

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: July 9 2008	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motions – Chief officer comments to motions	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Legal and Democratic Services	

5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER (seconded by Councillor Abdul Mohammed)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.10(4), council assembly shall consider this motion.

East Street Market

1. Council assembly notes the strong support for the petition on the repair of East Street Market.
2. Council assembly calls on the executive to carry out much needed maintenance work to the market including filling potholes, installing new pavements and resurfacing the road.
3. Council assembly believes that the present state of the market is a hazard to local people and market traders and recognises that residents have sustained injuries recently as a result of neglect by the council.
4. Council assembly believes that the market is a genuine part of the Walworth area's heritage, that it has the potential to attract a significant number of people to the area and that the urgent repair work should, therefore, feed into a broader regeneration of the market.
5. Council assembly calls on the executive to investigate how the market's future can be sustained and improved and consult with local residents, market users and market traders on the same. It calls on the executive to report back the results of that investigation to council assembly in no less than six months.

Comments of the Strategic Director of Environment and Housing

Like many markets across the country, East Street has been declining over a number of years as a result of national economic factors. It is against this background of national decline that the council is working to improve the market because we believe it is economically, socially and culturally important to the borough. We are currently reviewing all markets in Southwark to look at how we can improve their management and modernise trading practices. The review will look at how we can work with traders and others to develop existing markets as well as take advantage of new opportunities, for example, more speciality markets so that they are more competitive, offer more choice and play a bigger part in the regeneration of the borough, providing economic and social opportunity. The aim of the review is to ensure that we provide the right conditions so that enterprise can flourish and markets like East Street become breeding grounds for entrepreneurship and innovation.

The council has brought in over £2m of external investment in the Walworth Road which has also had a positive effect on East Street market and had the support of the traders . Our recent investment in Nursery Row Park, adjacent to the market, includes providing places for people to sit while they are visiting the market and we are also about to commence installing new lighting columns along East Street with £65,000 of cleaner greener safer capital.

Our current surfacing programme on borough roads is based on a risk assessment of the condition of the roads. This assessment does not show East Street as a major priority. After listening to the concerns raised by traders we have commissioned an independent survey of the condition of East Street and this also concluded that East Street is not in a sufficiently poor condition to be a priority. Having said this, we will be carrying out £30k-£40k of improvement works . Officers will continue to explore further options for external funding for more improvements.

To put this in context the borough road network comprises of 34km of roads maintained by Transport for London (TfL), 17km of Principal Roads and 332km of non principal roads, such as East Street, as well as service/access roads, footways and associated highway infrastructure elements such as highway structures and bridges and 12,000 street trees. Southwark also has 16,000 lamp columns on the public highway and in parks. In addition, it has over 6,000 pieces of other illuminated street furniture such as bollards and flashing beacons.

The annual survey establishes the priorities for investment against a number of national performance indicators and in 2005/2006 the executive agreed an annual investment programme of £5 million for highways and lighting that was designed to ensure that Southwark maintains its place in the top 25% of local authorities against the national indicators. Approximately £4million of this is spent on Highways and £1million on lighting.

Improving the condition of the surfaces at East Street will not on its own reverse the decline of the market and we are, as outlined above, continuing to work with traders and others on a more comprehensive improvement plan in order to make improvements to the area for the benefit of all that use it. This has included a recent series of workshops and consultations session with traders, businesses and residents to discuss key issues of concern to all three. These sessions resulted in over 160 Issues being raised and a significant number of immediate actions to make improvements being undertaken.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Member Motions	Town Hall Peckham Road London SE5 8UB	Constitutional Team 020 7525 7228

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