



**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY  
ORDINARY MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6 2006**

**SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA No. 2**

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**NOTE:** Please note that the above reports have not been circulated seven clear working days in advance of the meeting (council procedure rule 1.2 (1)). Therefore, in accordance with access to information procedure rule (5), the Mayor will be asked to accept the items as late and urgent.

Circulated: Friday, December 1 2006

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<b>Item No.</b> 5.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> December 6 2006	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Deputation requests	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Chief Executive (Acting Borough Solicitor)	

**Deputation request from the Southwark Education & Training Advice for Adults (SETAA) Learning Centre at Peckham Library**

1. The deputation request from the Southwark Education & Training Advice for Adults Learning Centre at Peckham Library states:

“SETAA ... is based on the second floor of Peckham Library. The service has been providing advice and support on all matters of education, training and employment for local people aged 19 plus for over 20 years and has also provided IT open learning since moving to the library in 2000.

“ ... However, the [Learning and Skills Council] LSC has made it clear to us that it is a Council decision to close SETAA, not the LSC's.

“We ... ask you to seriously think again about closing down SETAA and its valuable services and to make sure that a proper evaluation is made of services provided and the effect of the proposed closure on borough residents, before any decision to close SETAA is put into effect”.

**Comments of the director of education**

To follow

<b>Item No.</b> 10.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> December 6 2006	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Motions	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Chief Executive (Acting Borough Solicitor)	

**2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW PAKES** (seconded by Councillor Alison McGovern)

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

**Southwark Building Services**

Council assembly notes the report to the special executive on October 5, which proposed to give all three contracts for housing building repairs in Southwark to two private companies.

Council assembly notes that the decision on this report was suddenly deferred at the special executive called specifically to discuss it on the grounds of insufficient information being available about one of these companies.

Council assembly notes the proud history of Southwark direct building services in training and recruiting local young people. Council assembly further notes that the proposed new contracts impose no enforceable obligation on the contractors to provide a similar benefit to Southwark residents.

Council assembly believes that the impact of the collapse of the previous private contractors, Botes, has never been publicly outlined, nor have any public lessons been learned. Council assembly further notes that after the collapse of Botes the in-house Southwark building services were able to take on many of their unfulfilled tasks.

Council assembly believes that to award the contracts to the recommended contractors would mean the abolition of Southwark direct building services.

Council assembly believes that since the aborted special executive there has been no indication of when these decisions might be taken, or indeed if any of the legitimate concerns raised by the staff unions, tenant and resident's associations (TRAs) and members had been listened to. There has been little or no communication on this issue at all.

Council assembly believes that without an existing in-house service the risks associated with another contractor collapsing would be disastrous. Council assembly urges the council to take full account of the very real benefits of maintaining an in-house service as this process now moves forward.

Council assembly also calls upon the executive to ensure that there are real and enforceable targets for apprenticeships and local recruitment for all the contractors concerned.

Council assembly believes that residents and the council would be best served if the services of Southwark building services are retained.

Council assembly condemns the executive member for housing for creating months of uncertainty through his mismanagement of this bidding process and for the lack of communication and clarity he has demonstrated with members, staff or tenant's and resident's representatives.

### **Comments of the Strategic Director of Environment & Leisure**

The council is advised not to proceed with the motion.

Council cannot deal with the issue of Southwark Building Services in the way that the motion proposes because the council might be found to be in breach of procurement legislation.

There has been a clear process set in motion by the chief executive and a report with a specific recommendation is to be presented to the executive on December 12 2006. That proposal if agreed will set in motion a consultation exercise with tenants and leaseholders and that is the correct way to deal with this current situation.

That decision is of course subject to call-in and scrutiny.

Clearly, improving service delivery is the most necessary issue and as such despite the regrettable and unavoidable delay in determining the next steps a range of measures will be implemented over the coming months to achieve this.

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

### **5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL (seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson)**

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

#### **Police Stations Under Threat**

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.

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”.

Council further notes reports that East Dulwich, Camberwell and Rotherhithe police stations are three stations likely to be threatened.

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.

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.

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:

1. 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;
2. for use by the public to report crime or other useful information so that officers can respond more effectively within the community they serve.

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.

### **Comments of the Strategic Director Environment & Leisure**

The council recognises the importance of providing practical and accessible facilities to residents in relation to local police and other visible reassurance teams such as the warden service. The council are already working in partnership with the police to identify and provide local facilities across the borough where the public can report crime or other useful information so that officers can respond quickly and effectively to the community they serve.

The council wants to ensure that there are highly visible and accessible police facilities across the borough. And so, during the roll out of the safer neighbourhood programme, expects that consideration will be given to co-locating services such as the wardens' schemes and other visible front line enforcement services with the safer neighbourhood teams.

In response to the council's views, the police borough commander has already agreed that there will be local consultation on where the safer neighbourhood team bases should be and the most effective services that are located within them.

The council will be working with other partner bodies such as the Southwark Police Community Consultative Group in lobbying the MPA (Metropolitan Police Authority) for these services and have also agreed with the borough commander that proposals will be taken to the executive for consideration.

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

**8. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD** (seconded by Councillor John Friary)

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

**Violent Crime Strategy**

Council notes the research carried out by Victim Support London that states Southwark has the highest level of gun crime in London and the annual performance report of the Safer Southwark partnership which ranks Southwark second worst amongst comparable boroughs in London for violent crime.

Council notes the recent serious violent events in East Walworth and Camberwell Green and notes that these two Southwark wards are ranked in the worst five in London for such crime.

Council welcomes the delivery of neighbourhood policing teams and the work that the police, police community safety officers (PCSOs) and others do in tackling crime in Southwark.

Council notes the contribution of lawful and well-managed bars and clubs to the life and economy of Southwark.

Council notes the lack of a published violent crime strategy, despite the need for this being identified in the 2002-2005 and 2005-2008 crime and drugs strategies for Southwark.

Council believes it is time that this issue was taken seriously and therefore council assembly calls upon the Safer Southwark Partnership to make publishing this strategy a priority.

Council believes practical measures are needed to deal with violent crime in Southwark. Council assembly calls upon the executive member for community safety to develop an action plan to target crime hot spots areas in Southwark with extra council and police resources including better street lighting, more PCSOs, safer by design programmes for all Decent Homes works and improved and extended CCTV coverage.

Council assembly also calls for stricter control on nightclub, planning and licensing applications and firmer action on badly managed clubs and pubs. Council assembly supports residents who exercise their power to call for the review of licenses under the new licensing act, and welcomes their having the power to do so.

Council supports efforts to lobby government, the Metropolitan Police Authority and other local agencies to target resources in Southwark's crime hot spots.

Council calls for a report on these practical measures to be brought to the executive within three months.

## **Comments of the Strategic Director of Environment & Leisure**

Southwark Council and the Safer Southwark Partnership (SSP) take very seriously the need to tackle violent crime and in particular gang and gun related crime. The SSP has put a number of activities in place that are beginning to make a real difference and from April to September 2006, compared to the same period last year, we have seen a:

- 9% reduction in overall violent crime (from 6,584 to 6,021 crimes)
- 25% reduction in ABH (actual bodily harm) and GBH (grievous bodily harm)
- 17% reduction in personal robbery
- 19% reduction in knife crime

The council welcomes the Victim Support London report on the experience of gun crime in London. This reports highlights the valuable contribution of violent crime projects that are taking place in three boroughs including Southwark. The Victim Support Southwark project targets vulnerable young adults aged 19-30 years and has an outreach service working with Kings accident and emergency department.

Persuading young people that they should not take up gang and gun related activities forms the core of some targeted schools programmes including:

- The YOT gangs prevention programme
- Anti violence council about to be established in two secondary schools
- From Boyhood to Manhood have developed a programme in conjunction with the GLA "Calling the shots" which is also available for schools

The SSP crime and drugs strategy identifies that tackling violent crime is a priority and the performance review and annual update re-emphasised that this remains the priority.

The SSP produced a draft violent crime strategy in September 2005. This was presented to the partnership board. The board discussed the strategy and agreed that a more productive approach was to establish a delivery action plan focusing on early identification, early prevention, medium term prevention with intensive support and enforcement. The action plan has been a core focus for the partnership and our consistent reductions in violent crime since the autumn of 2005, demonstrates our partnership success

The Safer Southwark Partnership set up the partnership operations group in July 2005, with a focus on violent crime. Currently 18 agencies, including the voluntary sector meet every two weeks to direct operational resources from the council and its partner agencies to areas where they are most needed.

The Council, over the last few years, has carried out a number of programmes to upgrade street lighting linked to fear of crime and residents'

concerns. Within the council's current capital programme, a sum of money has been allocated for further upgrading of sub standard street lighting borough wide.

Currently we have 16 deployable cameras, which are deployed across the borough to deal with crime hot spots. These cameras are viewed and recorded at the CCTV control room. As part of the delegated powers for moving traffic violations, we are in the process of up grading the infrastructure to accommodate an additional 10 deployable cameras thus enhancing the resources. These will be used for moving traffic violations (which have a direct link to crime in relation to persistent offenders, and un-licensed vehicles) and also will be used for deployment to identified crime hot spots.

The council takes firm action against problematic clubs, pubs and off licences, both in response to criminal incidents and as a programme of planned action. Since the Licensing Act came into force in November 2005, there have been seven reviews of premises licences; four of which related to nightclub-type premises. Action taken has included reduction in trading hours, additional conditions attached to licenses; suspension of premises license and two nightclubs have had their premises licences revoked.

Under the terms of the licensing Act, the council can't impose additional conditions on unopposed applications and providing those applications meet the mandatory conditions of the licensing act, applications will be automatically granted. The council therefore welcomes representations from the public where there are concerns about licensed premises, as these allow us to impose additional conditions as long as they meet the four licensing objectives:

- the prevention of crime and disorder
- public safety
- the prevention of public nuisance
- the protection of children from harm.

**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

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager
<b>Report Author</b>	Cameron MacLean, Constitutional Officer
<b>Version</b>	Final
<b>Dated</b>	1.12.06



<b>Item No.</b> 11.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> December 6 2006	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Late Motion - Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Chief Executive (Acting Borough Solicitor)	

**Notes:**

1. The motion below was received after the deadline for receipt of members' motions on notice. A procedural motion will need to be moved and seconded at the meeting to allow for council assembly procedure rule 3.10 (1) (deadline for receipt of members' motions), to be waived in order for the motion to be debated.
2. If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the executive for consideration.

**Moved:** Councillor Althea Smith

**Seconded:** Councillors: Tayo Situ

**Late Motion - Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade**

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.

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.

Therefore council assembly requests the executive to:-

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 yearlong series of events to commemorate this occasion.

**Reason for urgency**

The motion is time sensitive in that members are requesting that an all-party group be established as urgently as possible to begin work on commemorative events to mark this important event. Delaying this to a future council assembly would impede that work.

**Comments of the Interim Assistant Chief Executive**

Southwark is a cohesive borough rich in diversity and it is important that Southwark Council is planning to mark this anniversary with a full programme of projects and events to be held between March and November 2007. There are already a

number of events and projects that will take place in the borough that are well developed including performance, exhibitions and workshops that will involve the local community. Further ideas are being developed and will form part of bids to funders including the Heritage Lottery Fund so that the Council's contribution brings additional funding in from outside to make it a bigger and better event.

A Working Group of Officers across the Council has met to develop the programme of faith events and one of these meetings was attended by Councillor Althea Smith.

The Council will also be offering support and advice to local community organisations who are planning their own events and let them know how to get involved in the borough wide activities.

Getting as active an involvement as possible from local community organisations is a key part of the success of the commemoration and there will be a Community meeting on the 11th December to be chaired by Councillor Blango. This will give people more information on what is going on and encourage more involvement and participation. As with Black History Month this significant programme of events will see the council working in partnership with local community organisations who will be part of the Working Group steering Southwark's events for the year.