

Item No. 8	Classification: Open	Date: November 5 2008	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motions	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Legal and Democratic Services	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9, the member moving the motion may make a speech directed to the matter under discussion. (This may not exceed five minutes without the consent of the Mayor).

The seconder will then be asked by the Mayor to second the motion. (This may not exceed three minutes without the consent of the Mayor).

The meeting will then open up to debate on the issue and any amendments on the motion will be dealt with.

At the end of the debate the mover of the motion may exercise a right of reply. If an amendment is carried, the mover of the amendment shall hold the right of reply to any subsequent amendments and, if no further amendments are carried, at the conclusion of the debate on the substantive motion.

The Mayor will then ask members to vote on the motion (and any amendments).

IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution allocates responsibility for particular functions to council assembly, including approving the budget and policy framework, and allocates to the executive responsibility for developing and implementing the budget and policy framework and overseeing the running of council services on a day-to-day basis. Therefore any matters that are the responsibility of the executive (i.e. housing, social services, regeneration, environment, education etc) cannot be decided upon by council assembly without prior reference to the executive. While it would be in order for council assembly to discuss an issue, consideration of any of the following should be referred to the executive:

- To change or develop a new or existing policy
- To instruct officers to implement new procedures
- To allocate resources.

(Note: In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9(7) and (8) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which motions appear in the agenda may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting).

1. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS (seconded by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9(6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Violent Crime Summit

1. Council notes that while the level of violent crime in Southwark has been falling in recent years, there have been a number of particularly serious violent incidents in recent months, and that this has rightly raised the concern of local residents.
2. Council welcomes the fact that as such, addressing violent crime is a key priority for all members of the Safer Southwark Partnership and that it has adopted a range of programmes targeted at tackling violent crime.
3. Council further notes that in 2005, the council created the Southwark Gangs Community Group involving the community to help inform the partnership's approach to tackling violent crime issues and that the council was instrumental in establishing the five borough alliance to tackle violent crime.
4. Council believes that these and other initiatives underline the importance of cooperation between public bodies, voluntary organisations and members of the public in seeking solutions to violent crime.
5. Council therefore welcomes the efforts of the executive member for community safety to bring together interested parties for a cross-party, cross-borough and multi-agency summit, to work on further coordinated actions to address this serious problem.

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

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JENNY JONES (seconded by Councillor Peter John)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9(6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

London Living Wage

This council:

1. Supports the establishment of the London Living Wage, set at a level calculated by the Living Wage Unit to avoid poverty wages being paid in the capital.
2. Abhors the fact that around 400,000 Londoners continue to fall into a 'working poverty trap' because their families are paid less than required to fund the basic costs of living in London.
3. Notes that Southwark Council's community strategy aims to "significantly increase the number of people who are able to earn a living wage" to tackle income inequality and poverty.
4. Calls on the executive to review Southwark Council's procurement, contract and best value policies to ensure that, as far as possible within UK and EU law, the London

Living Wage, at the level set by the Greater London Authority's Living Wage Unit, is the minimum paid by Southwark Council and by its contractors.

and,

5. Calls on the executive to seek commitments from Southwark's partners in the local strategic partnership to pay no less than the London Living Wage.

and,

6. Calls on the executive to promote the London Living Wage and London Citizens' Living Wage Employer Award to the private sector in Southwark.

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

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK (seconded by Councillor David Hubber)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9(6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Anne Yates Children's Library

1. Council mourns the sad death of Councillor Anne Yates and expresses its condolences to her family for their loss.
2. Council notes that Anne was both a popular and well liked councillor and a true champion for the people of Rotherhithe.
3. Council further notes Anne's particular interest in the development of young people, both in Rotherhithe and the borough as a whole.
4. Council therefore resolves that at the new Canada Water Library, the children's library should be named the Anne Yates Children's Library and calls on the executive to take whatever steps are necessary in order to ensure that this happens.

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

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE (seconded by Councillor Tayo Situ)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9(6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Five point plan for agency staff reduction

1. Council assembly notes that in the first 23 weeks of the 2008-09 financial year the council spent nearly £17 million on agency staff and that if it continues at its current rate it will spend almost £40 million over the course of the year.
2. Council notes that last year the council spent £32.6 million on agency staff and that the executive pledged in its budget in February to cut spending on agency and temporary staff.

3. Council assembly notes that as of September 16 2008 there were 416 members of agency staff working at the council who had been on placement here for over 6 months. It further notes that 103 of those so-called 'long-term temps' had been on placement at the council for over two years.
4. Council assembly notes that employing temporary staff is sometimes necessary when an office is suddenly understaffed and that it will never be able to cut spending on agency staff to zero. It believes, however, that there is a culture of dependence on agency staff in the council and that reducing it is one of the greatest potential areas for saving money.
5. Council assembly believes that employing agency staff wastes millions of pounds of council resources every year that could otherwise be used to pay for front line services. It believes that Southwark tax-payers are currently getting a bad deal because of this.
6. Council assembly believes that an overdependence on temps and agency staff is unfair on council workers as those employed in such a way have absolutely no job security and often have worse pay and working conditions than their contracted colleagues. It notes that temporary staff are disproportionately from black and minority ethnic groups, particularly BME women.
7. Council assembly calls on the executive to carry out the following five point plan to end council's overdependence on agency and temporary workers:
 - 1) Track all agency staff posts - report on a quarterly basis how many members of agency staff there are on the council's books and how much is being spent on them. Report how many of the posts have been in place for longer than six months, a year and two years.
 - 2) Classifying agency posts - giving all agency staff posts (as opposed to employees) a specific code from a set list based upon the duties of the role so that long-term temps cannot be hidden from scrutiny by staff turnover.
 - 3) Carrying out an urgent audit of all council agency posts - focusing on those that have existed for longer than six months in order to establish whether the post is needed for a further three months or more. If it is then create a new post and advertise the job as a fixed term or permanent contract.
 - 4) Conduct rolling audits of the need for temps - carry out similar assessments for all new agency staff posts at the moment they are created and once every three months after that. If the post will be needed for longer than three months advertise the job as a permanent or fixed term contract.
 - 5) Disincentivise the use of temps - investigate the possibility of budgetary restrictions or other disincentives for the managers of departments and business units who keep agency posts for longer than 12 months and track those who regularly use temps for extended periods on a cumulative basis.

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

5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN (seconded by Councillor Jonathan Mitchell)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9(6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Child Poverty

1. Council notes that in 1999, the then Prime Minister Tony Blair committed the Labour government to halving child poverty by 2010 and eradicating it by 2020 and that this commitment has been reaffirmed on more than one occasion.
2. Council notes that child poverty is particularly acute in inner London boroughs like Southwark and notes that 51 per cent of children in inner London live in income poverty, compared with 29 per cent in England.
3. Council notes that the government is set to fail to meet its target of halving child poverty by 2010 and that on June 10 2008, the Department for Work and Pensions reported that child poverty has risen again for the second year in a row.
4. Council believes that after more than a decade of Labour government, these figures demonstrate the abject failure of the Labour party nationally to tackle problems of poverty in deprived areas.
5. Council therefore welcomes the steps taken by Southwark Council to do what it can to address the causes of child poverty, notably:
 - 1) Maintaining the Southwark Credit Union which provides 5,300 Southwark residents with flexible savings and low cost loans – an example cited as ‘good practice’ by the London Child Poverty Commission.
 - 2) Reducing the time homeless families spend in bed and breakfasts to just one week.
 - 3) Reducing the number of young people not in education, employment and training (NEET) to 1 in 10.
6. Council further therefore welcomes the fact that Southwark intends to sign up to the London Child Poverty Pledge and that the leader has agreed to be the borough’s ‘Child Poverty Champion’, reflecting the key strategic importance of this issue to the borough.
7. Council notes however that there is much still to be done and notes the report by the Department for Work and Pensions, ‘Public Attitudes on Child Poverty’ which highlighted the central role of the national government in tackling poverty.
8. Council believes that real progress can only be made if the government acknowledges its failure to tackle child poverty and adopts the recommendations of the London Child Poverty Commission, matching the commitment shown by authorities which have signed the Child Poverty Pledge.
9. Council therefore calls on the executive to write to the Prime Minister, seeking a renewed commitment to meet the 2010 and 2020 targets, to adopt these new policies and to work with Southwark and other local authorities to support their efforts to tackle child poverty.

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

6. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR KIRSTY MCNEILL (seconded by Councillor Paul Bates)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9(6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Heygate Decant

1. Council assembly notes that:

- 1) Homes on the Heygate estate are scheduled to be demolished and the residents subject either to eviction or compulsory purchase.
- 2) Heygate tenants are now undergoing an enforced two moves policy, causing considerable disruption to their ability to access work, schooling and services as well as widespread anxiety and distress (as acknowledged by the council's own decision to subsidise workshops on combating stress).
- 3) Those few residents who have bid successfully via Homesearch have often found the properties they have been offered have not met basic standards of cleanliness, repair or amenity before their scheduled move-in date.
- 4) Leaseholders subject to compulsory purchase orders have seen the value of their properties artificially depressed by the council's own mis-management of the estate – both through the poor provision of cleansing and security services and the omission of several years worth of external works.
- 5) Some residents complain of feeling bullied and harassed into bidding for properties which are not suitable for the needs of their family.

2. Council assembly believes that:

- 1) Many council tenants would rather stay in the homes they have in the community they know and love, but they were prepared to cooperate with the regeneration process because they were promised a direct move into new housing association properties.
- 2) That promises to Heygate residents have been broken as a result of the failure of the Council to deliver early decant housing sites.
- 3) Residents have been given unrealistic timescales in which to access properties through Homesearch and the council's failure to provide new registered social landlord properties on time has added considerable new pressure on existing stock.

3. Council assembly calls on the executive to:

- 1) Not evict Heygate tenants or leaseholders from their home until sufficient new accommodation is available for them to move straight into.
- 2) Make a revised phasing plan available to all Heygate residents and publish detailed plans of when new properties will be completed.

- 3) Provide compensation to leaseholders for the service charges that have been paid for services not delivered, in lieu of fair and realistic evaluations of the value of their property.

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

7. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER (seconded by Councillor Abdul Mohamed)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9(6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Secure Entry Doors – Nelson Estate

1. Council assembly notes the high level of people sleeping rough on the Nelson and Portland estate blocks and the long-standing incidents of anti-social behaviour which has greatly distressed residents.
2. Council assembly notes the successful campaign led by Faraday ward councillors and the local tenants and residents association for secure entry doors on the four towers of the Portland estate.
3. Council assembly notes the delay on having the doors fitted, but welcomes their installation.
4. Council assembly notes a recent petition signed by residents on the other parts of the Nelson and Portland estate, calling for similar secure entry doors.
5. Council assembly notes the strong support for secure entry doors among residents, councillors and the local safer neighbourhood police team.
6. Council assembly believes that secure entry doors act as an effective deterrent against anti-social behaviour and greatly enhance the security of legitimate tenants and leaseholders.
7. Council assembly requests the executive examine as a matter of urgency that secure entry doors be fitted on to the remaining blocks of the Nelson and Portland estate (Walsham House, Bridport, Harry Hinkins House, Trafalgar House, James Stroud House, Ringsfield House etc).

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

8. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE (seconded by Councillor Chris Page)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9(6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

A banner for Tooley Street

1. Council assembly notes that the Mayor of London Boris Johnson has indicated that he has no intention of continuing with the Cross River Tram project.

2. Council assembly notes the cross-party belief that the Cross River Tram project is vital to the future development of Southwark.
3. Council assembly calls on the executive to redouble its efforts in lobbying the Mayor for the scheme, using every available avenue of influence.
4. Council assembly further calls on the executive to use the proximity to City Hall of the council's new offices on Tooley Street by erecting there a large banner or other sign demanding that the Mayor back the tram to serve as a constant reminder of Southwark's enthusiasm for the scheme.

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

9. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR SUSAN ELAN JONES (seconded by Councillor Robert Smeath)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9(6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Boris Johnson's destructive first six months

1. Council assembly notes the following measures taken by the new Mayor of London Boris Johnson in his first six months in office to the detriment of Southwark residents:
 - 1) All but scrapped the Cross River Tram scheme.
 - 2) Withheld £600,000 of Transport for London cash vital for the overhaul of Elephant and Castle south roundabout.
 - 3) Failed to prioritise the second East London Line extension, despite reduced services on the South London Line.
 - 4) Maintained a commitment to 'Boris Island' airport, despite its rubbishing by his own party leader.
 - 5) Ploughed ahead with the development of a new routemaster, which will cost £60 million a year and reduce capacity on some of Southwark's busiest bus routes.
 - 6) Ploughed ahead with plans to scrap the western extension of the congestion charge zone which would cost London £70 million a year.
 - 7) Scrapped emissions based congestion charging, which cost London up to £36 million a year.
 - 8) Made a real-terms cut of £195 million to the police budget in the next three years, based upon the rate of inflation at the time of the cut.
 - 9) Agreed to increase flights to city airport by 50% by 2010.
 - 10) Sacked the women's adviser and cancelled the Greater London Domestic Violence Project.
 - 11) Paid £400,000 to Porsche and £7 million to the Venezuelan government out of London budgets.

2. Council assembly believes that the Mayor's first six months in office have been an abject failure and calls on the executive to lobby for the reversal of these damaging decisions where possible.

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

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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	Sean Usher, Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	October 22 2008