thames.
3. That it be noted 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.
4. That council assembly calls on TfL to reverse its plans and consider how public transport can be enhanced in light of the Canada Water regeneration, not diminished.

We amended the motion as follows:-

That executive expresses its regret that the no. 395 bus service no longer operates, despite representations made to support its continued operation.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 – EAST DULWICH STREET LIGHTING

Executive on July 18 2006 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on March 22 2006 (subsequently amended), which had been moved by former Councillor Charlie Smith and seconded by former Councillor Sarah Welfare:-

1. That it be noted 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. Such lights are also common elsewhere in SE22.
2. That, council therefore called upon officers to carry out an audit of the lighting in SE22 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.
3. That council assembly called for a full report complete with a timetable for the replacement of the street lighting in East Dulwich to be brought to the executive before the summer recess.

We noted the motion and that actions were in place to resolve the identified issues.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 – NO. 3 BUS SERVICE

Executive on July 18 2006 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on March 22 2006, which had been moved by Councillor Lewis Robinson and seconded by Councillor Kim Humphreys:-

1. That it be noted that 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 (i.e. the bus will turn up when the timetable says).
2. That it be further noted 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.
3. That council assembly expressed its disappointment 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.
4. That council assembly requested that the executive consider these findings and the council to support ward member’s representations to TfL and London TravelWatch that these cuts be reviewed.

We agreed the above motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 – ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Executive on July 18 2006 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on March 22 2006, which had been moved by Councillor Richard Thomas and seconded by Councillor Jane Salmon:-

1. That it be noted 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.
2. That it be further noted 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.
3. That council assembly believed that 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.

4. That it be noted 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.

We agreed the above motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 – YOUTH FACILITIES IN PECKHAM RYE

Executive on March 22 2006 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on July 18 2006 (subsequently amended), which had been moved by Councillor Aubyn Graham and seconded by Councillor Robert Smeath:-

1. That council assembly noted 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.
2. That it be further noted that the executive member for equalities, culture and sport announced a full review (including consultation with young people) into youth and sports provision in the Peckham Rye area at the opening of the newly refurbished Peckham Rye Park on March 11 2006. Council assembly believed that the results of this review should provide the basis for further reports.

We noted the above motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 – THAMES WATER AND CENTRAL LONDON'S WATER SUPPLY

Executive on July 18 2006 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on June 28 2006, which had been moved by Councillor Lisa Rajan and seconded by Councillor Kim Humphreys:-

1. That Westminster council's proposal for a cross-borough action plan to highlight and remedy the mismanagement of central London's water supply by Thames Water be welcomed, and notes that the London boroughs of Camden, Lambeth and Islington have given their support to the plan be noted.
2. That Thames Water's level of service has declined markedly over recent years and believes they should be held to account be noted.
3. That concern over the frequent loss of pressure in tower blocks in Southwark as well as Thames Water's failure to address leakages adequately be noted.
4. That council assembly further notes that water supply related problems are often wrongly perceived by the general public to be the fault of the council

rather than Thames Water.

5. That the 'cross-borough charter for improvement' be supported and council assembly requests that the executive considers the following ten-point action plan for Thames Water:
 - OFWAT leakage targets to be met year on year
 - Major burst mains to be actioned immediately. Minor leaks to be repaired within seven days of them being reported
 - A log of all leaks known to Thames Water to be provided on the Internet for public access
 - Technical liaison officers' contact details to be provided to London boroughs
 - Emergency supplies of water to be delivered individually to residents in the event of a loss of supply
 - No roads to be closed without prior council approvals being in place. No parking bays to be occupied without proper suspensions being requested
 - Thames Water to pay for London boroughs to inspect 60% of their works instead of the normal 30%
 - "Courtesy boards" to be provided at all sites
 - Customer service improved and call centres to provide a rapid and well-informed response to all callers.
 - Thames Water and their contractors to become committed members of all boroughs' Considerate Streetwork schemes.

We noted the motion and that actions have been implemented for improvement.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 – SERVICE IMPROVEMENT – NUNHEAD AND PECKHAM RYE HOUSING OFFICE

Executive on July 18 2006 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on June 28 2006, which had been moved by Councillor Robert Smeath and seconded by Councillor Andrew Pakes.

1. That it be noted that serious concern about the level and quality of service provided to tenants and leaseholders from Nunhead & Peckham Rye neighbourhood housing office (NHO) had been noted by council assembly.
2. That it be noted that a recent example where a toilet overflow took up to 5 months to replace and unacceptable delays for residents to be able to see officers from the tenancy management team had been noted by council assembly and that council assembly further noted that a flood left residents without electricity overnight, despite being promised emergency assistance which did not appear.

3. That council assembly calls on the executive member for housing to investigate service levels at Nunhead & Peckham Rye NHO and then report back on the steps he intends to take to secure improvements in service levels.

We noted the motion and that the issues identified would be considered as part of a departmental (housing) improvement programme.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 – COPLESTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Executive on July 18 2006 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on June 28 2006 (subsequently amended), which had been moved Councillor Veronica Ward and seconded by Councillor Susan Elan Jones:-

1. That this council notes with regret that the Copleston Children's Centre will be closing at the end of July. This centre is well known in the borough and has provided high quality child-care for children in the area for almost 30 years. The council wishes to thank all those staff, volunteers and parents who have given so much commitment to this centre over these years.
2. That it be noted that there are many reasons for the closure, including the provision of extra nursery places at nearby schools, the hours of operation (from 08.30 to 15.30) not meeting the needs of many working parents, and the fact that only 58% of places had been filled by May 2006 (14 out of a possible 24).
3. That concerns were raised over the future of the centre early in 2006. In response to a question at council assembly in March 2006 asking whether the Copleston "would receive appropriate levels of funding to maintain its existence", the then deputy leader of the council reassured members that a new financial model would "ensure that all existing day nurseries can continue to function."
4. That it be noted that this was followed by the allocation of £65,779 to the centre for 2006/07, equal to the allocation received in 2005/06, and the offer of a further £4,106 in business support to address the issue of sustainability.
5. That council assembly calls upon the executive to look at early years provision in the relation to the long term planning process given the expected rise in the number of children in the borough. Assembly urges that the executive examine why, given the high standards of child care being offered and the needs we have in the borough to support vulnerable children, a community nursery of such high quality had to conclude that it was not financially possible to continue and to consider how such valuable provision can be retained and make a contribution towards the provision of much needed high quality child care.

We noted the motion and the closure of Copleston Children's centre. It was confirmed that a review of all aspects of early years provision would commence shortly.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager	
Report Author	Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team	
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Executive Member	No	No
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