

Item No. 6.1	Classification: Open	Date: February 21 2007	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Report back on motions referred to executive from council assembly	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Executive	

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 3.10 – SOUTHWARK EDUCATION & TRAINING ADVICE FOR ADULTS (SETTA)

Executive on January 30 2007 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on December 6 2007, which had been moved by Councillor Caroline Pidgeon and seconded by Councillor Nick Stanton:

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.

We agreed the motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 3.10 – SOUTHWARK PENSIONERS FORUM

Executive on January 30 2007 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on December 6 2006, which had been moved by Councillor Aubyn Graham and seconded by Councillor Lorraine Lauder:

1. That council assembly welcomes the valuable contributions being made by Southwark Pensioners 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.

We agreed the motion and asked officers to prepare a briefing for members through the continuous learning development programme as quickly as possible on how these objectives will be implemented.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 3.10 – MAYORAL POWERS

Executive on January 30 2007 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on December 6 2006, which had been moved by Councillor Toby Eckersley and seconded by Councillor Caroline Pidgeon:

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.

We noted that for the time being the proposal for a single waste authority has been withdrawn from the parliamentary committee considering the GLA Bill.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 3.10 – POLICE STATIONS UNDER THREAT

Executive on January 30 2007 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on December 6 2006, which had been moved by Councillor Jonathan Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson:

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.

We agreed the motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 3.10 – ROLL OF HONOUR

Executive on January 30 2007 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on December 6 2006, which had been moved by Councillor Danny McCarthy and seconded by Councillor Paul Bates and subsequently amended by Councillors Jonathan Mitchell and Lisa Rajan:

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

We agreed the motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 3.10 – BICENTENARY OF THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE

Executive on January 30 2007 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on December 6 2006, which had been moved by Councillor Althea Smith and seconded by Councillor Tayo Situ:

1. That council assembly notes that 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.
2. Therefore council assembly requests the executive urgently to 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.

We agreed the motion and requested that a briefing note be prepared on community council funding streams.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 3.10 – MAUDSLEY 24-HOUR CLINIC

Executive on January 30 2007 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on January 24 2007, which had been moved by Councillor David Noakes and seconded by Councillor Michelle Holford:

1. That council assembly notes:
 - That the government estimates that one in four people will suffer from some form of mental illness at some point in their lifetime;
 - That the South London and Maudsley Trust submitted plans to close the emergency clinic at the Maudsley Hospital which currently offers an 'open all hours' emergency service for people with mental health problems;
 - That the Lambeth and Southwark Statutory Joint Health Committee referred this decision to the secretary of state for health to make the final decision on the grounds that they did not believe that the closure was in the best interests of local health services;
 - That the chief executive of the South London and Maudsley Trust has admitted that there will be an increased reliance on the voluntary sector as a result of this cut;
 - That the secretary of state has confirmed the decision to close the Maudsley emergency clinic.

2. That council assembly believes:
 - That the Maudsley clinic is a vital service which helps to save lives and should remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year;
 - That the closure of the Maudsley clinic will have a detrimental impact on neighbouring emergency health services and especially on the accident and emergency department of King's College Hospital;
 - That whilst the proposed changes to the community services are noted, these alone will not be a sufficient replacement for the loss of the emergency provision;
 - That the current proposal for a new designated space adjacent to the A&E department of King's College Hospital is inadequate to replace the current provision, even when combined with the extension of the community service;
 - That there are significant questions still to be answered about the proposed new King's A&E service, including the funding of staff, the waiting area for patients, the area provided for the service, security and overnight accommodation.

3. That council assembly recognises the impact that the strategic health authority's financial adjustments and "top-slice" of the PCT budget increases has had on the South London and Maudsley health trust and calls for this policy to be reviewed

4. That council assembly congratulates the many individuals and organisations who have campaigned to keep the Maudsley Clinic open and the South London Press for helping to organise the campaign and notes that support for the campaign has been cross party and included local MPs.

5. That council assembly therefore resolves to ask the executive to support the campaign to keep the Maudsley emergency clinic open 24 hours per day. Council assembly asks the leader to write to the secretary of state for health seeking an urgent meeting with her to ask her to reconsider her decision and keep the clinic open.

We agreed the motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 3.10 – POST OFFICES

Executive on January 30 2007 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on January 24 2007, which had been moved by Councillor Bob Skelly and seconded by Councillor Nick Vineall:

1. That council assembly regrets the loss of three post offices in North Southwark and Bermondsey, seven post offices in Dulwich and West Norwood and two post offices in Camberwell and Peckham between 1999 and 2006, representing almost one in three of the total services available.
2. That council assembly notes:
 - that on the December 14 the government announced plans for post office 'restructuring' that they expect to lead to the closure of a further 2500 post office branches by 2009;
 - that 4000 post office branches have been closed nationwide since the government came to power in 1997;
 - that the government announced in March 2006 the phasing out of the post office card account (POCA) on which many pensioners relied to receive their state pension and on which thousands of branches depended to keep them in business;
 - that closure of smaller post offices around the country has led to the closure of other local shops and businesses and the disintegration of local communities;
 - that on the December 14, in the face of huge criticism of this decision, the government backed down and announced a replacement for POCA;
 - that the government has directly or indirectly overseen the post office losing TV licences, vehicle excise duty and passport authentication work;
 - the plans by Royal Mail to close the Herne Hill sorting office leading to delays in postal delivery times, the loss of local knowledge among postal delivery workers and inconvenience for local residents who have to pick up mail from a sorting office.
3. That council assembly further notes the social importance of post offices to the well being of both communities and individuals in Southwark.
4. That council assembly believes that the recently announced closure programme is unnecessary and asks the executive to seek to persuade the government to:
 1. end the branch closure programme;
 2. remove the Royal Mail restrictions on the post office to open up further business opportunities for the network;
 3. stop removing government business from post offices;

4. carry out a review of which additional government functions could be carried out through post offices;
 5. invest in the post office network.
5. That council assembly further believes that the interests of residents are best served by the retention of the Herne Hill sorting office.
 6. That council assembly welcomes the decision of the government to withdraw its previous proposals to scrap completely the post office card account (POCA) but asks the executive to call on ministers to ensure that any replacement POCA should be open freely to all pensioners and benefit recipients who wants one.
 7. That council assembly asks the executive to call on the government to avoid putting pressure on current and future POCA users to switch to having benefits and pensions paid directly into bank accounts.
 8. That council assembly asks the MPs for Southwark to lobby ministers to save the post office from gradual demolition and to protect this vital service for the people. Council assembly further asks the MPs to report back to this council on their actions and asks the overview and scrutiny committee to undertake a scrutiny investigation into the impact of the closure of the Herne Hill sorting office.
 9. That council assembly further asks the executive to urge Royal Mail to reconsider plans to close the Herne Hill sorting office.

We agreed the motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 3.10 – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BILL & POST OFFICES

Executive on January 30 2007 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on January 24 2007, which had been moved by Councillor Lewis Robinson and seconded by Councillor Tim McNally and subsequently amended:

1. That council assembly note the Sustainable Communities Private Members Bill proposed by Nick Hurd MP, which received its first reading in Parliament on Wednesday December 13 2006.
2. That the bill successfully secured a second reading on Friday January 19 2007 by 175 votes to 17 and that Simon Hughes MP was one of those who supported it. Council assembly regrets that Harriet Harman MP and Tessa Jowell MP failed to support the Bill and the government has indicated its opposition to it.
3. That council assembly believes:
 - (1) The Sustainable Communities Bill is a welcome step towards returning power to local communities, and ensuring that money be spent by government on services provided for the benefit of local communities is to be spent in the way local communities wish, rather than central government determines.
 - (2) That the closure of community based services such as local post offices or counter services at police stations will have a detrimental effect on the wider community.

4. That council assembly requests the executive:

- (1) To support the Sustainable Communities Bill, and to urge the borough's MPs to demonstrate their support through the bill's remaining parliamentary stages.
- (2) To affirm its commitment to the devolution of further powers to local communities by bringing forward proposals to strengthen the powers of Southwark's community councils.
- (3) To continue to play an active role in the renewal of local community service provision, such as the work to reopen disused shop units on the Kingswood Estate for community use.

We agreed the motion.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Executive agenda and minutes October 10 2006	Constitutional Team, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Everton Roberts 020 7525 7221

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager	
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer Everton Roberts, Constitutional Officer	
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