

Item No. 7.1	Classification: Open	Date: January 28 2009	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 PROCEDURE RULE 2.9 (6) – VIOLENT CRIME SUMMIT

Executive on November 25 2008 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on November 5 2008, which had been moved by Councillor Kim Humphreys and seconded by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai and subsequently amended:

1. That 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. That 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. That 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. That 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. That council believes that the problem of violent crime – particularly involving knives and guns – is so serious that it requires the council and other agencies to continually seek new solutions, keep its approach under constant review and to try to adopt best practice wherever this is possible.
6. That 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.
7. That council believes that the two events planned over the next 3 months should be the start of a continuing process of engagement with all interested parties working in full partnership with the community.
8. That council believes that the process will lead to:
 - a. The identification of the key practical barriers faced by those working to tackle violent crime in South London;
 - b. The creation of a set of recommended solutions for removing these barriers;

- c. The creation of a body of organisations and individuals to develop and to raise the profile of these recommendations with the 5 boroughs, the Greater London Authority (GLA), the government and other key agencies;
 - d. The creation of a set of 'best practice' recommendations for consideration by the 5 boroughs, including Southwark, gained from examining approaches to tackling violent crime which have been adopted either within the 5 boroughs area or in other areas where violent crime is a serious problem.
9. That council assembly calls on the executive to carefully consider the 'best practice' recommendations from the summit and to identify those which could help in tackling the borough's violent crime. It calls on the executive to take steps to implement additional changes in council policy to tackle violent crime and improve the safety of people in the borough.

We agreed the motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 2.9 (6) – LONDON LIVING WAGE

Executive on November 25 2008 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on November 5 2008, which had been moved by Councillor Jenny Jones and seconded by Councillor Peter John:

That 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.

We amended the motion as follows:

1. That Southwark Council's procurement, contract and best value policies be reviewed 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.
2. That commitments are sought from Southwark's partners in the local strategic partnership to pay no less than the London living wage.
3. That the executive write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to seek confirmation on the policy on the 'London living wage' and 'London Citizens Living Wage Employer Award in relation to the private sector.

**MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE
RULE 2.9 (6) – ANNE YATES CHILDREN'S LIBRARY**

Executive on November 25 2008 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on November 5 2008, which had been moved by Councillor Jeff Hook and seconded by Councillor David Hubber:

1. That council mourns the sad death of Councillor Anne Yates and expresses its condolences to her family for their loss.
2. That council notes that Anne was both a popular and well liked Councillor and a true champion for the people of Rotherhithe.
3. That council further notes Anne's particular interest in the development of young people, both in Rotherhithe and the borough as a whole.
4. That 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.

We agreed the motion.

**MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE
RULE 2.9 (6) – FIVE POINT PLAN FOR AGENCY STAFF REDUCTION**

Executive on November 25 2008 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on November 5 2008, which had been moved by Councillor Richard Livingstone and seconded by Councillor Tayo Situ and subsequently amended:

1. That 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. That 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. That 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. That council assembly notes that many of these 'long-term temps', particularly in certain professions, such as finance, project management or planning, appreciate the flexibility offered by working as temporary staff and choose to work in this way.
5. That council assembly notes that employing temporary staff can be necessary for a variety of reasons, including:
 - a. Providing cover for short-term vacancies such as maternity cover, or short-notice vacancies such as sick leave;
 - b. Providing cover for particularly busy periods, or to undertake work which is seasonal in nature;
 - c. Providing staff for those positions which are difficult to fill because of national pay restrictions which make recruitment in London particularly difficult;
 - d. Providing staff for those positions where repeated attempts to recruit permanent staff have failed;
 - e. Managing staff needs in those professions where staff actively prefer to work on a temporary basis;
 - f. Managing staff needs and workforce planning in the most appropriate and cost-effective way as needs change as part of the modernisation programme.
6. That council assembly notes that the council has a policy of only using temporary staff where strictly necessary to meet workforce needs, either to fill vacancies in existing posts which could not otherwise be filled, to meet seasonal or short-term staff needs or to manage fluctuating staff needs over the course of the modernisation programme.
7. That council notes that while in some cases it may be necessary to pay a premium to meet these staff needs, this should be set against the reduced overheads incurred as a result of using agency staff rather than permanent staff.
8. That council assembly welcomes the work being undertaken in the council's modernisation programme which, while in the short-term will require a greater use of temporary staff to manage staff needs through the transition, over the course of a 3 year programme, will see a significant reduction in the number of temporary staff which the council employs.
9. That council assembly therefore calls on the executive member for resources to keep this process under review and to report back on its progress at the time of the council's annual budget.

We agreed the motion.

MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 2.9 (6) – CHILD POVERTY

Executive on November 25 2008 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on November 5 2008, which had been moved by Councillor Lisa Rajan and seconded by Councillor Jonathan Mitchell:

1. That 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. That 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. That 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. That 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. That council therefore welcomes the steps taken by Southwark Council to do what it can to address the causes of child poverty, notably:
 - a. 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.
 - b. Reducing the time homeless families spend in bed and breakfasts to just one week.
 - c. Reducing the number of young people Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) to 1 in 10.
6. That 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. That 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. That 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. That 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.

We agreed the motion.

**MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE
RULE 2.9 (6) – SECURE ENTRY DOORS – NELSON ESTATE**

Executive on November 25 2008 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on November 5 2008, which had been moved by Councillor Lorraine Lauder and seconded by Councillor Abdul Mohamed and subsequently amended:

1. That 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. That 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. That council assembly notes the delay on having the doors fitted, but welcomes their installation.
4. That 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. That council assembly notes the strong support for secure entry doors among residents, councillors and the local safer neighbourhood police team.
6. That 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. That 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).
8. That council assembly therefore calls on the executive member for housing to provide the estimated cost of this work to the Walworth central housing forum, together with an explanation of the impact of these proposals on the existing programme of major works for the Walworth area, in order that the housing forum can decide how to reprioritise the existing programme.

We agreed the motion.

**MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE
RULE 2.9 (6) – CROSS RIVER TRAM**

Executive on November 25 2008 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on November 5 2008, which had been moved by Councillor Barrie Hargrove and seconded by Chris Page and subsequently amended:

1. That council assembly notes that the Mayor of London has not agreed to fund the construction of the Cross River tram yet but notes that he is being constrained by the previous Mayor, Ken Livingstone, to a 10 year budget for transport works in London which makes no provision for its funding.
2. That council assembly notes the cross-party belief that the Cross River Tram project is vital to the future development of Southwark.
3. That council assembly notes that in recognition of this support, the executive member for regeneration recently led a cross-party deputation of assembly members and councillors to seek the Mayor's support for the tram and that the leader and deputy leader of the council met with Deputy Mayor Sir Simon Milton last week to make the case for the tram.

4. That council assembly believes that as funding for the construction of the Cross River tram is not within Transport for London's (TfL) budget for the period to 2016, support for the scheme from the Department for Transport - as well as from the Mayor - is crucial if the scheme is to be delivered and notes that the MP for North Southwark and Bermondsey has tabled a motion in parliament to this effect.
5. That council assembly calls on the executive to continue its efforts in lobbying the Mayor for the scheme, using every available avenue of influence and to begin lobbying the Secretary of State for Transport.
6. That council assembly therefore calls on the executive member for regeneration to write to Mayor Boris Johnson, asking him to include funding for the Cross River tram in his forthcoming Economic Recovery Action Plan.
7. That council assembly further calls on the executive member for regeneration to:
 - a. Organise a 'mass lobby' of parliament to draw attention to the importance of the scheme for Southwark and south London in general;
 - b. Write to his colleagues in Lambeth, Westminster and Camden seeking their support for the mass lobby and asking them to publicise it in their area;
 - c. Seek funding for a poster van or other publicity vehicle to drive from Southwark to Parliament Square, via City Hall, to raise awareness of the mass lobby;
 - d. Write to Southwark's MPs asking them to sign the Early Day Motion on the Cross River Tram and to make themselves available to meet constituents attending the mass lobby.

We agreed to defer consideration of this motion until January 2009 so that the executive could consider the outcome of the Mayor's meeting which was due to be held in December 2008.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Executive agenda and minutes – November 25 2008	Constitutional Team, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Paula Thornton 020 7525 4395

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager	
Report Author	Paula Thornton, Constitutional Team	
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