

# Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting)

Wednesday 17 October 2012  
7.00 pm

Walworth Academy, 34 - 40 Shorncliffe Road, London SE1 5UJ

## Supplemental Agenda No.1

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Date: 9 October 2012



## Council Assembly (Ordinary)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary) held on Wednesday 4 July 2012 at 7.00 pm at Southwark College, Bermondsey Centre, Keetons Road, London, SE16 4EE

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### PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2012/13, Councillor Althea Smith

Councillor Kevin Ahern	Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Linda Manchester
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Chris Brown	Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Michael Bukola	Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Poddy Clark	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton	Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Rowenna Davis	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Patrick Diamond	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Toby Eckersley	Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor the Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Mark Gettleson	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Norma Gibbes	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Stephen Govier	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Geoffrey Thornton
Councillor Claire Hickson	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Jeff Hook	Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Peter John	
Councillor Paul Kyriacou	

## 1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

### 1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor:

- Thanked Southwark College for allowing council assembly to use their facilities.
- Stated that a list of people who live or work in the borough who had received an award in the Queen's birthday honours list 2012 had been circulated at the meeting.
- Announced that Canon Ivelaw Bowman, Father Peters and Pastor Yemi would be her spiritual advisors for the year and that her chosen charity would be Kiwanis - an international children's charity.
- Congratulated the young people of Southwark who participated in the 2012 London Youth Games. Team Southwark won four first places victories in the BMX, girls basketball, boys gymnastics and boys athletics. Overall Southwark won 18 individual medals – 7 gold, 4 silver and 7 bronze.
- With sadness announced the death of Ron Watts, a Southwark Councillor from 1972 – 1982. Councillors Veronica Ward, David Hubber and Toby Eckersley paid tribute. Thereafter the meeting held a minute's silence.

At this juncture Councillor David Hubber noted that Dr Amanda Squires had been omitted from those listed in the Queen's birthday honours list. The clerk undertook to add Dr Squires name to the published list.

### 1.2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

With the meeting's consent the Mayor announced that she intended to accept one late and urgent item of closed business: Appointment of Independent member.

The Mayor announced that following consultation with the political group whips, she intended to vary the order of business<sup>1</sup> so that the deputation request regarding council run children's nurseries could be considered first as there were children present. This would be followed by the four deputation requests on the theme. The remaining deputation from the Walworth Society would be considered after the motion on the theme. In addition it had been agreed that there would be a single debate on the three motions on the theme. Each motion and its amendments would be moved and seconded and thereafter in any time remaining there would be a single debate. At the close of the themed debate a separate vote would be taken on each amendment and motion.

The meeting agreed to suspend the following council assembly procedure rules: 2.6 (11) No more than three deputations shall be considered at any one meeting and 1.14 (4)

<sup>1</sup> These minutes follow the order of business as set out in the main agenda and not as the revised order of business considered at the meeting.

Single debate on motions.

### 1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

#### **Item 3. Themed debate: Health in Southwark**

Councillor Andy Simmons declared a pecuniary interest in this item as he has three honorary contracts with the NHS in Southwark.

Councillor The Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole declared a pecuniary interest in this item as he is employed by Barts and The London NHS Trust.

#### **Item 4. Other deputations – Deputation from the Walworth Society**

Councillor Toby Eckersley declared a personal interest in this item as he is a member of the Walworth Society.

### 1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Fiona Colley, Lisa Rajan, Columba Blango and Helen Morrissey.

### 1.5 MINUTES

#### **RESOLVED:**

The minutes of the annual council assembly meeting held on 23 May 2012 be agreed and signed as a correct record with the following amendment:

Page 4, in the last sentence at the bottom of the page this should read "Abdul Mohamed".

## 2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

### 2.1 PETITIONS

There were none.

### 2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

*(See supplemental agenda 2, page 1 of the green paper circulated at the meeting)*

There was one question from the public, the answer to which was circulated on green paper at the meeting. The public questioner asked a supplementary question of Councillor Barrie Hargrove, cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling. The questions and responses are attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

## 2.3 DEPUTATION REQUESTS ON THE THEME

*(See pages 2 - 5 of supplemental agenda 2)*

Having earlier agreed to vary the order of business, the meeting heard the deputation request on council run nurseries (see item 4).

Having declared a pecuniary interest in the themed debate Councillor The Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole and Councillor Andy Simmons left the room whilst the deputations, members statement, public questions and motions on the theme were considered.

### **Deputation from Southwark Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Network**

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from Southwark Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Network.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Dr Justin Verney, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Peter John, leader of the council. Councillor Peter John and Councillor Catherine McDonald, cabinet member for health and adult services, provided oral responses.

Councillors David Hubber, Patrick Diamond, Claire Hickson, Victoria Mills and David Noakes asked questions of the deputation.

Thereafter the deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

### **Deputation on air quality**

Council assembly considered whether to receive a deputation request on air quality.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Tom Chance, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Peter John, leader of the council. Councillor Peter John and Councillor Barrie Hargrove, cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling, provided oral responses.

Councillors Geoffrey Thornton and Graham Neale asked questions of the deputation.

Thereafter the deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

### **Deputation from Cooltan Arts**

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from Cooltan Arts.

**RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Michelle Baharier addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Catherine McDonald, cabinet member for health and adult social care, who provided an oral response.

Councillors Poddy Clark, Anood Al-Samerai and Eliza Mann asked questions of the deputation.

Thereafter the deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

**Deputation from NHS Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group**

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from NHS Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group.

**RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Dr Jonty Heaversedge, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Peter John, leader of the council, who provided an oral response.

Councillors Mark Williams, David Noakes and Stephen Govier asked questions of the deputation.

Thereafter the deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

At this juncture Councillor Tim McNally, seconded by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, moved a procedural motion to vary the order of business to allow the deputation from the Walworth Society to be now considered. The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

**3. THEMED DEBATE: HEALTH IN SOUTHWARK**

**3.1 CABINET MEMBER STATEMENT**

Councillor Catherine McDonald, cabinet member for health and adult social care, introduced the theme of the meeting.

The lead opposition spokesperson on health and adult social care, Councillor David

Noakes, replied to the cabinet members' statement.

### **3.2 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE THEME**

*(See supplemental agenda 2, page 6 of the green paper circulated at the meeting)*

There were two questions from the public on the theme, the answers to which were circulated on green paper at the meeting. One questioner was present and asked a supplemental question of Councillor Barrie Hargrove, cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling. All the questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 2 to the minutes.

### **3.3 MEMBERS' MOTIONS ON THE THEME**

The meeting had agreed that there would be a single debate on the three motions on the theme.

#### **MOTION 1 – THE THREAT TO ADULT CARE SERVICES IN THE SOUTH OF THE BOROUGH**

*(See page 4 of the main agenda)*

The Mayor announced that she had received notice of changes to the speakers on Amendment B; Councillors Chris Brown and Gavin Edwards now wished to move and second the amendment rather than Councillors Dan Garfield and Kevin Ahern. The meeting consented to the change of speakers.

Councillor Lewis Robinson, seconded by Councillor Michael Mitchell, moved the motion.

Councillor David Noakes, seconded by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, moved Amendment A.

Councillor Chris Brown, seconded by Councillor Gavin Edwards, moved Amendment B.

#### **MOTION 2 – HEALTH AND WELLBEING PRIORITIES**

*(See pages 4 - 5 of the main agenda)*

The Mayor announced that she had received notice of changes to the speakers to Motion 2 and Amendment C; Councillor Rosie Shimell now wished to move Motion 2 rather than Councillor Noakes and Councillor Patrick Diamond wished to move Amendment C rather than Councillor Catherine McDonald. The meeting consented to the change of speakers.

Councillor Rosie Shimell, seconded by Councillor Denise Capstick, moved the motion.

Councillor Patrick Diamond, seconded by Councillor Nick Dolezal, moved Amendment C.

At 10.07 pm the bell was rung and the Mayor announced that the guillotine had fallen. The clerk announced that each motion and amendment which had been moved and seconded would be voted on separately.

Councillor Dan Garfield moved a procedural motion to suspend council assembly procedure rule 1.14(4) (order of debate) to allow Amendment B of motion 1 to be voted upon before Amendment A. The procedural motion was seconded, put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**Vote on Motion 1 and Amendments A and B – The threat to adult care services in the south of the borough**

Amendment B was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Amendment A was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

**Vote on Motion 2 and Amendment C – Health and wellbeing priorities**

Amendment C was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly recognises and thanks the dedicated health professionals in our borough who work so hard to improve the lives of Southwark residents in our hospitals, GP surgeries and our homes.
2. That council assembly welcomes the increase in life expectancy in the borough, but notes the significant health inequalities which still exist among Southwark residents.
3. That council assembly welcomes the return of responsibility for public health to local government and the formation of Southwark's shadow health and wellbeing board, to finally provide some democratic accountability for health provision in Southwark.
4. That council assembly noted and supports the four work areas that have been identified as priorities for the shadow health and wellbeing board in their first year: prevention or reduction of alcohol-related misuse; coping skills, resilience and mental wellbeing; early intervention and families; healthy weight and exercise.
5. That council assembly also noted that sexual health and drug addiction are major areas of public concern in the borough, which have a disproportionate impact on the health and wellbeing of a significant minority of our residents, and calls on the new shadow board to consider these issues.
6. That council assembly believes that a wider and more diverse board membership leads to more effective, accountable and representative decisions and outcomes. Council assembly therefore calls for the health and wellbeing board to consider ways to involve other parties and representatives from the voluntary sector.

**Note:** This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.



### **MOTION 3 – HEALTH IN SOUTHWARK**

*(See pages 5 - 6 of the main agenda)*

The time allocated for the themed debate having expired, Motion 3 and its amendment were formally noted having not been moved and seconded at the meeting.

At this juncture Councillor Tim McNally, seconded by Councillor Dan Garfield, moved a procedural motion to suspend council assembly procedural rule 1.12(6) (suspension of the guillotine) to allow the meeting to hear the deputation from the Walworth Society (see item 4). The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

#### **4. OTHER DEPUTATIONS**

*(See pages 7 - 9 of supplemental agenda 2)*

##### **Deputation request on the closure of council-run children's nurseries**

This deputation was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request on the closure of council-run children's nurseries.

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Nikola Zahariey, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, cabinet member for children's services, who provided an oral response.

Councillors Graham Neale, Renata Hamvas, Paul Kyriacou, Andy Simmons, Michael Bukola and Catherine Bowman asked questions of the deputation.

Thereafter the deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

At this juncture Councillor Tim McNally, seconded by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, moved a procedural motion to vary the order of business to allow motion 1 (see item 5.2) to be now considered.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried. Please see item 5 elsewhere in the minutes.

##### **Deputation request from the Walworth Society**

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from the Walworth Society.

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Jeremy Leach, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Peter John, leader of the council, who provided an oral response.

Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, Patrick Diamond, Catherine Bowman, Neil Coyle and Mark Gettleson asked questions of the deputation.

Thereafter the deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

## **5. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS**

### **5.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

*(see pages 7 - 13 of the main agenda and the blue and yellow papers circulated at the meeting)*

The guillotine having fallen members' questions were formally noted. See Appendix 3 of the minutes for the urgent question and response and Appendix 4 of the minutes for the 44 members' questions and responses.

### **5.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

#### **MOTION 1 – SAVE SOUTHWARK NURSERIES**

*(see page 14 of the main agenda)*

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Graham Neale, seconded by Councillor Catherine Bowman, moved the motion.

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, seconded by Councillor Renata Hamvas, moved Amendment E.

Following debate (Councillors Nick Stanton, Lewis Robinson, Stephen Govier, Tim McNally and Andy Simmons), Councillor Graham Neale exercised his right of reply.

Amendment E was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly noted that Tenda Road and Bishop's House children's centres will remain open and this has always been the case and regrets the mendacious campaign by local Liberal Democrat councillors that gave the impression that these centres would close.

2. That council assembly noted that the consultation will continue until 31 July 2012 and urges parents and relevant stakeholders to submit their views.
3. That council assembly also noted that Southwark has had a real terms cut of 25% of its budget in the last 2 years – far greater than other local authorities including more affluent boroughs like Richmond.
4. That it noted the hypocrisy of the local Liberal Democrat MP for Bermondsey and Old Southwark, Simon Hughes, to campaign against nursery closures while voting to cut their funding.
5. That council assembly calls on the leaders' of each political group on the council and the local MP to write a joint letter to the Liberal Democrat Children's Minister, Sarah Teather MP, urging her to rethink her cuts to nursery funding.

**Note:** This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

## **6. REPORT FOR RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CABINET**

### **6.1 COUNCIL PLAN ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2011/12**

*(see pages 16 – 45 of the main agenda)*

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (1), Councillor Peter John, leader of the council, moved the report.

Following debate (Councillors Paul Noblet, Toby Eckersley, Nick Stanton, David Hubber, James Barber and Anood Al-Samerai), Councillor Peter John exercised his right of reply.

At this juncture Councillor Anood Al-Samerai made a point of personal explanation.

The recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the updates to the council plan targets for 2012/13 be adopted.

## **7. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION FROM THE CABINET**

### **7.1 REPORT BACK ON MOTIONS REFERRED TO CABINET FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**

*(see pages 45 - 54 of the main agenda)*

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**8. OTHER REPORTS****8.1 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE - 2011/12 ANNUAL REPORT AND UPDATE ON HRA SELF-FINANCING SETTLEMENT**

*(See pages 55 – 65 of the main agenda)*

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (2), the Mayor formally moved the report.

Following debate (Councillors Toby Eckersley and Richard Livingstone), the recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the 2011/12 outturn report on debt, investments and prudential indicators be noted.
2. That the £100m debt refinancing carried out between March and April 2012 and the disaggregation of the long term debt outstanding at 1 April 2012 between the housing revenue account and the general fund, as set out in paragraph 18 of the report, be noted.

**8.2 CODE OF CONDUCT AND PROPOSED CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES**

*(See pages 66 – 83 of the main agenda)*

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

The clerk advised that on pages 75 – 76, paragraphs 23 – 34 of the member and officer protocol, references to 'you' should read 'the member' and the published version would be reworded accordingly for the sake of clarity.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (2), the report was formally moved by the Mayor.

The recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the code of conduct for members attached as Appendix A to the report be adopted.
2. That the changes to the member and officer protocol attached as Appendix B to the report be agreed, subject to the minor changes reported by the clerk.
3. That the changes to the committee procedure rules as detail in paragraph 11 of the report be agreed.

**8.3 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MONITORING OFFICER ROLES AND FUNCTIONS**

*(See pages 84 – 131 of the main agenda)*

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (2), the report was formally moved by the Mayor.

The recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the changes to the constitution as a consequence of the senior management reorganisation and the transfer of the monitoring officer functions (see Appendix 1 of the report) be adopted.
2. That officers be authorised to make any consequential amendments to the constitution.

**8.4 APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE - RECOMMENDATION OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

*(See pages 132 – 138 of the main agenda)*

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

The clerk advised that in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.11 (2) (Motion similar to one previously rejected), parts 4 and 5 of Amendment F fell as they would rescind previous decisions of council assembly made on 28 March 2012 (Pay policy statement).

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (1), Councillor Peter John, leader of the council and chair of the appointments committee, moved the report.

Councillor Catherine Bowman, seconded by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, moved parts 1, 2 and 3 of revised Amendment F.

Following debate (Councillor Lewis Robinson), Councillor Peter John exercised his right of reply.

Revised Amendment F was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:**

That Ms Eleanor Kelly be appointed to the chief executive vacancy and thus become the statutory head of paid services. Base salary to be £160,767, with an effective date of 5 July 2012.

At this juncture the Mayor congratulated the new chief executive on her appointment.

**8.5 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON**

*(See pages 1 – 4 of closed supplemental agenda 3)*

This item was considered in the closed section of the meeting. See item 10 below.

**9. AMENDMENTS**

The amendments are set out in supplemental agenda 2.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:**

That the press and public be excluded for the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 1 of paragraph 10.4 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Southwark Constitution.

**10. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON**

This item was considered in the closed section of the meeting as the independent person selection panel was due to meet on 11 July 2012 in order to interview the remaining candidate who was unable to attend on 27 June. In addition the appointee is to serve jointly with Lambeth Council who were meeting on 18 July 2012 to approve the appointment. As both these dates have now passed the confidentiality of the appointees no longer applies because the selection process had been concluded. The open minutes can record the decisions of the closed section of the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Mr William Dee be appointed as an independent person subject to resolution 2 and that it be noted that the appointee is to serve jointly with Lambeth Council who are meeting on 18 July 2012 to approve the appointment.
2. That the commencement date of each term of office be confirmed by the head of legal services.
3. That it be noted that the head of legal services will arrange for the candidate to complete a criminal records bureau check.
4. That it be noted that council assembly may be asked to consider a further report to appoint additional independent persons at the meeting to be held on 17 October 2012.

The meeting closed at 11.10pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**

**APPENDIX 1****COUNCIL ASSEMBLY****(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2012****PUBLIC QUESTION TIME****1. QUESTION FROM JANE LOVEL TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING**

The Dulwich Estate's Scheme of Management recently brought out revised policy guidelines for solar energy panels. Are you planning to submit comments and can they include views of many residents who have found the current guidelines to be a barrier to investing in renewable energy, lacking in transparency or scrutiny?

**RESPONSE**

We understand that the Dulwich Estate is preparing new guidelines on solar panels. They have not consulted the council on these yet but expect to do so in the coming weeks. We will await their consultation but we hope that the estate would adopt a position that is not unduly restrictive, and are of course happy for residents to send any comments that they believe should inform any response we make.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM JANE LOVEL TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING**

Madam Mayor, councillors, ladies and gentlemen, I urge Councillor Hargrove to proactively engage with the scheme of management at Dulwich Estate, as to my knowledge they have not published the revised guidelines on solar energy panels on their web site or circulated them to any other interested local groups such as Dulwich Going Greener, of which I am a member. I believe this process needs to be more transparent and the Dulwich Estate need to be more accountable to residents like me who pay for their services and I want to contribute to this process to improve Dulwich.

My repeated request to meet the Dulwich Society representatives on their planning committee has been denied despite me being a member. Since 2010 energy prices have increased by nearly 40% and many residents want to reduce their energy bills and contribute to reducing their dependence on fossil fuels, which cause climate change, and not leave this to our children or their children. Dulwich Society is not representative of all Dulwich residents.

My question is what steps would you take to contact the Dulwich Estate and gain some concrete assurances that residents' comments will be considered into their revised guidelines for solar energy panels? I ask you to write to the Dulwich Estate and their trustees asking them to re-establish their planning committee that contains at least two other Dulwich groups such as Dulwich Going Greener.

Since the Dulwich Village Preservation Society and the Dulwich Leaseholders' Society were closed many years ago they were not replaced. If the Dulwich Society will not engage with their residents nor the Dulwich Estate, we need to have a mechanism to make our voices heard as we live in a democracy today.



**RESPONSE**

I want to thank Miss Lovel for coming here tonight and bringing this important issue to our attention. We have already had some contact, preliminary contact, I should say about this with the Dulwich Estates and they are planning to consult us on the changes to their guidelines.

I apologise if the written answer was perhaps written in a bit too bureaucratic language – what we want to say is that Dulwich Estates should be showing a greater commitment to the enabling of renewables and to that end we will be writing to them saying this is what we want. We want them to take a greater account of what residents want to be able to do with their homes and we will formally request what you have asked about the changes to their planning committee and anything else that residents wish to submit to us in terms of our response we will certainly take them on board and welcome them.

## COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

## (ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2012

## QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE THEME – HEALTH IN SOUTHWARK

**1. QUESTION FROM DAVID LINFOOT TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING**

Could you please inform me if there are any plans for an outdoor gym in Spa Gardens as this would encourage the community to keep fit, lose weight and give teenagers a way to keep off the streets and also to keep healthy?

**RESPONSE**

There are currently no plans to install an outdoor gym in Bermondsey Spa Gardens. The desire for this was raised with the Green Flag judges when they came to judge the site, and their view was that it would be more appropriate to install some natural play equipment.

Outdoor gyms are a great way to encourage the community to keep healthy, which is why we have installed one in the refurbishment of Burgess Park.

In addition, we recently completed our plan to place outdoor gyms in the north of the borough, so that Geraldine Mary Harmsworth, Southwark Park and Durand's Wharf now benefit from new gyms.

We have no other current plans for outdoor gyms, but are always interested in hearing the views of the community on improvements to our parks and open spaces

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM DAVID LINFOOT TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING**

A supplemental question was asked of the cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling, however due to a technical fault the supplemental question was not recorded.

**RESPONSE**

I thank Mr Linfoot for his question and as we said in the written answer we have no plans at the moment to introduce an outdoor gym in Spa Gardens. He may or may not know that there is currently an outdoor gym near to Bermondsey Spa Gardens which is located approximately ten minutes walk away at Pottier Street on Haddon Hall Estate, and that gym can be used by people who do not live on the estate. At the moment we do not have any plans to introduce an outdoor gym on Spa Gardens; but we certainly are in favour of having outdoor gyms as many as possible in our borough and it does not mean to say that we will not look at it in the future.

**2. QUESTION FROM KOLA ABIOLA TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

How will Southwark Council ensure that in improving local mental health services, the professional resources of local cognitive behavioural therapists and other mental health practitioners are captured and well utilised?

**RESPONSE**

I understand, the question is referring to the proposed reconfiguration of psychological therapy services that South London and Maudsley NHS Trust are currently consulting on, which includes changes to cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) services. This is an NHS service commissioned by Southwark Primary Care Trust rather than being a direct council responsibility. However, as the proposal potentially constitutes a substantial variation to local NHS services, the council has a formal role in scrutinising the proposals to help ensure the changes are properly consulted on and considered to be in the best interests of the local population. The council's health and adult social care scrutiny sub-committee is responsible for this scrutiny and this work is separate from the work of the cabinet. More information about it can be found on the council's website.

The new arrangements for local shadow health and wellbeing boards give us as a council other new opportunities to influence the work of the NHS. Indeed, one of our priorities for the coming year's work as a board will be coping skills, resilience and mental wellbeing. We fully anticipate, as part of this work, that we will be seeking the views of professionals and experts in the field.

## COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2012

Including themed debate on opportunities for young people

### SOME COMMUNITY VIEWS

#### Resident 1

We already have a lot of youth clubs but I think the quality and content of what they offer could be improved, such as more training courses. Could youth clubs offer something equivalent to GCSEs?

We also need to get better at promoting volunteering opportunities for young people aged 16 years and over. And a greater variety of sporting options, like boxing, martial arts and kayaking. More and more young people are interested in sports like these.

#### Resident 2

I'd like to see more conferences for young people on raising their aspirations. I know of a person whose life was changed for the better with support of this kind, and he became a successful businessman.

I'm willing to try and be a good role model myself among the people I live with. I want to do good to help young people do well at school. I volunteered in the summer holidays in Bermondsey.

#### Resident 3

I took part in some activities at Millwall Football Club, and I wouldn't mind benefitting from more of what they do in terms of things like football coaching. We need to do more of this work with and through primary schools across Southwark.

**Resident 4**

I think there should be more youth clubs in Southwark as lots of young people go to them. I also think the laying on of courses like First Aid would improve opportunities for young people. Nowadays it's all about getting courses and experience under your belt.

**Resident 5**

My school provides two to three weeks' work experience opportunities at the moment, but I think school work experience should be longer, like 3 to 4 weeks. 16 to 17 year olds believe there's a lack of job opportunities, or no jobs going at all, so they get involved in other stuff like selling drugs. With prices going up everywhere they need money, so they start stealing.

I'm willing to play my part. I can help teach people to play football. I can also give out newsletters to people in the community who can't get to the shops - a bit like what paper round people do.

**Resident 6**

We need more youth clubs with more things for young people to do, like football and dance classes. Local businesses should provide more work experience opportunities.

What about giving young people a National Insurance card at an earlier age, like 14 or 15? I think this will help give them more work experience opportunities, and improve their employment prospects from an earlier age.

**Resident 7**

Young people want more and better stuff to do. They also need more positive role models.

If you're black, you tend not to be seen positively or taken seriously because of the way you dress. You're accused of 'not being dressed for the occasion'. But many of us feel forced to dress as we do because we don't have the financial means to dress in the way employers want.

**Resident 8**

I'd like to see more 'gangs workshops', delivered by some young people and maybe ex-gang members. It's been well proved how that kind of stuff helps to turn around the lives of our young people.

**Resident 9**

The council should provide more employment and work experience opportunities for teenagers. I'm 25 now and I've never had any paid work experience, because with every application I make they're asking for my previous work experience, and I don't have any.

What about establishing something like an employment support scheme for young people?

**Resident 10**

There's not enough youth support workers. I think volunteer youth workers should be encouraged, and I wouldn't mind doing something like this myself.

I also think we should involve ex-offenders more, to help prevent young people committing crimes, and to get vulnerable young people to open up and tell us what would really help them, so that we as a community can provide better support where it's really needed.

Ex-offenders can be very effective at getting across the message that crime is not an option, and that it never pays. They're the best people to send home the message that 'if you commit the crime, you do the time'.

**Resident 11**

Any work to improve opportunities for young people in Southwark and to motivate them should be aimed at where most young people go.

Youth workers should play a bigger role in young people's lives.

**Resident 12**

Apprenticeships and youth training schemes are very good for improving the employment prospects of young people. A lot of them feel discouraged from going to university because of the high costs involved. Clearer messages about options other than going to university should be spelt out.

Employers should be more understanding of the culture and faith of a prospective employee. Consciously or not, they effectively discriminate on the grounds of people's religious beliefs. For example, many Muslim boys can't shave their beards and Muslim girls can't remove their head covering because of their religion.

I also believe that the media could do a lot more to stop the glamourising and idolising of gang life. The harsh reality is not at all glamorous or attractive. Some young people can't separate the real from the fake in their own minds.

**Resident 13**

More life skills training opportunities should be laid on because not enough of them seem to be laid on at the moment.

We also need a lot more work experience opportunities for 12 to 16 year olds, exposing them to the real-life work environment. That way they get to understand what the world of work is really like.

**Resident 14**

We have many opportunities for young people in Southwark, and the council is doing a good job at organising events and activities for young people, as well as providing youth clubs. But they're not always so good at promoting what's there. As a result, lots of young people never hear anything about what's going on, so we don't attend or take part.

Southwark Council employs a lot of people in so many areas of work, but are we recruiting enough young people into these roles? Youth unemployment is at such a critical level right now that we need to prioritise the young when we're recruiting.

**Resident 15**

Young people claim that it's gang culture that's holding them back, but I think it's their own mindset that's the problem. They make decisions to get involved with gangs. I accept that peer pressure and bad childhoods are factors, but it's the right support they need to make the right life choices.

**Resident 16**

Even just giving out more volunteering opportunities or anything that would help young people to earn some money by doing something enjoyable - like being a youth worker. That would be a big help.

It's very discouraging for young people when they spend so much time and energy looking for jobs and keep getting turned down. That's when they're most tempted to give up and choose to go down an employment route that's illegal.

**Resident 17**

There's a real lack of collaboration and co-operation between the different places that advertise jobs. Dividing up employment support and job advertising so that there's a single point of contact for each would be good for 16 to 24 year olds.

I took some young people to see a film about the riots last year. Afterwards they said, 'What chance do we have knowing our identity is linked to such stereotypical views of young people?'

There should be more youth advocacy in Southwark, and more consistent co-ordination of time and money.

**Resident 18**

There's a lot of fear out there and I want to see more community meetings where young people have a voice, and they get to tell their own side of the story.



**Resident 19**

We need a clear and continued commitment to supporting our young people. They have a lot of things on their minds right now, including trouble with gangs. Some of them are very angry and many are afraid of being harmed.

I'd like to see better channels of communication with young people in the community, and a lot more career fairs.

**Resident 20**

Young people need help to find jobs, and education opportunities to keep us busy. The more time we have on our hands, the easier it is to get into trouble.

I think apprenticeships are a great idea as they're a proven path into employment.

A lot of young people in Southwark are worried about getting into the wrong kind of company, but when you're not in education, training, or employment, it's very hard to avoid.

**Resident 21**

Young people need job opportunities most of all. But to succeed we need the right skills for the areas of work we're interested in.

I think our generation of young people needs more confidence and greater ambition. Too many of us are focused on getting jobs in retail but we should also be doing more to improve our communities as well as our own lives.

Young people have many things on their minds these days and each one is different. Some are struggling with drugs or involved in violence. Others have problems at home, or they're just trying to get a job or proper training.

I'm willing to play my part and volunteer, especially if it's for the good of my local community.

**Resident 22**

I just wish employers would at least give us an interview! When you meet someone in person it's always better than on paper. Even if we don't succeed at least we gain the experience of being interviewed.

**Resident 23**

We need opportunities that impact on young lives in the long term rather than going for short term fixes.

I don't agree that certain opportunities should only be available to young people not in employment, education, or training. We need to broaden the field so that it's open to all.

In my experience, work experience is crucial. If you don't have that you're far less likely to get a job. We also need help to become more self-confident and better at selling ourselves in job interviews. But that doesn't mean we need workshops where a successful person gives a boring presentation on all they've achieved.

We need practical help where we get the chance to do it for ourselves, and learn by doing. It would also be good to hold more events where young people can come along and speak to employers and do job interviews on the day.

Most young people I speak to are very worried about financial problems. They're becoming more independent and want to have their own money. That includes young people who are still in the education system. A greater variety of part-time jobs could help them massively.

**Resident 24**

To most improve young people's lives they need more sponsors - people they can rely on to talk with, and who make them feel like they're someone.

Young people often don't feel very valued in the home. They need mentors to meet with them and give them ideas.

I work in a school, and some of the children don't even want to go home at the end of the day. But if you can't turn to your parents, who can you rely on?

### **Resident 25**

In terms of better employment opportunities for young people, we need to be more enterprising and help them to set up their own businesses. That would give them a great sense of satisfaction and fulfilment.

### **Resident 26**

One thing that would improve the lives of young people would be a clear access route forward. So many of them don't know where to turn or which direction to go.

What also troubles young people is getting caught up with the need to have the latest trendy gadget, like iPhones, and keeping up with the Joneses. It's a mug's game!

### **Resident 27**

What would improve opportunities for young people is an increase in jobs, or opportunities to further our education and realise our ambitions for the future. I'm in that situation right now myself. I'm finally going to gain some experience through Southwark Works.

We need to have our voice heard, so that people in positions of influence know the struggles we're going through. I have a story to tell, and my story needs to become part of your story too.

### **Resident 28**

Young people need to be aware of where they can go and do things, like jobs or volunteering opportunities. Just things to get your hands on, to keep busy I guess.

### **Resident 29**

I've only lived here for a short time and I find it very different to where I've come from.

I'm studying here and I think that families need to support young people more. My Mum and Dad always supported me, and told me to achieve my dreams.

But at school the teachers were always telling me, 'You're never going to be able to make it there, you're never going to be able to do it'. I told them to \*\*\*\* off, cause you can achieve what you want at the end of the day.

Schools need to tell kids to go for their dreams, and not discourage them all the time. It's unfair, but if children have an upbringing where their parents don't care, then they won't have that proper motivation.

### **Resident 30**

People don't want to do training; they get enough money to just float about and do nothing. They don't get enough, but if it's enough to get you a bit of puff or to do this or do that, you'd rather float about and make money illegally, because you don't need to make money the right way.

The people I meet who are doing that often come from a background where they've been assisted to do that. It's a no win situation. There needs to be more outreach at schools where they need to instil the need for further education early on.

I'm not from a rough background. My parents instilled in me the need for education and gave me the idea of needing to get a job, and now I've come back to study as a mature student. If you want to change young people's outlooks, you have to get into problem families and sort them out.

### **Resident 31**

The young ones need some sort of entertainment - anything to keep them out of trouble. They're bored and they have nothing to do and they make trouble. They have problems.

### **Resident 32**

We need more exciting training opportunities or places where young people can do internships, such as in social enterprise.

I work for the Salvation Army and I see quite a few young people, and this is what they seem to need.

### **Resident 33**

The young need more work, but there are very few jobs around. So they get up to all sorts of things, and that's the problem. If they were in work they'd be ok. They got no money so they get into trouble.

### **Resident 34**

Providing job opportunities for young people is the main thing. My advice for parents is that they should look after their kids. There are a lot of private companies that could give young people more jobs.

### **Resident 35**

More attention at home is needed. So many young people get to their teenage years and they're left to run a bit wild. The parents think they're savvier than they actually are, but you've still got to keep your eye on them. Ask them what they're doing, where they're going - that sort of thing. They don't like it, but that's life.

As for jobs, it's a whole different generation from when I was leaving school. They like being on the net a lot. The days of old when they were all happy to get a job in Poundland have gone. They've all got stars in their eyes now. They haven't got a realistic view of themselves or the work market.

### **Resident 36**

We badly need more opportunities for apprenticeships and the criteria to enrol on one should be looser in terms of GCSE grades.

We should also link volunteering programmes to full or part time employment.

There are just not enough opportunities for young people to do positive things. Not enough youth and sports provision. Young people feel stereotyped even more so since the riots.

**Resident 37**

More needs to be invested in young people such as employment and training opportunities. I really appreciated the help of Southwark Connexions. You need more services like that to help young people.

Young people need more support. The Education Maintenance Allowance or EMA was a good thing in that it really helped to support a lot of young people.

**Resident 38**

Negative perception and opinions from older people on young people need to change.

We need more apprenticeship schemes and training opportunities that offer continual support, be it if you go onto further training, education, employment, or you drop out.

The peer pressure to be in gangs is very great.

**Resident 39**

Young people need more work opportunities if they want to get ahead in life.

We need to have more job fairs where they reach into communities where people badly need to find jobs.

Then there's the negative perception of young people. That's still very strong and it hinders our life chances and career prospects.

Work permits for overseas students, who have to support themselves until they return. And experience they gain here is carried back abroad.

**Resident 40**

Access to part-time jobs would improve our lives because having enough money and education is on our minds all the time.

Young people have to incur a high cost of travel if they have to go to college outside the borough.

As young people we think that volunteering would help, but we're studying full-time at 6th form college now, and doing extra studies on top.

### **Resident 41**

A greater variety of social activities would improve young people's lives the most. When you're at a tender age, you tend to go off the rails.

To improve our employment prospects we need more apprenticeships, especially for young people who have left school without academic training. They need to acquire experience.

Young people like my nephew keep talking about the lack of opportunity. He couldn't finish his GCSE's but now he's about 21, he has discovered what he really would like to do if he had the chance.

### **Resident 42**

The economy is in crisis at a macro level all around the world and these issues need to be resolved first. Things are so bad that some people need to do two or three jobs just to make ends meet.

Young people need more support from the family and with education.

### **Resident 43**

Young people concern themselves a lot with technology, and it preoccupies them too much. I think they talk about the same things that I used to talk about a few years ago - boyfriends, music, celebrities, but with a different approach, a more technological approach.

They haven't got enough contact with the things of the physical world – the great outdoors.

**Resident 44**

We need to provide our young people with a better education. We should also incentivise businesses to employ more young people through tax breaks, and by providing investment grade space at cheap rents to businesses.

**Resident 45**

I think it would be excellent if young people in Southwark had the opportunity for satisfying, useful and properly paid employment matched with their existing skills and with prospects of making progress according to their potential.

I'm disgusted by the insinuation by government that young people (or indeed people of any age) are at fault when there are no suitable jobs for them. I am sickened by the idea that they should work for free for low-rent commercial exploiters.

I'm not sure what I expect Southwark Council to do about it all. It could offer "work placements" but one of the main things about "work" is the "pay" and the sense that you are valued and paid properly for your efforts.

**Resident 46**

Young people in Southwark need more jobs, education opportunities, places of leisure, and a voice in the community. The young need to be part of the decision-making process.

Many young people want to become famous, successful in business, or to succeed in their education in order to find a great job which they like to do. Young people are also worried about the future prosperity.

**Resident 47**

I would like to see more jobs for young people so that they are able to gain experience through work.

There are not enough jobs and most jobs require experience which certainly most young people do not have. In addition it is vital that you create jobs designed for young people and their needs.



The level of youth crime and the level of jobs opportunities for young people are disproportionate.

I do not need to pledge anything to Southwark as a young person, as Southwark has done nothing for us.

### **Resident 48**

The one thing that will improve opportunities for young people is having more employment. A lot of young people are unemployed and I can relate to this, but a lot can be achieved if we can move more young people into work.

### **Resident 49**

It would be great to create more apprenticeships and training programmes that will lead young people into permanent work because that's what young people are striving for at the moment.

It would be good to create more jobs that don't require years of experience. One of the reasons why young people are struggling these days is because when they apply for a job the first thing the employer wants is experience. But how can they have experience when they never had a job beforehand? It's really difficult to find work and gain experience in this current climate.

### **Resident 50**

The thing that will most improve opportunities for young people is to create more apprenticeship programmes as well as workshops to prevent crime and violence.

The thing that is most troubling young people is unemployment and the only thing on their mind is how to find a job.

**\*\*\***

**Some young people (and their parents or carers) face unique challenges. This is a selection of comments gathered by the council's Children's Services Department.**

## **Young offenders**

I've been supported by the council's Youth Offending Team (YOT). My YOT worker sat me down and we discussed what happened and why I did the crime. Since then I've come to the YOT to communicate and discuss things with my worker. We have good communication and I think things have gone well.

I have a better relationship with my family and school. I feel calmer, can make better choices, and I'm not getting into trouble.

I've got into college and started a business course, and I love it. I'm going to start doing my appointments with a connexions worker to help me with my CV and to help me find a job.

I had to stop committing crimes. I've learnt that there's no point in doing what I've done, as it's not worth getting into trouble for. I've had a better relationship with my Mum since coming to YOT.

It's made me understand the affect offending can have on your life.

## **Care leavers**

The negatives about being in care are probably the stigma around it. People seem to think they know you and judge you just because you've been in care, but everyone has a different life experience and a different reason for being in care.

I had experience of both foster homes and children's homes and personally I think the foster homes were better. I don't think children's homes were good; too many kids with different problems and life experiences. Then you mix with them and you get into s\*\*\* yourself or see things that you wouldn't have seen if you weren't exposed to it. Being in a foster home was better, it was more stable, secure, and more like family.

The first foster carer I had was good, I'm still in touch with her now and she's a big part of my life.

My relationship with my foster carer is great. That's my Mum. She's never treated me as a foster child; she's always treated me as one of her own. She worked hard to build a bond with me even though for the first two years I was quite hostile with her.

She was open and understanding; she never tried to take my Mum's place and worked hard to keep her spirit alive. She made the house very welcoming, put pictures of my Mum around the house and stuff. She was just an all round good person.

### **Privately fostered**

I feel loved, very happy, and it's my home.

Where I'm living is safe and I like it.

I love it because it's cool.

She's brilliant and I love her. She's my new Mum. Well, that's what I call her now.

### **Parent and carer comments on educational psychology services**

The educational psychologist (EP) valued my views and she seemed knowledgeable about my child's difficulties.

The EP picked up all of my concerns and summed my child up in a morning. I felt understood and supported.

The EP was very adept at making my son feel comfortable and able to discuss his feelings.

I genuinely believe that we received excellent input. She was open to our concerns and the report we received was concise and accurate.

### **Children's Centre users**

This centre has really helped me and my child to believe in ourselves and have more confidence to reach out to others.

It helped me get out of the house with the children and improved my mood. It also improved my confidence as a Mum.

There's always a warm welcome here and a different activity for the children. The facilities are first class and a lot of thought goes into the activities.

When my son sees strangers he stops crying. Now he can even shake hands with some strangers and wave and say goodbye.

The Centre was very supportive of me on the death of my child. They helped me to start life again.

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MUNICIPAL YEAR 2012/13**

**NOTE:** Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to  
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