

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date:	MEETING NAME Executive
Report title:		Motion Submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9 – Replica Weapons	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive (Borough Solicitor & Secretary)	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Executive consider the motion as set out in paragraph 2 below.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. At the Council Assembly meeting on 30th April 2003 a motion was submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9 (1) by Councillor Richard Porter and seconded by Councillor Columba Blango. The motion was subsequently amended and referred to the Executive for consideration:-

1. That Council welcomes the Home Office gun amnesty this month and wholeheartedly encourages Southwark residents who possess dangerous weapons to give them up.
2. That Council welcomes the hard work of community organisations including “Mums Against Guns” in recent months including the organisation of a street march and two public meetings.
3. That Council also welcomes the work of the police and their quick action and response in making arrests related to recent shootings in the borough.
4. Therefore Council:

Welcomes the Government’s steps for a five year minimum sentence for anyone found in possession of a firearm following the end of the amnesty.

Calls upon the Government to ban the sale of replica guns.

Calls upon the Executive to investigate all avenues for the Council to tackle gun crime in Southwark and report back to Council Assembly on their actions.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9 (3), the above motion was referred to the Executive, which shall report upon the outcome of their deliberations upon the motion to the next meeting of Council Assembly.
4. The constitution allocates particular responsibility for functions to Council

Assembly, for approving the budget and policy framework, and to the Executive, for developing and implementing the budget and policy framework and overseeing the running of Council services on a day-to-day basis

5. Any key issues, policy or funding implications are included in the advice from the Chief Executive.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

6. The Council fully supports the gun amnesty. The total number of weapons handed in to Southwark police stations during the gun amnesty was 55 firearms and 318 rounds of ammunition. This total includes five imitation firearms.
7. The Council is already trying to establish a voluntary code for the sale of replica weapons and will seek to gain the active support of our neighbouring boroughs. Trading Standards are currently identifying local shops, which sell air guns, imitation guns, replica and de-commissioned guns. Evidence to date indicates that there are very few specialist gun shops, selling either real or replica guns, in Southwark. However, Trading Standards will be advising shops to bring them within a local code of conduct on sales. A similar scheme already exists in relation to a range of products such as knives and cigarettes. Trading Standards are already developing cross borough working and anticipate that eventually these types of voluntary codes will be London wide.
8. The main area of concern is the wide range of replica guns available, and the need for workable definitions which can lead to enforcement action by police and/or trading standards. The Council will continue to work with the police to develop detailed proposals which the Government can implement in legislation.

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 3.9 (1).	Town Hall, Peckham Road, London. SE5 8UB	Lesley John Constitutional Support Unit 020 7525 7228

APPENDIX A

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Support Manager (Executive)	
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Support Unit	
Version	1 st draft	
Dated	6 th May 2003	
Key Decision?		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Chief Officer	Yes	Yes
Executive Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services		