

Council Assembly

Wednesday 14 July 2010
7.00 pm
Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

Supplemental Agenda No.3

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Date: Tuesday 13 July 2010

5.2 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES (see pages 9-17 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT A

Moved: Councillor Toby Eckersley
Seconded: Councillor Lewis Robinson

In paragraph 20 **add** at the end of new Part 3A clause 8 "and the approval of virements over £10,000,000 between capital projects or programme headings as set out in the overall programme." and change accordingly the wording of new Part 3C clause 9, and the Financial Standing Orders.

6.1 - SOUTHWARK'S RESPONSE TO THE EMERGENCY BUDGET (see page 31 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT B**Moved:** Councillor Catherine McDonald**Seconded:** Councillor Richard Livingstone**Insert** new paragraphs 4-7 as below:

4. Council assembly notes the increase in VAT will lead to higher prices for goods and services; will have a disproportionate impact on pensioners and other low income groups; and will have a severe impact on businesses, charities and community groups in Southwark. It further notes the disproportionate effect of the budget on women and the disabled.
5. Council assembly notes the effect of the increase in VAT, when taken with other measures in the budget, will be unfair to pensioners, who have not had a compensatory increase in other benefits and allowances.
6. Council assembly notes that the way the VAT increase will affect pensioners and other low income groups runs counter to the Government's Coalition Agreement statement on 20 May 2010 that it would "ensure that fairness is at the heart of those decisions so that all those most in need are protected."
7. Council assembly notes the Institute of Fiscal Studies has stated the VAT increase was not "unavoidable," as the Chancellor of the Exchequer said in his budget speech."

Renumber existing paragraphs 4-7 as necessary.**Insert** new paragraphs 12-13 as below:

12. Council assembly resolves to call on the leader to write directly to the Chancellor of the Exchequer raising concerns about the impact of the proposed VAT increase on pensioners, other vulnerable groups and businesses in Southwark.
13. Council assembly resolves to call on the cabinet to write to members of parliament representing Southwark, asking that they stand up for Southwark's pensioners, businesses and wider community, to voice their opposition to this unfair increase in VAT and to vote against it in parliament."

AMENDMENT C**Moved:** Councillor Rosie Shimell**Seconded:** Councillor Tim McNally**Delete** all after 'notes' in paragraph 1 to end of paragraph 6 and **insert**:

“with regret the new Coalition government discovered that the outgoing Labour government left the public finances in a catastrophic state and much worse than they had previously admitted. Notes this public deficit is the second largest in Europe and is equivalent to £22,400 for every man, woman and child in the UK. Also notes the outgoing Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Labour MP, Liam Byrne left a note stating ‘Dear chief secretary, I’m afraid there is no money. Kind regards – and good luck! Liam.’

2. Council assembly further notes that the outgoing Labour government was also planning massive public spending cuts to get the deficit under control with the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling, admitting in a BBC interview on 25 March 2010 that Labour’s planned spending cuts would be ‘deeper and tougher’ than those implemented by Margaret Thatcher.
3. Council assembly recognises that the government’s spending cuts have been carefully considered and knows the moderating influence of Liberal Democrats will ensure the decisive action needed to reduce the deficit will be tempered with fairness and a concern for the poorest and most vulnerable in our society.
4. Council assembly welcomes the measures in the budget protecting the poor and vulnerable including:
 - a. Nearly 1 million low earners taken out of tax altogether with more to follow
 - b. £2 billion extra child tax credit to tackle poverty
 - c. Help for pensioners with the restoration of the earnings link that Labour had 13 years to restore, but failed
 - d. A 10% increase in capital gains tax for top earners
 - e. A new tax on banks
5. Council assembly further welcomes the new government’s freeing of councils from unnecessary and wasteful bureaucracy including the ending of the comprehensive area assessment and believes the resources now freed up from the inspection regime can be used to more effectively align frontline services to reflect the priorities of local people.”

Renumber final paragraph ‘6’ and **insert** after ‘scale’ (line 3) “and causes”.

6.4 – SOUTHWARK'S CAPITAL PROGRAMME (see page 33 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT D

Moved: Councillor Richard Livingstone

Seconded: Councillor Helen Hayes

Delete paragraph 3 and insert:

3. Council assembly supports the new administration's view that the capital programme is of such strategic importance that it should be discussed and approved by the full council assembly.
4. Council assembly therefore also supports the proposal set out in item 5.2 (the report on constitutional changes) of this meeting's agenda that the cabinet to submit the capital programme to council assembly for their approval once every four years and requests that cabinet submit a revised programme to council assembly for approval during 2010.
5. Council assembly notes that the current capital programme, agreed on 9 February by the previous administration, made no commitment to fund refurbishment work of Seven Islands leisure centre. Instead it asked that the finance director provide more detailed options analysis and financial appraisals on the remaining bids received (including Seven Islands) for future consideration by the executive in the context of resources available and considering any additional resources which can be identified. The total costs for these bids totaled £115m, against a budget of £55.5m available.
6. However, council assembly also recognises the importance of Seven Islands leisure centre to a significant proportion of the borough and therefore asks the cabinet to consider carefully how its refurbishment could be funded through the capital programme.
7. Council assembly notes the report to the regeneration and leisure scrutiny sub-committee on 29 June identified that the Canada Water library will cost a further £0.5 million more than has been agreed in the capital programme as a result of the over-running of the construction phase of this project. Council assembly therefore asks cabinet to agree to this additional expenditure over and above the level of the commitment made by the previous administration so that this work can be completed.
8. Council assembly believes it is important that the capital programme demonstrates investment in all areas of the borough and not just one community council area. It therefore calls on cabinet to consider the needs of the whole borough in its revision of the capital programme before submitting it for approval to council assembly.

AMENDMENT E

Moved: Councillor Graham Neale

Seconded: Councillor Mark Gettleson

At end **insert:**

“Council assembly further calls on the cabinet to:

- Refurbish and reinvigorate The Blue
- Regenerate Albion Street, including a new street market, investment in existing shops and preserving the library site for community or mixed use
- Continue to provide help for people to cut carbon emissions and fuel bills by offering grants for insulation and energy saving measures
- Improve our parks and open spaces by installing drainage on Peckham Rye Common and include a sculpture park as part of the rejuvenation of Burgess Park.”

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 14 July 2010	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Late Motion – Elephant and Castle Regeneration Agreement	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law and Governance	

LATE MOTION

MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN (seconded by Councillor Geoffrey Thornton)

1. Council assembly notes the decision by the cabinet on 7 July to enter into an agreement with Lend Lease for the regeneration of the Elephant and Castle.
2. Council assembly believes that in Labour's rush to sign any deal this agreement is no longer in the public interest as it fails to meet the expectations of local taxpayers or of local residents in and around the Elephant.
3. Council assembly welcomes the u-turn by the cabinet – but only after pressure from the Liberal Democrats – that now means all options for the leisure centre will include a swimming pool and the threat of sending Southwark residents to Lambeth to swim may have been ended.
4. Council assembly, however, makes particular note of the following areas where the deal goes against the promises made to voters just eight weeks ago by the new administration:
 - 1) Taxpayers are set to lose tens of millions of pounds as a result of the revised capital receipts agreed by the Labour administration.
 - 2) The minimum requirement of 25% for affordable housing will see less than 800 homes built on the Heygate site (and fewer than 400 affordable rented homes), shatters the council's planning requirements of 35% affordable housing in the area and will deliver fewer affordable homes than would have been secured by using these planning rules effectively.
 - 3) Allowing Lend Lease to find an alternative to the MUSCO makes a carbon neutral development impossible and will affect the replacement of ageing district heating systems across the borough, including as part of the Aylesbury regeneration.
 - 4) Neither the shopping centre, nor the northern roundabout are included in the deal, despite Labour pledges.

- 5) The deal omits any reference to a new library or lifelong learning centre and puts under threat the future of both the Newington and Brandon libraries.
5. Council assembly is also concerned that no agreement has been reached with Transport for London about improvements to the Elephant and Castle underground station and believes this represents a substantial risk to the deal and any capital receipts due to the council.
6. Council assembly therefore respectfully requests the cabinet to renegotiate the deal, addressing the points above and ensuring value for money for local taxpayers.

REASON FOR LATENESS

This decision was taken by the cabinet after the deadline for members' motions and given the importance of a successful regeneration scheme to the whole borough we believe all members of council assembly should be able to express their view on its details.

NOTES:

1. Prior to debating the late motion the following council assembly procedure rule would need to be suspended:
 - Notice for motions to be delivered (CAPR 2.9 (3)).
2. If the late motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet 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 Manager
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	13 July 2010

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