

Council Assembly (Council Tax Setting Meeting)

Wednesday 27 February 2013
7.00 pm
Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Supplemental Agenda No.1

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Date: 26 February 2013

ITEM 2.1: POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY – 2013/14 – 2015/16 - REVENUE BUDGET (see pages 1 – 63 of the main agenda)

QUESTIONS ON THE REPORT

1. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

Would the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety indicate what steps the council is taking to reduce the unfair burden on Southwark of the current arrangements for the Lea Valley Regional Park levy, noting the recent initiative by Greater London Authority member Richard Tracey on this matter?

2. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

The budget report identifies savings of £750,000 arising from the acquisition of the council's Tooley Street offices. Can the cabinet member confirm if there are any plans to use this money in the near future?

ITEM 3.1 – COUNCIL TAX SETTING REPORT 2013/14 (see pages 64 - 76 of the main agenda)

ADDENDUM REPORT

Typographical change to the Council Tax Setting Report

On page 65 of the main agenda, in paragraph 13 the council tax requirement for 2013/14 refers to the “estimated 2013/13 collection fund deficit”, this should read “surplus”.

A revised version of paragraph 13 is set out below:

13. Southwark’s council tax requirement for 2013/14 is then calculated as follows:

| | £ |
|--|--------------------------|
| Total Budget requirement | 327,771,760 |
| Less retained business rates | (57,175,620) |
| Less business rates top-up | (43,278,478) |
| Less revenue support grant | (152,150,265) |
| Less estimated 2012/13 collection fund | (900,000) |
| <u>surplus</u> deficit | |
| Council tax requirement | <u>74,267,397</u> |

Note: The change is shown with underlining and the deletion with a strikethrough.

ITEM 3.2 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2013/14 INCLUDING ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND ANNUAL MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STATEMENT (see pages 77 - 100 of the main agenda)

ADDENDUM REPORT

Typographical change to the Annual Investment Strategy (Appendix A) (see pages 86 – 93 of the main agenda)

In paragraph 23, line four, delete “paragraph 2” and insert “paragraphs 9 – 19”.

AMENDMENTS

2.1. POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2013/14 – 2015/16 REVENUE BUDGET (see pages 1 - 63 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT A

Moved: Councillor Anood Al-Samerai

Seconded: Councillor Graham Neale

Insert new paragraphs 1 – 5:

1. **Protecting the vulnerable**

Southwark Council recognises that the economic mess left by the last Labour government means there are difficult decisions to be made. This document sets out the alternative choices that the council should make to ensure it protects the most vulnerable people in our community and preserves effective delivery of basic council services.

2. **Targeted spending**

Spending on school meals should be targeted at those who really need it. Savings should be made by ending the free school lunches for children of wealthier parents or those who live outside of Southwark. Only the necessary amount of cash should be put into a contingency pot, and five posts should be cut from the cabinet and deputy cabinet. These savings would allow the council to get the basics right and protect the most vital services and vulnerable people in Southwark.

3. **Getting the basics right**

Funding should not be cut to street cleaning, the anti-social behaviour unit and noise teams. The council should protect funding for school crossing patrols; for day centres and lunch clubs; for housing services and for voluntary sector projects. Schemes to tackle worklessness and support local businesses should be invested in to help reignite our economy and get people back to work. The council should ensure local residents benefit from the legacy of the London Olympics by building on the successful Community Games to deliver outreach sports projects in our estates and community centres.

4. **Giving power back to communities**

The council should stop hoarding power and recognise the value that local people can play in taking decisions about their communities. The budget for community councils should be safeguarded with individual areas identifying savings and the council should protect funding for scrutiny to ensure that council blunders can be halted and reversed. Residents should have a real influence in council spending in their area through a 'Community Chest' of £50,000 per ward.

5. **A Liberal Democrat alternative**

The alternative choices laid out above would protect the basic services that make a real difference to local people; end the scandal of Southwark Council squandering its cash on unnecessary give-away policies; and devolve power into the hands of the local communities who know their area the best.

Renumber subsequent paragraphs.

In existing paragraph 3 (new 8) – **Add** at end “subject to the changes detailed in the following schedules being made to appendices of the cabinet report.”

Liberal Democrat Budget Amendment 2013-14

Where We Would Spend Our Budget Instead

| Description | | 2013-14 £ 000s (£135) |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Restore funding to Southwark Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (SASBU) | The Southwark Antisocial Behaviour Unit is one of the country's leading examples of efficient ways to tackle ASB. We would restore SASBU to previous levels and would listen to residents' suggestions for how to further improve the team. The administration plan to reduce SASBU to solely assisting in high risk cases means that the cases of low level ASB that affect a large number of Southwark's residents would not be addressed. By reversing Labour's cuts we would fund the team so they can prosecute more than just the four cases of ASB taken to court last year | (£135) |
| Noise Team - restore weekday night-time noise team | We do not agree with the move to a partial service and want to return this to a 24/7 service to residents. The night-time noise service is more important than a daytime service and particularly in the Summer this is needed all day round, so we would restore this service to previous levels | (£250) |
| Restore Reactive Street maintenance | Southwark's streets and pavements need proper maintenance. Pot holes are dangerous to cyclists and uneven pavements can cause accidents and injuries to the elderly and people with mobility issues. We would restore the investment to tackling this, and would significantly increase the amount being spent so that it's not just the most urgent ones which are addressed | (£500) |
| Restore Mechanical Sweeping Service | We would restore the mechanical sweeping service to previous levels as the cleanliness of Southwark's streets has fallen dramatically in the past year. | (£100) |
| Street Cleansing - Restore daily litter picking | Southwark's streets under the Liberal Democrats were the 3rd cleanest in London. Now the major town centres are filthy in comparison. Residents value the clean streets and we therefore would restore removal of litter to a daily service | (£300) |
| Street Cleansing - Restore night sweeping service | The night sweeping service keeps many of our busiest streets clean and addresses the litter from the night-time economy. We would reverse this change as it has led to dirtier town centres and streets | (£120) |
| Street Cleansing - Restore fortnightly detritus cleaning | As with the other Street Cleansing items we would restore the detritus cleaning on a fortnightly basis as monthly does not keep Southwark's streets among the cleanest in London | (£460) |

| Description | 2013-14 £ 000s |
|---|---|
| Cycling in Southwark | <p>The high number of deaths or serious injuries to cyclists in Southwark highlight the urgent need to make streets safer for cycling. We would sign up to the London Cycling Campaign's "Safer Lorries, Safer Cycling" campaign which means the Council commits to only using the best-trained drivers and best-equipped lorries. This will involve a review of their lorry fleet and implementation of on-bike cyclist-awareness driver training. We would also create a dedicated cycle team responsible for promotion of road safety measures to benefit cyclists such as more trixi mirrors, dedicated cycle lanes, secure cycle parking and cycle safety education</p> |
| Nurseries & Daycare Provision Increase Childcare Provision | <p>We would increase the investment in nursery daycare provision to enhance and expand Southwark's offer- particularly at the Tenda Road and Bishop's House nurseries but also at the other two Council run nurseries. Whilst we welcome the additional government funding to provide 15 hours of childcare for 3 & 4 year olds, and the government's new support for 40% of 2 year olds this year, the costs of childcare are a major barrier to parents returning to work and we would increase the level and quality of provision so as to support these families by providing high quality childcare using properly paid professional staff. We would take on board the efficiencies suggested by the parents and would cut the use of agency staff at nurseries as council levels of wages will attract the best people to our nurseries compared to private sector wages. We would use these savings to reinvest in additional capacity</p> |
| Support for Start-up businesses | <p>We would support start-up businesses by using space in unlet council commercial properties (incubator units) to encourage development before businesses make the transition to renting from Southwark. We would also create a new Economic Development post to support small start-up businesses</p> |
| Southwark Mediation Service | <p>Restore funding to the Southwark Mediation Service (SMS). The SMS team provides great value for money and helps resolve neighbourhood disputes in a way which the Council is not well suited to do. The Council should name SMS as the dispute resolution provider for every new external contract signed</p> |

| Description | 2013-14 £ 000s |
|--|---|
| <p>School crossing patrol service additional lollipop men and ladies</p> | <p>The lollipop ladies and men in Southwark help keep our children and young people safe and are much loved members of our communities. Even on signal controlled crossings there is a high level of non compliance from impatient motorists and the school crossing patrollers are important to ensure children have the full time to cross. We would reverse Labour's cuts to lollipops and provide more crossing patrols - also creating new jobs in the process</p> |
| <p>Restore Voluntary Sector Transition Fund</p> | <p>(£1,000)</p> <p>We would increase the Voluntary Sector Transition Fund back to £1 million per year but would designate Community Action Southwark (CAS) to administer and award funds under this programme. The voluntary sector delivers much greater spending value (£4 value per £1 invested) than direct council services and the LibDems believe that CAS - as the key representative of the Voluntary Sector in Southwark - should allocate this funding using participatory budgeting within the sector itself rather than the funds being assigned by Council officers</p> |
| <p>Community Chest</p> | <p>(£630)</p> <p>Local people know best what services they need. We would devolve £50,000 per year to each of the 21 wards for local people to decide which council services or voluntary sector services they would fund. For example, one area may choose to invest in extra police SNT sergeants or community support officers while another may wish to fund a local community centre. We do not believe that Labour's proposed £20,000 per ward "CGS Revenue" fund is sufficiently ambitious in devolving expenditure to local communities, particularly after Labour cut £1.6 million from the main Cleaner Greener Safer fund when compared to levels of funding under the LibDems</p> |
| <p>Homelessness</p> | <p>(£200)</p> <p>We would increase the funding to St Mungo's, St Giles and Victim Support to assist with homelessness prevention and assistance</p> |

| Description | | 2013-14 £ 000s |
|--|--|-------------------|
| Sports Development - Restore Community Games funding | <p>The Southwark Community Games are a highly effective and popular way of getting more children and young people involved in sport. Tackling childhood obesity is a priority in Southwark and the Community Games are popular with schools and with the young people who take part. We would restore their funding to the levels previously set by the LibDems and which Labour cut in 2011.</p> | (£810) |
| Creating Jobs - Foot in the Door | <p>We would increase the funding provided to the Foot in the Door scheme which gets young people into their first job by incentivising employers to take young people on a trial basis and which has led to many jobs being created in Southwark. We would double funding from 50k to 100k per year</p> | (£50) |
| Local Democracy Restore 8 community council areas | <p>We would reintroduce the 8 community council areas and give them back the power to make local planning decisions. We would further enhance community councils by giving them additional powers to make licensing decisions in their local area. The more local the community council is the better as local residents can discuss the issues that affect where they live, and can have influence over planning, development and the vision for their area</p> | (£344) |
| | | |
| | TOTAL AMOUNT WE'D SPEND | (£6,331) |

| How We Would Save Money to Pay for It | | 2013-14 £ 000s |
|--|--|-------------------|
| Description | | £4,539 |
| Target Free School Meals for those children who are poorest | The LibDem Group is committed to providing Free School Meals for those pupils who qualify for them, supporting the most needy, but would not provide free lunches to those who either do not qualify or the thousands of pupils who do not live in Southwark. We would reverse Labour's "Free for the Wealthy" give-away programme which equates to 5% of the annual council tax revenue as it is not appropriate whilst the country is facing the worst deficit in peacetime history and the council is making cuts to services which children and young people need. | £1,500 |
| Stash Less Cash: Set contingency at new level of £3.5 million per annum | In 2010 the Liberal Democrat administration established a Contingency line in the budget of £4 million. Labour increased it to £5.5 million in 2011-12 and have not used this for its original purpose. We do not believe that setting the contingency at £5 million is necessary, particularly whilst making cuts elsewhere, and we would reduce it a more prudent figure of £3.5 million for 2013-14 | £76 |
| Cut two Cabinet posts and Deputy Cabinet Members, reducing total to seven | The overall 25% cuts in costs across the Council, and the lowering of the staffing levels within the Council also need to be reflected in the Cabinet. The Community Safety post has already been combined into the Finance & Resources portfolio and we would cut two further posts moving the responsibilities into other portfolios. We would also cut the three Deputy Cabinet Member posts and the additional councillor allowances which Labour created in 2011 | £100 |
| Paid Trade Union Activities | Southwark currently spends £250,000 per year to pay Council employees to undertake trades union activities. We would reduce this by £100,000 | £8 |
| Payroll Deduction Fees | To charge, as most councils do, for the payroll deduction or "checkoff" by which the Council collects the trades union subscriptions for the relevant unions. Legislation provides for a 2.5% administration fee which Southwark has not previously charged despite this being common practice | £108 |
| Delete "Southwark Life" | We would delete this publication and instead publicise the Council's activities on its website and through our valued local newspapers - Southwark News and the South London Press | |
| | TOTAL AMOUNT WE'D SAVE | £6,331 |
| (Shortfall)/Surplus | | £0 |

AMENDMENTS

2.1. POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2013/14 – 2015/16 REVENUE BUDGET (see pages 1 - 63 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT B

Moved: Councillor Lewis Robinson

Seconded: Councillor Michael Mitchell

On page 1 of the agenda, in paragraph 3, **delete** and **insert**:

“Agree the recommendations of the 12 February 2013 cabinet for a general fund budget for 2013/14 and council tax for 2013/14, subject to the items set out on the attached schedule and the following exceptions, so as to protect reserves and balances:

- (a) On page 9 of the agenda, in paragraph 9 of the cabinet recommendations (Welfare Hardship Fund) **delete** "£800k" and **insert** "£400k".
- (b) On page 9 of the agenda, in paragraph 11 of the cabinet recommendations (Youth Fund) **delete** "and confirm the commitment to provide resources for the Youth Fund for a further three years to 2016/17".
- (c) On page 9 of the agenda, **delete** paragraph 12 of the cabinet recommendations (new Business Support Fund)."

Insert new paragraph 4:

- "4. In the light of the exceptional risks arising from the transfer of public health functions, and from the "no recourse to public funds" matters referred to in paragraph 97 of the policy and resources report to cabinet on 29 January 2013, cabinet is instructed to monitor expenditure in these areas with particular attention and to issue a report to council assembly on such expenditure and related matters for consideration by council assembly no later than 30 November 2013."

| Appendix and Page | Dept | Sub Dept | Description | Proposal in Paper £'000 | Conservative Proposal £'000 | Conservative improvement £'000 | Reason |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Appendix A Page 40 | Children | Children | Free school meals | 1,980 | (2,620) | (4,600) | Not only don't extend, but reverse as far as practically possible the first two year's introduction as well |
| Appendix A Pages 42 | Housing and Community Services | SHS - Temporary Accommodation | Costs of the council's obligations arising from welfare reform | 1,230 | 1,030 | (200) | These are accounting estimates which we believe to be over cautious |
| Appendix A Page 41 | Environment | Public realm - Asset Management | Increase proactive maintenance of highways | 200 | 400 | 200 | Council is simply doing a u-turn on its mistaken cuts of last year. Not only did we believe they were wrong then we believe more should be done now. |
| Appendix A Page 43 | Corporate | Corporate | Additional resources to fund the London Living Wage | 1,000 | 500 | (500) | This is a significant over provision and the budget should be reduced to reflect what will actually be achieved in 2013/14. There is an underspend in 2012/13. The Labour proposal under recognises the benefits which will be secured in productivity from introducing the LLW. |
| | Environment | Culture | Restore Kingswood House revenue budget | 60 | 60 | 60 | Allows the marketing, promotion and maintenance of this valuable community facility. |
| | Environment | Public realm | Additional funding to secure School Crossing Patrols in Dulwich and elsewhere | 30 | 30 | 30 | In the light of continuing traffic issues we must be able to maintain and if necessary increase Crossing Patrols from mainstream resources. |
| | Communities | Community Councils | Restore planning powers and appointment of school governors to Community Councils | 150 | 150 | 150 | Restore local decision making to the Community councils and improve local accountability. |
| | Adult Social Care | All Client Groups | Add to the Innovation Fund for transition to personal budgets | 400 | 400 | 400 | A measure designed to assist frontline services, most particularly some of the poorest and most vulnerable in our community |
| | Environment | Community Safety & Enforcement | Restore a team of 4 community wardens working 7 days a week to Dulwich | 130 | 130 | 130 | The restoration of Community Wardens is a significant confidence boosting measure for the Dulwich area and demonstrates the council's commitment to reducing crime and anti social behaviour. |
| | Environment | Community Safety & Enforcement | Restore a further team of 4 community wardens working 7 days a week in the north of the borough | 150 | 150 | 150 | The restoration of Community Wardens is a significant confidence boosting measure for the area and demonstrates the council's commitment to reducing crime and anti social behaviour. |
| | Corporate | Personnel | Council employees paid for trade union activities | (100) | (100) | (100) | The Council currently spends £250,000 centrally and steps need to be taken to reduce this burden on the council tax payer. |
| | | | | 4,410 | 130 | (4,280) | |

The reduction in spending, together with Mayor Boris Johnson's proposed cut in the Londonwide Council Tax will allow the Council to reduce the Council Tax by approx 4 %.

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MUNICIPAL YEAR 2012/13**

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