



**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
ORDINARY MEETING**

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA No. 4

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**ITEM 9.1 GAMBLING ACT 2005 – THE STATEMENT OF GAMBLING
LICENSING POLICY (see pages 61 - 133)**

AMENDMENT A

Moved: Councillor Jeff Hook
Seconded: Councillor David Hubber

Insert new recommendations:

Notes that the council did not apply to be considered as one of the first round of 17 national casino licenses;

Instructs officers 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;

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

AMENDMENT B

Moved: Councillor Andrew Pakes
Seconded: Councillor Althea Smith

Paragraph 1

In line 1: **Delete** “improvements” and **replace** with “changes”

Add:

(c) [after neighbours]”... and looks forward to action being taken to enforce these as soon as possible.”

f) That housing benefit overpayments are projected to amount to nearly £8 million this year alone, over £1.2 million over the target.

Insert new paragraph:

Council further notes that the MORI opinion poll of users of council housing makes clear that there has been no increase at all in residents’ satisfaction with council housing in Southwark, and that satisfaction is only now returning to near 2002 levels.

Insert new paragraph:

Council fully supports a strong commitment to keeping a publicly owned and publicly accountable housing stock and calls upon the executive to reiterate that commitment.

Paragraph 2

Delete (a), (b) and (c) and **insert:**

- (a) That decades of neglect and under-funding under the government in the 1980s and early 1990s has left Southwark with a backlog of unfit housing and the legacy of underinvestment that decent homes funding is intended to meet.
- (b) That many other boroughs fail to meet the needs of London residents by failing to give permission for the construction of adequate social housing in their boroughs for example Hammersmith & Fulham have recently axed a planned development of several hundred affordable homes.

Paragraph 3

Delete (b) and **replace** with:

- (b) The executive member for housing’s climb-down over the effective closure of Southwark Direct and the decision to consult on a more sensible solution.

Delete (d) and **insert:**

- (d) Council welcomes the investment into Southwark housing under the Decent Homes scheme by government and believes this is a long awaited and welcome response to the years of neglect and running down of council housing by previous governments during the 1980s and 1990s.
- (e) Council further welcomes Southwark’s commitment to delivering on the government’s decent homes commitments by 2010 and presses the executive to ensure that it meets that commitment.

Final motion will then read:

Council Housing Arrangements

Council notes the changes 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 and looks forward to action being taken to enforce these as soon as possible;
- (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;
- (f) That housing benefit overpayments are projected to amount to nearly £8 million this year alone, over £1.2 million over the target.

Council further notes that the MORI opinion poll of users of council housing makes clear that there has been no increase at all in residents' satisfaction with council housing in Southwark, and that satisfaction is only now returning to near 2002 levels.

Council fully supports a strong commitment to keeping a publicly owned and publicly accountable housing stock and calls upon the executive to reiterate that commitment.

Council deplors the fact that:

- (a) That decades of neglect and under-funding under the previous government in the 1980s and 1990s has left Southwark with a backlog of unfit housing and the legacy of underinvestment that decent homes funding is intended to meet.
- (b) That many other boroughs fail to meet the needs of London residents by failing to give permission for the construction of adequate social housing in their boroughs for example Hammersmith & Fulham have recently axed a planned development of several hundred affordable homes.

Council welcomes:

- (a) Southwark council's commitment not to impose a stock transfer or ALMO on tenants;
- (b) The executive member for housing's decision to climb-down over the effective closure of Southwark Direct and the decision to consult on a more sensible solution.
- (c) The establishment of an independent Citizens Advice Bureau advice service for leaseholders and the new leaseholders' handbook;
- (d) Council welcomes the investment into Southwark housing under the decent homes scheme by government and believes this is a long awaited and welcome response to the years of neglect and running down of council housing by previous governments during the 1980s and 1990s.
- (e) Council further welcomes Southwark's commitment to delivering on the government's decent homes commitments by 2010 and presses the executive to ensure that it meets that commitment.

AMENDMENT C

Moved: Councillor Gordon Nardell

Seconded: Councillor Barrie Hargrove

After “powers” in line 2 **insert:**

“and recognises this as one of the most important debates on governance in the capital since the establishment of a Mayor and Assembly, which returned strategic self-government to the people of London 14 years after the anti-democratic abolition of the Greater London Council. London needs a strong strategic voice, independent of central government, in a range of policy areas including planning, housing, transport and climate change.”

In paragraph (1), line 4 **Delete** “There is wide scope for...” and **replace** with “Council assembly welcomes the wide scope for...”

In paragraph (1), line 6, after “bodies” **insert:** “, including the Mayor and Assembly,”

In paragraph (1), last line, between “upwards” and the close quotation marks **insert:** “... However, it is acknowledged that exceptions could arise in cases where there is a strategic need.”

In paragraph (2), **delete** all after “Council assembly notes that” and **insert:**

“the people of London, including the residents of Southwark, supported the creation of the GLA. Whilst they are entitled to expect it to have the powers necessary to fulfil its strategic role they should also expect to receive guarantees that it will exercise those powers in a fair and transparent way. The London Assembly, in its response to the further consultation paper issued by Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in July this year, stated that its focus was on “whether the appropriate checks and balances, policing and monitoring, and assessment processes are in place to enable the assembly, the Mayor and the boroughs to implement a workable and essentially democratic system.” The assembly stressed that the system should include:

- a clear, robust policy test defining the kinds of strategic planning applications the Mayor should determine, and
- a mayoral decision-making procedure at least as open and accessible as the procedures operated by borough planning committees.

The response of London councils’ response to the July paper made similar comments, with cross-party agreement.

Council assembly shares these priorities, and especially emphasises the need for effective representation of communities at all levels of the planning decision-making process including determination of strategic applications by the Mayor.”

In paragraph (3), **delete** all after “concerned” and **insert:**

“at the enormous problem of lack of affordable housing in Southwark and London as a whole, and recognises that the GLA has played an important and positive role alongside some boroughs in developing and implementing strategic policy in this area. Council assembly welcomes the transfer of responsibility for housing strategy from an unelected quango, the London Housing Board, to the elected Mayor. Council assembly is concerned by any proposals which would operate other than in the best interests of the borough’s residents but recognises the Mayor’s current consultation exercise on a London Housing Strategy as an opportunity to ensure that the housing needs of Southwark are properly met and resourced.”

In final paragraph, **delete** “stop the contentious extension of powers” and **insert** “ensure the right balance in making and implementing strategic planning and housing policy”.

ITEM 10 **MOTION 5 – POLICE STATIONS UNDER THREAT** (see pages 139 – 140 and supplemental agenda 2, pages 3 - 5)

AMENDMENT D

Moved: Councillor Fiona Colley

Seconded: Councillor John Friary

Delete title “Police Stations Under Threat” **insert** new title “Southwark Police Accommodation Strategy”

Delete first line of paragraph 1 and **insert:**

“Council assembly believes that fully accessible front counter police services perform....”

In paragraph 3 **delete** “threatened” and **insert** “closed”.

Delete paragraph 4 to the end and **insert:**

Council assembly also notes the commitment from the Borough Commander that no police station will be closed until equivalent or improved front counter services are in place.

Council assembly reaffirms its commitment to fully accessible front counter police services in East Dulwich, Camberwell, Rotherhithe and all other parts of the borough, preferably open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Council calls for a scrutiny investigation to consider in detail the Southwark police accommodation proposals and to make recommendations regarding the council’s response to the proposals.

Council assembly requests that particular attention is given to the proposals to close East Dulwich, Camberwell and Rotherhithe Police Stations and that the investigation should include consideration of the possibility of using the stations and “safer neighbourhood bases”:

1. not just for the dedicated police teams, but also for the council-run community wardens scheme, enforcement officers, 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.

The scrutiny investigation should also particularly consider the implications the proposals may have on police response times and the deployment of police community safety officers.

ITEM 10 MOTION 7 – ROLL OF HONOUR (see page 141 and supplemental agenda 1, pages 4 - 5)

AMENDMENT E

Moved: Councillor Jonathan Mitchell

Seconded: Councillor Lisa Rajan

Line 1: **Delete** “repeated”.

Line 2-3: **Delete** from “in the council chamber...” to end of first paragraph.

Delete second paragraph and insert:

Council therefore calls upon officers to prepare a report for the executive setting out the various options and seeking funding.

ITEM 10 **MOTION 8 – VIOLENT CRIME STRATEGY** (see page 142 and supplemental agenda 2, pages 5 - 7)

AMENDMENT F

Moved: Councillor Jeff Hook
Seconded: Councillor David Noakes

Delete from “Council notes the lack of...” (paragraph 5) to “CCTV coverage” (paragraph 7) and **insert:**

Council notes that tackling violent crime is a priority within the Safer Southwark Partnership crime and drugs strategy and notes the development of a more meaningful violent crime action plan to manage the delivery of its programme in this area.

Council believes practical measures are needed to deal with violent crime in Southwark and notes projects currently underway to improve street lighting and provision of deployable CCTV cameras across the borough.

Council assembly calls upon the executive member for community safety to lobby the government, Borough Commander and Metropolitan Police Service for additional police resources to be targeted at crime hot spots areas in Southwark.

Delete paragraph 9

Amended motion to read:

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 club to the life and economy of Southwark.

Council notes that tackling violent crime is a priority within the Safer Southwark Partnership crime and drugs strategy and notes the development of more meaningful violent crime action plan to manage the delivery of its programme in this area.

Council believes practical measures are needed to deal with violent crime in Southwark and notes projects currently underway to improve street lighting and provision of deployable CCTV cameras.

Council assembly calls upon the executive member for community safety to lobby the government, Borough Commander and Metropolitan Police Service for additional police resources to be targeted at crime hot spots areas in Southwark.

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