



**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(ORDINARY)**

MINUTES of the open section of the meeting of the ordinary Council Assembly held on Wednesday, December 6 2006 at 7.00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Paul Kyriacou

Councillor Paul Baichoo	Councillor Alison McGovern
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Paul Bates	Councillor Kirsty McNeill
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton	Councillor Gordon Nardell
Councillor Toby Eckersley	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Mary Foulkes	Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor John Friary	Councillor Olajumoke Oyewunmi
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Chris Page
Councillor Aubyn Graham	Councillor Andrew Pakes
Councillor James Gurling	Councillor Caroline Pidgeon
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Michelle Holford	Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Jeff Hook	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Kim Humphreys	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Helen Jardine-Brown	Councillor Mackie Sheik
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Tayo Situ
Councillor Jenny Jones	Councillor Bob Skelly
Councillor Susan Elan Jones	Councillor Robert Smeath
Councillor Jelil Ladipo	Councillor Althea Smith
Councillor Adedokun Lasaki	Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor Lorraine Lauder	Councillor Richard Thomas
Councillor Evrim Laws	Councillor Dominic Thorncroft
Councillor Richard Livingstone	Councillor Nick Vineall
Councillor Linda Manchester	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Eliza Mann	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Danny McCarthy	Councillor Anne Yates
	Councillor Lorraine Zuleta

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor made the following announcements:-

- 250 of Southwark's young athletes had gathered at the Ministry of Sound on November 9 for an awards ceremony to mark the end of the third year of the Southwark Community Games.
- Large plasma TV screens were now located around the borough at 20 locations as part of Southwark Alliance Community Television as a means of communicating with local residents and visitors.
- Southwark hosted an international conference in November aimed at connecting communities across the globe.
- Southwark Council's procurement team had won the 2006 Society Of Procurement Officers Local Government award for outstanding achievement.

The Mayor stated it was with sadness that he informed council assembly of the passing of Dave Davies, a long serving Southwark Council employee and full time trade union representative. Councillor Danny McCarthy paid tribute on behalf of the council. Thereafter, Councillor Peter John paid tribute to Helen Wentworth, another long-standing council employee who had passed away. As a mark of respect, there was a minute's silence.

1.2 NOTIFICATION OF ITMES OF BUSINESS THAT THE MAYOR DEEMED URGENT

The following papers were circulated at the meeting:-

1. Motions on item 5.1 deputation request from Southwark Education & Training Advice for Adults (SETAA).
2. Urgent Questions from:
 - Councillor Kim Humphreys
 - Councillor Peter John.
3. Revised amendment to the Gambling Act - Statement of Policy report.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

The following members disclosed interests:

Item 5.1 SETAA Deputation

Councillor Richard Livingstone declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as an employee of the Learning & Skills Council.

Item 5.2 Pensioner Forum

Councillor Ade Lasaki declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as a pensioner;
Councillor Toby Eckersley declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as a pensioner.

Item 6 Member's Questions

Councillor Danny McCarthy declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as a freedom pass holder;

Councillor Helen Jardine-Brown declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as a freedom pass holder;

Councillor David Hubber declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as a freedom pass holder.

Item 10.1 Council Housing Arrangements

As council house tenants the following members declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest - Councillors Althea Smith, Martin Seaton, Lorraine Lauder, Ola Oyewunmi, Anne Yates and Paul Baichoo;

As council leaseholders the following members declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest - Councillors Linda Manchester, Jane Salmon, Eliza Mann, Helen Jardine-Brown and Jelil Ladipo;

Councillor Richard Livingstone declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as director of Leathermarket tenants management organisation;

Councillor Kirsty McNeill declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as she serves on the Browning Estate Management Board;

Councillor Jane Salmon declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as she served on the Browning Estate Management Board;

Councillor Tayo Situ declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and took no part in the discussion or voting on the motion.

Item 10.3 Mayoral Powers

Councillor Fiona Colley declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as a Greater London Authority employee;

Councillor Jenny Jones declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as a Greater London Authority member.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle. Apologies for lateness were submitted on behalf of Councillor Kim Humphreys.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday September 13 2006 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

One public question was received for the executive member for culture, leisure and sport. The member of the public was not present. The written question and answer attached as appendix 1 was formally noted.

4. PETITIONS

There were none.

5. DEPUTATION REQUEST

5.1 DEPUTATION FROM SOUTHWARK EDUCATION & TRAINING ADVICE FOR ADULTS (SETAA) (See pages 2-3 and supplemental agenda 3, pages 1-2)

The meeting agreed to hear the deputation. Members were addressed by the deputation's spokesperson. Councillors Fiona Colley and Veronica Ward asked questions of the deputation. The Mayor thanked the deputation, which then withdrew to the public gallery.

The clerk advised that two motions without notice had been received in respect of the deputation.

Councillor David Hubber, seconded by Councillor Paul Bates, moved that council assembly procedure rules 3.10 (1) (notice of motions) and 1.16 (4) (rules of debate), be suspended in order to allow the two motions to be accepted and debated together.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

LATE MOTIONS ON THE DEPUTATION FROM SOUTHWARK EDUCATION & TRAINING ADVICE FOR ADULT (SETAA)

Councillor Fiona Colley, seconded by Councillor Barrie Hargrove, moved motion 1.

Councillor Caroline Pidgeon, seconded by Councillor Nick Stanton, moved motion 2.

Following debate (Councillors Veronica Ward, Columba Blango, Nick Stanton, Danny McCarthy and Aubyn Graham), Councillors Fiona Colley and Caroline Pidgeon exercised their right of reply.

Motion 1 was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

Motion 2 was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That council notes that Southwark adult learning service, which includes SETAA, is entirely funded from external sources, primarily the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), and that this year's grant has seen a cut of 7.5% for adult and community learning and by 5% for further education.
 2. That council further notes the huge demand for literacy, numeracy and English classes with over 200 local residents waiting for skills for life courses at the end of the last academic year, and that the LSC has strict guidelines on how their grant should be used to deliver learning.

3. That council welcomes the developing plans that will ensure that learning, as well as information and advice services, are still run out of the space at Peckham library, provided by a range of agencies including Southwark college, Southwark adult learning service, Southwark works and next steps.
4. That council requests that information on Southwark's adult education and advice services is widely publicised in the new year, to ensure that local residents who need training, whether full time, part time, or flexible 'roll on roll off' courses, or job search support such as help with CVs, job applications and interview preparation, can access the services they need.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the executive for consideration.

5.2 DEPUTATION FROM PENSIONERS FORUM (See page 3 and supplemental agenda 2, pages 3-4)

The meeting agreed to hear the deputation. Members were addressed by the deputation's spokesperson. Councillors Peter John, Paul Noblet, Columba Blango and Aubyn Graham asked questions of the deputation. The Mayor thanked the deputation, which then withdrew to the public gallery.

At this point in the proceedings Councillor Paul Bates, seconded by Councillor David Hubber, moved a procedural motion to vary the order of business to consider Motion 10.9: Older People's Manifesto. The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The debate and resolution is set out on pages 14-15.

5.3 DEPUTATION FROM NEWINGTON REFERENCE LIBRARY (See page 3 and supplemental agenda 1, pages 2-4)

The meeting agreed to hear the deputation. Members were addressed by the deputation's spokesperson. At the conclusion of their presentation the deputation handed a petition to the Mayor. Councillors Peter John, Paul Bates, Abdul Mohamed and Lorraine Zuleta asked questions of the deputation. The Mayor thanked the deputation, which then withdrew to the public gallery.

Councillor David Hubber, seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson, moved that council assembly procedure rule 3.10 (1) (deadline for receipt of motion), be suspended in order to allow a late motion on the deputation to be debated.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Councillor Paul Bates, seconded by Councillor Peter John, moved that council assembly procedure rule 1.6 (variation in order of business), be suspended in order to allow motion 10.6 to be debated.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Councillor David Hubber, seconded by Councillor Paul Bates, moved that

council assembly procedure rule 1.16 (4) (rules of debate), be suspended in order to allow the two motions to be debated together.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

MOTIONS ON THE DEPUTATION REQUEST BY NEWINGTON REFERENCE LIBRARY (See pages 140–141 and supplemental agenda 1, pages 2–4 and motion tabled at the meeting)

Councillor Kirsty McNeil, seconded by Councillor Martin Seaton, moved motion 10.6.

Councillor Lorraine Zuletta, seconded by Councillor Nick Stanton, moved the late motion.

Following debate (Councillors Peter John, David Noakes, John Friary, Richard Livingstone, Danny McCarthy, Paul Noblet and Columba Blango), Councillors Kirsty McNeill and Lorraine Zuleta exercised their right of reply.

Motion 10.6 was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

The late motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That council assembly believes that a well resourced reference library facility is vital for Southwark residents and visitors, especially students of all ages. Council assembly further believes that, whilst an excellent facility has been provided at Newington reference library, it is important to seek ways of expanding this service and to make it available to all of the residents of the borough online.
 2. That council notes plans to retain a reference library facility for the borough based at Newington library, offering improved reference services for readers throughout Southwark; a better range of newspapers and more study space at other borough libraries as requested by users.
 3. That council assembly welcomes the proposal to build a new library as part of the Elephant and Castle regeneration.
 4. That council assembly believes the Disability Discrimination Act is an excellent piece of legislation and compliance with it should be a top priority for Southwark. Council further believes that the prompt implementation of the Act is required by law and will ensure better access to library services for Southwark residents and visitors who have mobility disabilities.

5. That council assembly notes the support for the council's plans to improve Newington reference library that has been received from Southwark Disablement Association and individuals resident in the area.
6. That council assembly believes that the Newington reference library provides an incredibly popular local service, providing newspapers, magazines, computers, internet access, books and experienced reference staff, but regrets that the current space is inaccessible to people with disabilities and therefore contravenes the Disability Discrimination Act.
7. That council assembly notes the very popular community campaign to save and make accessible the Newington reference library and congratulates its organisers on their vigorous engagement with local decision-making.
8. That council assembly regrets the misrepresentation of the community campaign's aims and position by the Majority Opposition Group seeking to make political capital.
9. That council assembly notes that on two occasions the Walworth community council has expressed its firm desire to see the council explore, in full, every possible option for rendering the library accessible without significant loss of service.
10. That council assembly believes that the council has listened to users and residents through a consultation event, writing to tenants associations and by offering tours of the library to explain the current problems and the proposed solutions and taken account of their views in formulating update plans.
11. That council assembly therefore congratulates the executive on listening to local people and on maintaining and expanding the reference service whilst complying with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. Council assembly further congratulates all those involved in the consultation on helping to ensure that the best solution was arrived at.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the executive for consideration.

At 9.18 p.m. the meeting adjourned for a refreshment break, reconvening at 9.39 p.m.

6. MEMBERS QUESTIONS (See pages 6-13 and the blue paper and the yellow papers circulated at the meeting)

There were two urgent questions to the leader, the answers to which are attached as appendix 2.

Of the 53 questions submitted, members asked 29 supplementary questions. At the expiry of question time questions 40 to 53 had not been dealt with and the written responses were noted. The questions and answers are attached as appendix 3.

7. REPORTS FOR RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE

7.1 THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2016 (See pages 14-55)

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.11(1) the leader of the council, Councillor Nick Stanton, formally moved the recommendations contained in the executive's report to council assembly.

Following debate (Councillor John Friary), Councillor Nick Stanton exercised his right of reply.

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED: That the Southwark Community Strategy - Southwark 2016 (appendix I), be endorsed.

Note: The recommendations were approved without amendment. In accordance with the budget and policy framework procedure, this decision can be implemented with immediate effect.

8. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

8.1 REPORT BACK ON MOTIONS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY (See pages 56-59)

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

9. OTHER REPORTS

9.1 GAMBLING ACT 2005 – STATEMENT OF GAMBLING LICENSING POLICY (See pages 61-133 and supplemental agenda no. 4)

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.11(1) the chair of licensing committee, Councillor Linda Manchester, formally moved the recommendations contained in the report to council assembly.

Councillor Jeff Hook requested that a revision be made to Amendment A; the revision would have the effect of deleting the last line of the amendment as follows:

“Notes that no casino can be opened in Southwark unless the council has amended this gambling policy.”

The request was put to the vote and council assembly consented to the alteration.

Councillor Jeff Hook, seconded by Councillor David Hubber, moved revised Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillor Dominic Thorncroft), revised Amendment A was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the draft statement of gambling licensing policy set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved;
 2. That the Local Safeguarding Children Board be confirmed as the body that is competent to advise the authority on protection of children from harm issues for the purposes of the Gambling Act 2005;
 3. That it be noted that any revision of this policy that may be necessary following the release of further Gambling Commission guidance, secondary regulations and codes of practice will be reported back to the assembly;
 4. That it be noted that a mid-term review of this policy will be conducted after six months experience of administering this new responsibility in March 2008;
 5. That it be noted that the council did not apply to be considered as one of the first round of 17 national casino licenses; and,
 6. That officers be instructed to report to the council assembly if the government invites applications for further casino licences so that a full report on the impact of a no casinos resolution can be considered at that point.

10. MOTIONS

10.1 MOTION 1 – COUNCIL HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS (See page 135)

Following a declaration of a personal and prejudicial interest at the beginning of the meeting, Councillor Tayo Situ was not present for the discussion and voting on this item.

Councillor Tim McNally, seconded by Councillor Nick Stanton, moved the motion.

Councillor Andrew Pakes, seconded by Councillor Althea Smith, moved Amendment B.

Following debate (Councillors John Friary, Danny McCarthy and Kim Humphreys), Amendment B was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That council assembly notes the improvements made in the housing service since 2002 including:
 - (a) Better cleaning and grounds maintenance on estates;
 - (b) The welcome introduction of Southwark Homesearch to make the housing allocation process fairer and more transparent;
 - (c) Strengthening the tenancy agreement to increase the council's powers to tackle nuisance neighbours;
 - (d) Ensuring that leaseholders are charged in a more transparent way;
 - (e) Reducing rent arrears by over £10 million and sorting out the housing benefit system.

 2. That council assembly deplores the fact that:
 - (a) The government's decent homes policy is a constraint on improving safety and security on housing estates and other improvements desired by residents;
 - (b) Government policy is heavily weighted in favour of councils transferring their landlord function to registered social landlords (RSLs) or arms length management organisations (ALMOs);
 - (c) The new administration in Lambeth is seeking to impose an ALMO on tenants contrary to their manifesto promises and at great expense to the taxpayer.

 3. That council assembly welcomes:
 - (a) Southwark council's commitment not to impose a stock transfer or ALMO on tenants;
 - (b) The attention being given by the executive to the award of new repair and maintenance contracts to improve the service given under the administration before 2002;
 - (c) The establishment of an independent Citizens Advice Bureau advice service for leaseholders and the new leaseholders' handbook;
 - (d) Changes in the management structure of the housing service to create a more customer-focussed culture and looks forward to the ratification of these changes by the executive at the appropriate time.

10.2 MOTION 2 – SOUTHWARK BUILDING SERVICES (See pages 136-137 & supplementary no. 2 pages 2-3)

The motion was ruled out of order.

10.3 MOTION 3 – MAYORAL POWERS (See page 137)

Councillor Toby Eckersley, seconded by Councillor Caroline Pidgeon, moved motion 3.

Councillor Gordon Nardell, seconded by Councillor Barrie Hargrove, moved Amendment C.

Following debate (Councillors Peter John and Dominic Thorncroft), Amendment C was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED: That council assembly welcomes the debate on the proposals for changes to the GLA's powers. However, this council strongly believes that in most cases, the borough is the most effective level to deliver for the people of Southwark:

1. Council assembly firmly believes in the fundamental principle of subsidiarity and sees the current review and consultation as a chance to redress the balance of power in favour of the community in line with the new Department of Communities and Local Government white paper. There is a wide scope for further devolution of power from Government Office of London, Whitehall and the various quangos to more relevant bodies rather than from the boroughs up to the Mayor. Indeed, the Greater London Assembly's principles behind their response to the original Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) consultation state that the Greater London Assembly believes in "devolution of powers from central government not extraction of powers from local government...The Assembly does not support the extraction of powers from Local Authorities upwards".
2. Council assembly notes that a recent GfK NOP survey found that only 27% of Londoners supported the proposals to give the Mayor further powers over planning and that 75% believed that their local council should be responsible for planning in their area. Council is concerned over the proposals to give the Mayor a greater say in the planning process, including the ability to approve applications in line with the strategic direction. This would go against the wishes of the residents of the London Borough of Southwark and takes the decision making process further away from the community.

3. Council assembly is also concerned by the proposals over housing policy which will concentrate more power and turn housing policy towards the focus of the Mayor, rather than in the best interests of the borough's residents. The responsibilities of the London Housing Board would pass to the Mayor and any funding would be linked to his strategic priorities. This will remove local housing strategies from the funding process in favour of the strategic development areas such as The Thames Gateway and Ashford which do not address the needs of the people of the London Borough of Southwark, as well as Londoners, where they actually want the affordable housing.

Council assembly calls on the executive to use all available power and influence to lobby relevant parties to stop the contentious extension of powers and engage with all the interested groups, to find a way of working together and creating a system that is in the best interests of the residents of the London Borough of Southwark.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the executive for consideration.

10.4 MOTION 4 – BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORMER COUNCIL OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS (See pages 138-139 & supplemental agenda no. 1 pages 1-2)

Councillor Jenny Jones, seconded by Councillor Peter John, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillor Richard Thomas), Councillor Jenny Jones exercised her right of reply.

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

10.5 MOTION 5 – POLICE STATIONS UNDER THREAT (See pages 139-140 & supplemental agenda no. 2 pages 3-5)

Councillor Jonathan Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson, moved the motion.

Councillor Fiona Colley, seconded by Councillor John Friary, moved Amendment D.

Amendment D was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED: 1. That this council believes that publicly accessible and visible police stations perform a critical role in tackling crime and fear of crime, particularly in providing public reassurance and enabling the reporting of crime.

2. That this council notes comments from the borough commander that:

“Metropolitan police service building stock is out of date and not fit for purpose. The vision is to build patrol sites and custody centres across London. However, these need to be financed and the only realistic way of doing so is to sell some existing premises”.
3. That council further notes reports that East Dulwich, Camberwell and Rotherhithe police stations are three stations likely to be threatened.
4. That council believes that 'safer neighbourhood bases' should be used to supplement existing police station provision - not as a second rate substitute for existing police stations.
5. That council reaffirms its commitment to a working police station in East Dulwich, Camberwell and Rotherhithe, preferably open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
6. That council asks the officers to work with the police and other enforcement officers to explore ways of making East Dulwich, Camberwell and Rotherhithe Police Stations more viable by using them in a number of both practical and imaginative ways:
 - (i) to use them as bases, not just for the local dedicated police teams, but also for the council-run community wardens scheme, the enforcement officers, the crime prevention teams and others;
 - (ii) for use by the public to report crime or other useful information so that officers can respond more effectively within the community they serve.
7. That council asks the leader and executive member for community safety to write to the borough commander and commissioner, setting out council's view and asking them to reconsider any plans to close East Dulwich, Camberwell and Rotherhithe police stations.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the executive for consideration.

10.6 MOTION 6 – NEWINGTON REFERENCE LIBRARY (See pages 140-141 & supplemental agenda no. 1 pages 2-4)

This motion was dealt with earlier (see pages 5-7).

10.7 MOTION 7– ROLL OF HONOUR (See page 141 & supplemental agenda no. 1 pages 4-5)

Councillor Danny McCarthy, seconded by Councillor Paul Bates, formally moved the motion.

Councillor Jonathan Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Lisa Rajan, formally moved Amendment E.

Amendment E was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That following requests to have a roll of honour of past councillors, council agrees to have a roll of honour.
 2. That council therefore calls upon officers to prepare a report for the executive setting out the various options and seeking funding

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the executive for consideration.

10.8 MOTION 8 – VIOLENT CRIME STRATEGY (See page 142 & supplemental agenda no. 2 pages 5-7)

The motion was deferred until the next meeting.

10.9 MOTION 9 – OLDER PEOPLE’S MANIFESTO (See page 143)

Councillor Aubyn Graham, seconded by Councillor Lorraine Lauder, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillor Denise Capstick, John Friary, Veronica Ward and Toby Eckersley), Councillor Aubyn Graham exercised his right of reply.

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That council assembly welcomes the valuable contributions being made by Southwark Pensioner’s Forum in engaging older people and improving services provided by Southwark council and other health care providers in the area. Council assembly congratulates the forum on the publication of the Manifesto for Older People.

2. That council assembly calls up on the executive member for health and adult care to give her commitment to incorporate the Forum's manifesto recommendations into the council's policies and asks that officers bring back a report to council assembly as quickly as possible on how these will be implemented.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the executive for consideration.

11. LATE MOTION – BICENTENARY OF THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE
(See supplemental agendas nos. 1 & 2 pages 7-7 & 8-9)

Councillor Paul Bates, seconded by Councillor Peter John, moved that council assembly procedure rule 3.10 (1) (deadline for receipt of motion), be suspended in order to allow a late motion to be debated.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Councillor Althea Smith, seconded by Councillor David Hubber, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillors Susan Elan Jones, Ian Wingfield, Abdul Mohammed, Anne Yates and Columba Blango), the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That council assembly notes that:
 - (a) March 25 2007 will mark the 200th year of the abolition of the slave trade by an Act of Parliament in the then British Empire. This was achieved by activists both black and white people, such as Olaudah Equiano, a former slave and William Wilberforce, MP for Hull, all working together towards a common goal; and,
 - (b) Mindful of the significance of the transatlantic slave trade to many Southwark residents, many of whom can trace their ancestry to victims of this inhuman trade, Southwark should be at the forefront of celebrating and commemorating this historic occasion.
 2. That the executive urgently convene a cross-party working group of members, faith groups, community and voluntary groups and council officers to work up a plan for a year long series of events to commemorate this occasion.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the executive for consideration.

The meeting closed at 11.49 a.m.

MAYOR:

DATED: