

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: September 13 2006	Meeting Name: Council assembly
Report title:		Motions	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive (Acting 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 responsibility for particular functions to council assembly, including approving the budget and policy framework, and to the council as a whole, 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 Paul Noblet)

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

Downtown Area Development

Council assembly notes that the planning committee rejected an application from Barratt Homes for a development on Downtown Road and Salter Road on August 16 2005 on the grounds of density, height, massing and overdevelopment of the site.

Council assembly also notes the success of the Downtown Defence Campaign in bringing together support from the local community, local councillors, and local London Assembly Member to oppose the development.

Council assembly welcomes the outcome of the recent public inquiry in which the independent inspector upheld the council's decision to reject the planning application.

Council assembly therefore notes with regret the decision of the Secretary of State for communities and local government to overturn the decision of the planning committee and impose the development on the Downtown Area.

Council assembly notes with concern that this action further erodes the powers of local communities and locally-elected representatives to make decisions about their local area.

Council assembly asks the leader of the council and/or executive member for regeneration to write to the secretary of state requesting that (a) the government respects local decisions and the views of independent bodies such as the Planning Inspectorate, and (b) she withdraw her direction on the Downtown decision.

Council assembly also instructs the acting borough solicitor to seek urgent legal advice as to the possibility of a judicial review of the decision.

Comments of the Strategic Director Regeneration

To follow.

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR SUSAN ELAN JONES (seconded by Councillor Ola Oyewunmi)

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

Adult Entertainment Club

Council assembly congratulates the community groups, schools, faith groups, tenants associations, businesses and local residents who successfully opposed the opening of a lap dancing club in Peckham.

Council assembly notes that the campaign, led by local councillors, was a resounding success which effectively communicated the strength of feeling against 'adult' clubs in Peckham. It gained the support not just of local residents but also of MPs and Assembly members. The applicant listened to the concerns and accordingly withdrew his application.

Council assembly notes that had the application proceeded, it would have been possible for local ward councillors to represent their constituents in this matter at licensing committee. Local councillors were ready and willing to do this. Residents would have needed to make a written application to the council so that this could happen. Local councillors had made active contact with local residents, worked with them to make them aware of the procedure, and were ready to help them submit the correct requests.

Council assembly notes the contrast between this and the recent application for a lap-dancing club in Tooley Street, where local councillors did not inform local residents of the proposal to have a lap-dancing club in their ward, did not represent concerned constituents at licensing committee, and did not organise any campaign on behalf of the local community.

Council assembly calls upon all members to liaise with local residents over controversial applications of this kind and make full use of the licensing committee rules which state that ward councillors can represent constituents if asked to do so in writing.

Comments of the Strategic Director Environment & Leisure

To follow.

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK (seconded by Councillor Michelle Holford)

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

Health Service Cuts

Council assembly notes and condemns the severe funding cuts of £20 million to health services across Southwark.

These cuts include:

- £8 million cut to King's College Hospital NHS Trust
- £8 million cut to Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Foundation Trust
- £4 million cut to South London & Maudsley (SLAM) NHS Trust

At the same time social services across the country are already under pressure.

Council assembly notes that these cuts come despite much promoted real increases in funding.

Council assembly believes that the NHS is over centralised with too much national target setting, which prevents clinicians from working in the best interests of the patient and diverts money from local priorities.

Council assembly notes that of the 31 London Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) nearly one third are predicting a deficit for the 2005/06 year and Southwark PCT is having its resources cut to bail out indebted PCTs elsewhere in London.

Council assembly further notes that concerns have been raised that changes to the national payment-by-results system financially penalise acute trusts, such as Guy's & St Thomas' and King's College Hospital, for being more cost-effective in reducing specific waiting lists, such as hip replacement surgery.

Council assembly notes with concern the evidence of the Royal College of Psychiatrists to the House of Commons Health Select Committee, which states that disinvestment in mental health services results in “damaging cuts to Adult Mental Health, Older Adult Services, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.”

Council assembly therefore disagrees with the Secretary of State for Health’s claim that the NHS is enjoying “its best year ever” and requests that the executive member for health & adult care writes to the Health Secretary asking her to halt the proposed cuts to our local health services. Furthermore, council assembly requests that the executive asks the secretary of state to revisit the policy that allows strongly performing trusts to be penalised by the actions of under performing ones.

Council assembly also calls on the Joint PCT/executive board to work with Southwark’s local Members of Parliament to put forward Southwark’s case to the Health Secretary at the MPs’ upcoming meeting.

Comments of the Strategic Director Health and Community Services

To follow.

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

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER (seconded by Councillor Paul Bates)

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

Nelson & Portland Estate Security

Council assembly notes the continued problem of vagrants and drug users congregating on the stairwells of the Portland estate towers, as well as drugs paraphernalia in and around the Nelson & Portland estate.

Council assembly notes the long-standing campaign by the Nelson Estate Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) for secure entry doors for residents and further notes the view of the local Faraday Safer Neighbourhood Team that secure entry doors would provide the best means of guaranteeing a reduction in problems with drug dealing, drug use and vagrancy on the estate.

Council assembly believes that ballots on the estate held some years ago to allow residents to approve a secure door entry scheme did not secure a positive result in favour because a surcharge was to be imposed to finance it.

Council assembly believes that council tenants and leaseholders should not be scared to step foot outside their own door because they are worried about crime being perpetrated by non-residents using the estate as a shelter and/or place to sleep or engage in drug use.

Council assembly therefore requests the executive to agree the installation of a secure door entry scheme on the Portland & Nelson estate at no additional cost to residents. Council assembly requests that the executive member for community safety and the deputy leader of the council liaise with ward councillors, the local TRA and other agencies as a priority to assess requirements for the scheme.

Comments of the Strategic Director Housing

To follow.

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

5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO (seconded by Councillor Jonathan Mitchell)

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

United Nations Millennium Development Goals

Council assembly notes the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as agreed by the UN in its Millennium Declaration in 2000:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

Council assembly notes that although some progress has been made on the eight goals there is growing concern that they will not be achieved by 2015. There is also a growing acceptance that the MDGs and targets must be localised and that local governments should play a greater role in achieving them.

Council assembly notes Southwark's successful partnership work, through the Local Government International Bureau, with Koidu Town Council in Sierra Leone and the benefits it has provided to both communities.

Council assembly also notes the work that Southwark has undertaken to alleviate poverty locally and internationally, including:

- the wide-ranging anti-poverty programme which includes support to local enterprises, improved childcare provision, increased benefit take-up, and help for those people who face difficulties finding work;
- committing to large-scale regeneration programmes across the borough designed to vastly improve the quality and supply of housing, and economic opportunities;
- a strong commitment to becoming a fair-trade borough.

Council assembly therefore calls on the executive to:

Request that officers work closely with the UK Local Government Alliance for International Development to promote the work that Southwark is undertaking to eradicate poverty and to learn from other local authorities on action they are taking locally, nationally and internationally.

Call on members and officers to take part in the "STAND UP Against Poverty, Stand Up for the Millennium Development Goals" event on Monday October 16, which aims to set

an official Guinness World Record for the largest number of people to stand up against poverty in 24 hours to raise awareness of the MDGs.

Comments of the Assistant Chief Executive

Southwark council has been asked by the UK Local Government Alliance for International Development to participate in the UN Millennium Campaign's 'Stand Up Against Poverty' initiative. Its aim is to raise awareness of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) within local communities and to demonstrate public support internationally for the achievement of the MDGs.

The initiative includes an attempt, on October 16 2006, to set an official Guinness world record for the largest number of people ever to "stand up" against poverty within twenty-four hours. This event is timed to coincide with the international day of poverty eradication on October 17 2006.

UK local authorities have been asked to consider supporting the initiative in one or more of the following ways:

- Adopt a resolution or a declaration in support of the achievement of the MDGs and the eradication of poverty.
- Members can encourage their colleagues and council staff to join the "Stand Up" initiative by asking them to "Stand Up against Poverty" on Monday October 16 at 10.00am (GMT) in front of the town hall building.
- Actively promote the Stand Up initiative through local media and community groups and encourage residents to take part in the event on October 16.

Through its innovative international partnerships programme, Southwark council is already demonstrating its ongoing support of the millennium development goals. One of the programme's central objectives is that Southwark's young people, its residents, council members and staff understand and are engaged in the global effort to ensure timely delivery of the MDGs.

Working with international development agencies such as Plan International and Christian Aid for example, the programme aims to support Southwark's schools to integrate international development issues into the curriculum. In Koidu, the council's partner town in Sierra Leone, we are working with the African Foundation for Development and Business Extra to alleviate poverty by delivering a capacity building project for young entrepreneurs. Plans are also underway for a collaborative project which will see the council and Southwark's Primary Care Trust delivering a training programme for Koidu's health professionals and exchanging good practice on issues such as maternal and child health and HIV/AIDS.

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

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 Version
Dated	01/09/2006