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A1. SOUTHWARK: POPULATION AND ECONOMY

A1.1 In the last ten years Southwark has experienced a lot of change. To identify how Southwark might be characterised in another ten years we asked an external agency, Cambridge Econometrics with SQW, to provide an analysis of the present and future population, economic and social trends. The information, which is available in the Southwark Futures digest, examined the implications of different rates of population growth and of different possible scenarios about how the economy and public investment might change.

Southwark's population 2006

A1.2 Southwark is a dynamic and diverse borough. Our population has been growing at a faster rate than the national average, and reached 257,700 in 2005. Our population is getting younger, with just over 60,000 children and young people. About 36,000 people are aged over 60. We have 106,000 separate households, with more cohabiting and lone parent households than the London average. We estimate that in Southwark those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender are greater than the national estimate of 6%. Around 38,000 people in the 2001 census described themselves as having a disability or life limiting illness.

A1.3 Southwark has always been a borough with high in and out migration, as well as people moving within the borough. At the time of the 2001 Census, about 30,000 people had lived elsewhere in the previous twelve months, of whom 25,000 arrived from somewhere else in the UK. Some schools report that up to 30% of pupils taking Key Stage 2 tests joined the school other than in reception year. Throughout history, Southwark has been a place of refuge for asylum seekers and refugees, with an estimated 16,000 making their home here in the last few years.

A1.4 The overwhelming characteristic of our population is its diversity. While 37% of residents are categorised in the census as coming from black and ethnic minority backgrounds, this terminology is increasingly unhelpful. We are home to Asian, black and white British communities. People from across the African continent comprise 16% of our population. We have communities with Caribbean and Irish origins, those who are settled Travellers, people from Latin America and Eastern Europe. We are home to Turkish, Vietnamese and many others.

A1.5 People have brought with them their languages and cultures, their international connections and their faiths. The 2001 census indicated that 66% of the population identified themselves as having a Christian affiliation, from many different traditions. Just over 28% said they were of no faith. Seven percent identified as Muslim, and we have people of other faiths including Bahai, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Rastafarian and Sikhism

How our population may change

A1.6 All the evidence indicates that as with other parts of London, Southwark's population will continue to grow so that by 2016 it could be between 286,000 and 301,000. That means anything from another 14,000 to 20,000 households than in 2001 who will need somewhere to live. This growth will be mainly of working age people, both single adults and families with children. Managing this additional demand for housing for people of all income ranges, together with tackling the housing needs of our current population, will be one of our biggest challenges.

A1.7 Our ethnic diversity will continue to increase. By 2016 around 43% of the population is expected to be from black and ethnic minority backgrounds, with many different faiths and cultures. This diversity offers businesses and communities a window to understanding how the world is changing, an asset that can be nurtured to benefit everyone.

Social and economic context 2006

A1.8 Southwark is usually described as a deprived borough. Like many inner city areas the statistics show we have our share of deprivation and inequality. But for many who either live or work here that is only part of the picture. The programme of social and physical regeneration over the last ten years has contributed to people feeling more confident about Southwark as a place to live, visit or do business in and more optimistic for the future.

A1.9 Nevertheless, many challenges remain. Southwark's population ranges from those who enjoy significant affluence to those in severe poverty. Using data from the 2001 Census, we are classed as the 17th most deprived borough in the country. Southwark is becoming more socially and geographically divided. The north of the borough, connected to the central London economy, has seen increased population, more employment opportunities in high skilled jobs and larger businesses, and greater owner-occupation. The centre of the borough has a concentration of small businesses, greater ethnic diversity, more social housing and many people on relatively low incomes. The south of the borough is mainly suburban and residential, with less diversity, most people on above average earnings, but with pockets of deprivation associated with social housing.

How our economy may change

A1.10 Southwark's projected population growth is linked to London's global position as a financial, tourist and cultural centre. It is difficult to predict how the world economy may fare over the next ten years, or how, for example, shifts in energy prices and geo-political developments could impact on London. We cannot influence these things directly. We can aim to harness London's prosperity for the benefit of our citizens, as we have been doing. We can focus on ensuring that more of our citizens have the skills to benefit from whatever opportunities come along, and the resilience to handle change.

A1.11 Our best evidence at the moment is that both London's and Southwark's economies will continue to grow. The main growth could be in the better paying jobs that will need people with creative, interpersonal and flexible skills, together with technological literacy. The demand for service sector jobs in tourism, public sector, and transport may remain more static. So for Southwark citizens, investment in children's education and adult skills will be vital to secure economic wellbeing.

A1.12 The north of the borough is likely to continue as a place where multi-national and other larger businesses want to have prestige buildings. Elsewhere in the borough, our proximity to central London makes us an ideal location for small specialist businesses to start-up. The Southwark Futures analysis also highlighted that how well we can benefit from London's economy is significantly bound up with transport. Despite the potential of the Internet to encourage home-based working, many businesses and services will still need people to travel between home and

workplaces. The level of investment from central and regional government in transport infrastructure will have a major impact on the borough. We already have plans to sort out the Elephant and Castle interchange, and the potential for the tram and East London Line to open up Peckham and Walworth. To spread both economic benefits and new housing, the transport needs of Camberwell, south and southeast Southwark will also need to be addressed.

The quality of life 2006

A1.13 Over the last 10 years, improving people's life chances has been a priority. We have had some notable successes. For pupils achieving 5+ A*-C we have been closing the gap on the national average. At all key stages, pupils from African backgrounds exceeded the borough average. The proportion of the population who are employed in professional, managerial and technical occupations is above the national average. Life expectancy for women has improved and is close to the national rate. Rates of residential burglary and vehicle crime have gone down, and 89% of people now feel safe going out in the day. Encouragingly, after dark, those who feel safe have also increased.

A1.14 But for many people, inequality in their life chances remains acute. Educational achievement at Key Stage 2 is significantly below the national target. By the end of compulsory schooling, the GCSE achievements of both white British and African-Caribbean boys are well below the Southwark and national averages. We have a 10% gap in the numbers of people of working age (16-74) in Southwark who are in employment compared to the national average. In that age group, 65% have no or first level NVO qualifications, rising to over 80% for people of Bangladeshi and Black Caribbean origin.

A1.15 We have very high rates of teenage conceptions and sexually transmitted infections. Male life expectancy is well below the national average, although the gap is starting to close. Youth involvement as both victims and perpetrators of crime remains worryingly high, and although falling, violent crime remains a concern. 39% of local authority homes and 40% of private rented properties do not yet meet the decent homes standard

A1.16 This picture of mixed fortunes - of real progress and serious disadvantage - sets our baseline for Southwark 2016.

Our choices about the future

A1.17 Overall, starting from Southwark as it is now, and taking account of the projected population and economic trends, the Southwark Futures analysis gave us a picture of how Southwark might evolve over the next ten years. In doing so, it identified the public policy dilemmas and choices that this Southwark 2016 Plan seeks to address.

A1.18 One scenario suggested that we might expect to see Southwark consolidate into three zones. In the London context, they reflect the 'traditional' rings around the central business core. In the north of the borough, we could expect a continued pressure from business and cultural industries, with ongoing demand for higher cost private housing and associated leisure and retail facilities. The population would be mobile and mainly young adults.

A1.19 In the centre, we could continue to alleviate the least desirable aspects of living in a low-income area. With the high concentrations of social housing, those who prosper might move out, and new generations of citizens with high needs then take their place. The local purchasing power may only be sufficient to sustain a limited range of businesses and services.

A1.20 In the south, the area might become even further set apart from the rest of the borough. The population would be stable and ageing, offering a good quality of life for those who can afford it. If this scenario happened, by 2016 we might anticipate greater social and economic polarisation, greater community tension, and geographical divides that could all undermine people's optimism about their future.

A1.21 Throughout the consultation on Southwark 2016, this scenario of three zones found little favour. To achieve different outcomes, we have to continue with a robust policy of intervention and influence, to help shape the changes to benefit all of Southwark's residents and businesses.

The national context for change

A1.22 Southwark's future will be affected by global, national and regional economic trends. It will also be affected by the policies of central and regional government.

A1.23 Much of central government policy has a five to ten year timescale. Many of those policies are designed for areas like Southwark, where gaps in inequality have been longstanding and the scale of intervention is high. This central government framework is increasingly focused on three inter-locking perspectives.

A1.24 One is a focus on integrated approaches to meeting the needs of particular populations or communities of interest – children and young people, and older people. We have identified that the continuing fragmentation of services for people of working age is also an issue which we need to address. The second government focus is on integrated approaches to how services are delivered at locality and neighbourhood level – with a focus on what is termed 'double devolution'. This aims to bring services closer to communities and give them a greater say over how they are run.

A1.25 The third focus is on ensuring that public sector services improve people's quality of life – in relation to community safety, education, health, housing, liveability and worklessness. The Local Area Agreement from 2007 -2010 will cement the contract between government and the partners in Southwark Alliance to create better outcomes for people.

The regional context for change

A1.26 Because Southwark is part of London, we have a second tier of policies and organisations that impact on what we do and how we do it. The big regional developments of the Thames Gateway and the Olympics in East London will form a backdrop to our journey to 2016. The Mayor's London Plan sets the framework for the use of land, housing densities and economic development across the capital. It provides the parameters for how Southwark can manage physical development and our local planning powers. The investment priorities of the London Development Agency and Transport for London are crucial to our economic well-being.

A1.27 For jobs and skills, the leading agencies of Department for Work and Pensions and the Learning and Skills Council have a regional remit. The SE London Housing Partnership is beginning to tackle London's housing problems across the sub-region. Waste recycling is more efficiently done collaboratively. The Southwark Primary Care Trust joins with Lambeth and Lewisham to commission specialist health services. The London Challenge has brought schools together across a number of boroughs to exchange ideas about improving achievement. The Safer Southwark Partnership has close day-to-day working arrangements with neighbouring boroughs, so that effective crime prevention in one place does not simply result in displacement elsewhere.

A1.28 As part of Southwark 2016, our aim is to harness the power and resources of these other bodies to contribute to our ambitions and priorities.

A2. SOUTHWARK 2016 CONSULTATION

A2.1 The vision, ambitions and priorities set out in Southwark 2016 are the result of a wide-ranging debate that took place between April 2005 and March 2006. The choices and challenges we face will only be tackled effectively if there is an understanding across all partner agencies and within and between communities about what needs to be done, and as broad a consensus as possible about how change should go forward. In the process of developing the plan, our aim was for as many organisations and individuals as possible to have the opportunity to give their views and influence the final content.

The stages of formulating the Southwark 2016 Plan

A2.2 We adopted a staged approach to preparing this Southwark 2016 Plan, which has enabled us to test ideas with stakeholders at both an early stage and as our proposals became more focused.

January – April 2005	Preparation of the Southwark Futures Population Digest Preparation of 9 Topic Papers on issues affecting Southwark's future
April – August 2005	Public consultation on the Topic Papers Analysis of feedback to identify the key issues and priorities
August – October 2005	Preparation of draft Southwark 2016 Plan
November – February 2006	Public consultation on draft Southwark 2016 Plan
March – May 2006	Analysis of feedback Preparation of final draft Southwark 2016 Plan for sign-off by partners and Southwark Alliance

The consultation process

A2.3 We aimed to involve as many different stakeholders as possible, using a variety of methods.

Consultation format	Topic papers	Draft Southwark 2016 Plan
Summary document for general circulation	Yes	Yes
Adverts on buses	-	Yes
Email questionnaire and feedback for individuals	Yes	Yes
'Vox' pop interviews with local residents in shopping centres	-	Yes
Presentations/information to area Community Councils	Yes	Yes
Focus groups with excluded communities including second language communities	Yes	Yes

Discussions at Voluntary Sector conference & forum	Yes	Yes
Focus group with young people facilitated by Southwark Children and Families Alliance	Yes	Yes
Discussions at key community of interest forums, including BME, disabilities, LBGT and older people	Yes	Yes
Presentation to business breakfast (topic papers) and written feedback from business (draft)	Yes	Yes
Presentations and discussions at all the thematic partnership boards	Yes	Yes
Presentations to Boards of area-based regeneration/renewal partnerships	Yes	Yes
Presentations to the Executive and management boards of main agencies	Yes	Yes
Southwark Council Over-view and Scrutiny Committee and thematic Scrutiny Sub-Committees	Yes	Yes
Written feedback from regional agencies	Yes	Yes
Written feedback from local voluntary organisations	Yes	Yes

What people told us

A2.4 The key message people have told us is that citizens should be at the heart of everything we do. Equipping our children, young people and adults with the knowledge and skills to achieve economic prosperity is essential. With prosperity comes better health, the opportunity to enjoy leisure, and a reduction in the circumstances that fuel crime, community tension and anti-social behaviour. They have asked us to recognise that our diversity is an asset, bringing a wealth of skills, global connections and experiences of living through and thriving in a context of change.

A 2.5 What people have also said is that Southwark should be a place of localities. People identify with their own part of the borough and want to be proud of where they live or work. They have asked that we strengthen the 'unique' character of those localities. They want us to tackle the geographical and economic polarisation, and to reduce the likelihood of Southwark ending up as a 'three zone' borough.

A 2.6 People have asked us to find creative ways of squaring the dilemma of how best to improve existing social housing and meet new housing demand, while protecting open space. They want us to offer affordable private sector options, and create mixed socio-economic and ethnic communities across our localities. They have asked us to do more to assist the small businesses that characterise our shopping centres. They particularly emphasised that we need to give more attention to climate change and energy efficiency.

A2.7 Finally, while looking to the future, people have stressed the importance of the here and now. They want improvements in the way public services are run and a greater sensitivity in meeting the needs of a diverse community. They want their immediate concerns about low educational achievement, levels of crime, poor health, overcrowded housing, and uninviting streets and open spaces dealt with more quickly. And they want to ensure that in delivering the major

regeneration programmes, we recognise the upheaval facing individuals and communities and seek to work with them to mitigate their effects.

A2.8 All of these issues have helped shape the ambitions and priorities of the Southwark 2016 Plan. We do not under-estimate the challenge of meeting these ambitions. We know that over the next ten years there will be times when there will be differences of view about how to achieve these changes – differences between communities and public agencies, and between our different communities and community-based organisations. Our aim is to build on the understanding and commitments generated through the consultation on Southwark 2016, so that future decision-making on policy and priorities is seen to be in the interests of the whole community.

A 2.9 The detailed feedback on both the Topic Papers and the draft Southwark 2016 Plan has been published separately and is available on the Southwark Alliance website (www.southwarkalliance.org.uk).

A3. LINKED STRATEGIES AND PLAN

The following documents set out the detailed strategies, actions and targets that contribute to our Southwark 2016 ambitions and priorities. These will be updated from time to time.

Children and Young People's Plan 2006/7 – 2008/9
Crime and Drugs Strategy 2005-2008
Cultural Strategy: Southwark @ the Centre
Education Vision and Strategy
Employment Strategy
Enterprise Strategy 2005-2016
Housing Strategy 2005 –2010
Informed, Active and Responsible Citizens Action Plan 2005-2008
Local Area Agreement 2007 – 2010 (in development)
Local Implementation Plan for Transport
Older People's Strategy
Planning Health and Social Care Local Delivery Plan 2005-2008
Southwark Futures Data Digest 2005
Southwark 2016: Phase 1 & 2 Consultation Reports
Southwark Plan (Unitary Development Plan)
Sustainability Policy Statement (in development)

These documents can be found at: www.southwarkalliance.org.uk/