

Item No. 9	Classification: Open	Date: January 28 2009	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 NICK STANTON (seconded by Councillor Tim McNally)

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

Local Government Funding Settlement

1. Council notes that in December 2007, the government announced its three year funding settlement for local government, imposing a real terms funding cut of £35 million on Southwark and forcing the council to reduce its expenditure by more than 10% between 2008 and 2011.
2. Council notes that as a result the executive was forced to make £5 million service cuts, including closing the Livesey Museum, reducing access to social care services and increasing charges for meals on wheels, despite finding back office savings and efficiencies in the region of £30 million.
3. Council notes that since that funding settlement was announced, the executive has been leading a fair funding campaign, seeking to secure changes to the government's funding methodology and to get a fairer deal for Southwark, and that this campaign has focussed on:
 - a) The use of outdated population projections based on 2004 estimates which, according to the Office for National Statistics, may be up to 10,000 people short, costing Southwark some £18 million.
 - b) The use of a flawed formula for apportioning social care funding, which without the protection of the grant 'floor' would cost Southwark some £26 million, and which ensures that the council receives the minimum, below inflation, funding increase.
4. Council further notes that the country is now on course for a recession and that by the end of 2008:
 - a) Unemployment was at 1.864 million, its highest since 2000, after 10 months of successive rises.
 - b) The pound had reached a record low valuation against the euro, losing a quarter of its value since the beginning of the year.
 - c) House prices had fallen by over 10% during the course of the year.
5. Council notes that the economic downturn has already had a severe impact on the council's finances, with the cut in interest rates alone costing over £4 million in lost interest from deposits and the reduction in revenue from land searches predicted at over £0.5 million.
6. Council notes in addition that as the recession takes effect, the demand for a wide range of council services – from more people seeking benefit advice to an increase in the number of people using council leisure facilities, rather than private gyms – is likely to increase.
7. Council therefore notes with dismay that despite this worsening situation and the overwhelming evidence that the existing formula is flawed, the Local Government Minister John Heeley announced on November 26 that the council's funding would not increase by more than 1.75% and wrote to the leader of the council stating there are "no current plans to review" the funding formula.

8. Council notes that the resulting funding shortfall will make it impossible for the council to produce a balanced budget without undertaking further cuts to frontline services.
9. Council therefore calls on the leaders of all parties represented on Southwark Council to write to the Secretary of State for Local Government, condemning the government's failure to increase its funding for Southwark, questioning the continued use of flawed formulae and information, and calling on her to urgently review this situation with a view to increasing Southwark's funding settlement.

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

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE (seconded by Councillor Paul Bates)

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

The Mayor of London's discontinuation of the Cross River Tram project

1. Council Assembly condemns the decision by the Mayor of London Boris Johnson to scrap the Cross River Tram project.
2. Council assembly believes that the decision by the Mayor to prioritise scrapping the Western Extension of the congestion charge zone, abandoning emissions based congestion charging, scrapping the bendy bus and introducing an expensive new rotemaster ahead of the development of the Cross River Tram scheme is bad for the environment and bad for the majority of Southwark residents who depend on public transport.
3. Council assembly calls on the executive to safeguard the tram route within the borough so that the possibility of resurrecting the scheme is not lost
4. Council assembly calls on the executive to work with other councils and partners to look for alternatives and funding for the development of the tram scheme and to report back to Council assembly on its progress in no less than six months.
5. Council assembly calls on the executive to write an open letter to the Greater London Assembly thanking those members who have fought for the tram for their support and asking them to keep putting pressure on the Mayor. The letter should call on the Mayor to recognise the importance of the scheme to Southwark and asks him to reverse his damaging decision.

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

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON (seconded by Councillor Caroline Pidgeon)

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

An Olympic Legacy For Camberwell

1. Council notes that the successful Olympic handover ceremony at Camberwell Green last year, jointly organised by Southwark Council events team and the SE5 Forum and the intention to repeat such an event on "Olympic Day" this year.

2. Council notes that the council's participation in the governments free swimming programme for over 60s and under 16s and welcomes the funding provided for the next two financial years.
3. Council notes that the council's application to the government's free swimming capital modernisation fund for £1.5million capital to match fund the council's £1.5million already allocated to refurbish the swimming facilities at Camberwell Leisure Centre, and that, if successful, works could begin in the next financial year.
4. Council further notes that despite a highly competitive application process, the council have now been invited to submit their "stage 2" application for Camberwell, and thanks the work done so far by officers and the contribution made by the Camberwell Baths campaign.
5. Council believes that the refurbishment of the swimming facilities at Camberwell Leisure Centre would be an appropriate "*Olympic Legacy*" for Camberwell, restoring a historic and well loved public facility in one of the most deprived areas of South London for future generations.
6. Council also believes that in the current financial climate a successful application to the government's free swimming capital modernisation fund represents the best opportunity to achieve this ambition, and that the ability to mobilise works quickly will play a small but important part in fighting the economic downturn in Southwark.
7. Council requests that the executive invite Southwark representatives of all political parties to reaffirm or make clear their support for this application, and to make the case for Camberwell where appropriate.
8. Council requests that the executive to make representations to the DCMS to resolve the revenue funding status for free swimming which expires in April 2011, to give local authorities certainty for financial planning.

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

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK (seconded by Councillor Paul Noblet)

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

Help a London Park

1. Council notes that the Mayor of London's Help a London Park competition runs from November 25 2008 to January 30 2009 and that 10 London parks receiving the most support in a public vote will receive grants of up to £400,000.
2. Council notes that two Southwark parks, Camberwell Green and Dickens Square, are competing against 6 other parks in the South East London area.
3. Council therefore welcomes the efforts of council officers and members in raising awareness of the vote and seeking to maximise the number of votes received by each park and calls on members of all parties to text or email their vote for either Camberwell Green or Dickens square and to encourage all Southwark residents to do the same.
4. Council further notes that Burgess Park is competing against 5 other parks in London for £2 million of 'Top Priority Parks' funding which will be decided by the Mayor, following advice from an expert panel, and that this decision is due imminently;

5. Council notes the significant benefits in terms of regeneration which investment in Burgess Park would bring to one of London's most deprived areas and welcomes the decision of the leaders of Southwark's three main political groups to write to the panel before Christmas expressing cross-party support for the bid.
6. Council therefore reaffirms its commitment to securing investment in Burgess Park and calls on the leaders of the three groups to write to the Mayor, expressing its support for Burgess Park and urging him to award it the £2 million.

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

5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR GORDON NARDELL (seconded by Councillor Andrew Pakes)

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

Community micro-generation in Southwark

1. Council assembly recognises that reduction of carbon emissions from domestic energy consumption is a key goal in tackling climate change, and that the council's climate change strategy must include promoting energy efficiency and decentralised energy production for existing dwellings, alongside the policies and measures the council has already adopted in relation to new build.
2. Council assembly believes that community-based energy efficiency and micro-generation schemes have an essential role to play as part of that strategy. They can also help relieve fuel poverty at a time of high energy costs and financial uncertainty.
3. Council therefore welcomes the establishment of Peckham Power as the first such initiative in the borough following its successful launch conference on November 22 2008 with the support of officers and members. We note its aim of acting as a co-operative enterprise, run by and for local residents in Peckham and Nunhead, to help people – no matter what their income – to generate and use energy sustainably; and to provide advice and skills to people who want to install, maintain and develop local energy generation and efficiency measures, including retro-fitting solar thermal and photovoltaic systems to existing housing stock. We wish to see this and other local initiatives thriving around the borough.
4. Council assembly therefore invites the executive to prepare and consult on proposals to promote community-based energy efficiency and micro-generation schemes throughout the borough, including:
 - a) Start-up advice, assistance and funding to enable local groups to form.
 - b) Advice and assistance for securing grants and other financial assistance from government, the European Union and other sources.
 - c) Ongoing advice and assistance on organisational, technical and financial issues.
 - d) Exploring ways of enabling existing dwellings in regeneration areas to benefit from low carbon initiatives associated with new-build, such as the Elephant & Castle multi utility services company (MUSCo).
5. Council request the executive to report back to council assembly within 6 months on the measures it has put in place.

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

6. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS (seconded by Councillor Nick Vineall)

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

Sustainable Communities Act

1. Council believes that local authorities and their communities know best on the solutions to local problems and so should determine how to promote thriving communities.
2. Council supports the bottom up process set out in the Sustainable Communities Act designed to allow local authorities and their communities to drive the help that central government gives in reversing community decline and promoting thriving, sustainable communities.
3. Council notes that the Act became law in October 2007 with full cross party support and that this was a result of 5 year campaign run by a coalition of over 90 national citizens organisations called Local Works.
4. Council notes that the Act gives local authorities the power to:
 - a) make proposals to government on the action government must take to reverse community decline and promote sustainable communities, and
 - b) argue for a transfer of public money and function from central to local control.
5. Council notes that the Act defines the sustainability of local communities broadly, encompassing all aspects of economic, social and environmental wellbeing.
6. Council welcomes the leader's intention to work with overview and scrutiny, the Local Strategic Partnership and the local community to develop proposals for submission under the Act and to consult the local community on these proposals.
7. Council calls on the leader to ensure that members of all parties are involved in preparing proposals and encouraging participation by local people in the consultation process.

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	January 12, 2009