

Council Assembly (Ordinary)

Wednesday 8 July 2015
7.00 pm
Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Supplemental Agenda No.1

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Date: 30 June 2015



Council Assembly (Ordinary/Council Tax Base Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary/Council Tax Base Meeting) held on Wednesday 21 January 2015 at 7.00 pm at Harris Academy Peckham, 112 Peckham Road, London SE15 5DZ

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2014/15, Councillor Sunil Chopra

Councillor Evelyn Akoto	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Jasmine Ali	Councillor Vijay Luthra
Councillor Maisie Anderson	Councillor Jane Lyons
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Radha Burgess	Councillor Claire Maugham
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Stephanie Cryan	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Catherine Dale	Councillor Jamille Mohammed
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Karl Eastham	Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Paul Fleming	Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Tom Flynn	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Chris Gonde	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Lucas Green	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor Jon Hartley	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Ben Johnson	Councillor Bill Williams
Councillor Sarah King	Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Anne Kirby	Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor Sunny Lambe	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall	

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Harris Academy Peckham for allowing the council to use their school.

The Mayor advised that Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE had an operation over the holiday period and wished her well with her recovery.

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

The Mayor explained that the group whips had agreed the format of the meeting. The Mayor advised that this was set out in the programme motion which had been tabled at the meeting. The motion explained how the business of the meeting would be conducted.

PROGRAMME MOTION (*See white paper circulated at the meeting*)

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

RESOLVED:

That the meeting be conducted as follows:

Item 3 - Themed debate - add an extra 30 minutes to hear community evidence as follows:

Presentations from the public (30 minutes)

1. Five minutes - Submission from Dulwich Helpline and question to the cabinet member.

Questions from members (Note: Limit of three questions (one from each group), subject to time limit).

2. Five minutes - Submission from ex-members of the Westminster House Youth Club in Nunhead and question to the cabinet member.

Questions from members - (Note: Limit of three questions (one from each group), subject to time limit).

3. Five minutes - Submission from the Terrence Higgins Trust and question to the cabinet member.

Questions from members - (Note: Limit of three questions (one from each group), subject to time limit).

4. Five minutes - Submission from the London City Athletics Club Committee and question to the cabinet member.

Questions from members - (Note: Limit of three questions (one from each group), subject to time limit).

Themed debate (60 minutes)

1. Late Motion – HIV Testing (Formally moved and seconded).
2. Councillor Barrie Hargrove, cabinet member for public health, parks and leisure (7 minutes).
3. Councillor David Noakes, opposition spokesperson to speak and move amendment (5 minutes) (Agree to change of mover).
4. Theme open to debate by all other councillors (45 minutes).
5. Councillor Barrie Hargrove right of reply to the debate (3 minutes).

Item 5.2 - General motions

- To be taken in order set out in agenda.
- To agree to an alteration to Motion 1: Tackling empty homes in Southwark, page 10 – delete paragraph 3(4).
- Late motion on HIV testing (considered as part of the themed debate).

Item 6 – Other Reports

- Item 6.1 the council tax base for 2015/16, pages 12 and 13, paragraphs 5 and 14 should read 2015/16.
- Single debate.

Note: Relevant procedure rules will be suspended:

- CAPR 2.10(2) Deadline for receipt of motions
- CAPR 2.7 (2) Time limit of themed debate
- CAPR 1.14 (15) Alternation of motion or amendment
- CAPR 1.14(4) Single debate.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Lorraine Lauder MBE, Eleanor Kerlake, Helen Hayes and Claire Maugham.

1.5 MINUTES

(See pages 1 - 56 of supplemental agenda 1)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2014 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

2.1 PETITIONS

There were none.

2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

3. THEMED DEBATE - HEALTHY AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES INCLUDING SPORT, LEISURE AND VOLUNTEERING

3.1 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

(See pages 2 - 5 of supplemental agenda 2)

Community evidence submissions

Dulwich Helpline

Council assembly heard community evidence from Dulwich Helpline who had a question for the cabinet member for environment, recycling, community safety and volunteering. The cabinet member for adult care, arts and culture also responded to the community evidence submission. Following the cabinet member's response, the following members had questions of the submission: Councillors Michael Mitchell, Anood Al-Samerai and Cleo Soanes.

At the close of the questioning, the Mayor then thanked Dulwich Helpline for their submission.

Ex-members of Westminster House Youth Club in Nunhead

Council assembly heard community evidence from ex-members of Westminster House Youth Club in Nunhead who had a question for the cabinet member for public health, parks and leisure. Following the cabinet member's response, the following members had questions of the submission: Councillors Peter John, Neil Colyle, Dora Dixon-Fyle and James Okosun.

At the close of the questioning, the Mayor thanked ex-members of Westminster House Youth Club in Nunhead for their submission.

Terrence Higgins Trust

Council assembly heard community evidence from the Terrence Higgins Trust who had a question for the leader of the council. Following the leader's response, the following members had questions of the submission: Councillors David Noakes and Barrie Hargrove.

At the close of the questioning, the Mayor thanked the Terrence Higgins Trust for their submission.

London City Athletics Club Committee

Council assembly heard community evidence from the London City Athletics Club Committee. The following members had questions of the submission: Councillors Kath Whittam, Neil Coyle and Maisie Anderson.

At the close of the questioning, the Mayor thanked the London City Athletics Club Committee for their submission.

3.2 MOTION ON THE THEME: HEALTHY AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

(see pages 1 - 3 of the main agenda and page 6 of supplemental agenda 2)

The Mayor advised that the late motion on HIV testing had been formally moved and seconded and that members could refer to its content in the open debate (see item 5.2.3 for the decision on the late motion).

The cabinet member for public health, parks and leisure, Councillor Barrie Hargrove, presented the motion on the themed debate.

Councillor David Noakes, the lead opposition spokesperson for health, responded to the cabinet member's motion and proposed Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Gavin Edwards, Michael Situ, Karl Eastham, Jane Lyons, Anood Al-Samerai, Sunny Lambe, Paul Flemming, Kieron Williams, Eliza Mann, Lucas Green, Stephanie Cryan, Renata Hamvas, Maria Linforth-Hall, Mark Williams and Jasmine Ali), Councillor Neil Coyle made a point of personal explanation.

The cabinet member for public health, parks and leisure responded to the debate.

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

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

RESOLVED:

1. That everyone in our borough should have the opportunity to lead a healthy and

active life. As a local authority Southwark Council is supporting local residents to be healthy and active by:

- 1) Committing to make swim and gym use free for all Southwark residents in council leisure centres to ensure that that cost is not a barrier preventing people in Southwark from getting fit and healthy. This groundbreaking initiative will be particularly targeted at those who would benefit most from free swimming and gyms, including residents with ill health, children and young people, older people, and those with disabilities.
 - 2) Giving free healthy school meals to all primary school children in Southwark, despite four years of opposition from Liberal Democrat councillors, saving parents £340 a year for each of child, and extending free fruit to all primary school pupils as a healthy morning snack.
 - 3) Investing in our parks and open spaces and bringing even more of our parks up to green flag standards.
 - 4) Delivering a cycling strategy to improve cycle take up and safety in the borough.
 - 5) Doubling the number of free NHS health checks to catch problems like heart disease and diabetes.
 - 6) Providing a wide range of sports provision, including:
 - Free accredited training for Southwark residents
 - Equipment grants for clubs and coaching courses to increase sport participation for young people
 - A wide range of disability sport opportunities and sportability grants to increase opportunities for disabled people in sport and physical activity
 - A large programme of older adult classes
 - Sports activities for women and girls
 - Free community sport hours at leisure centres and parks across the borough.
 - 7) Investing in sports infrastructure, including the state of the art BMX track in Burgess Park, reinstating Southwark Park athletics track, and new leisure centres at Elephant and Castle and Canada Water.
 - 8) Helping residents in Southwark to support each other to lead healthy and active lives, by working with partner organisations, including Volunteer Centre Southwark, Community Action Southwark and Southwark Arts Forum, to make it easier to volunteer and to encourage more people in Southwark to volunteer.
2. That there are a number of barriers that can prevent people from being healthy and active, including finance, time, work, ill health, disability or access to health, sport and leisure services. Council assembly welcomes this administration's work to remove these barriers and support our residents to become healthy and active. However, council assembly is concerned that the government is making it harder for

people to be healthy and active by:

- 1) Overseeing an increase in GP waiting times, cancelled operations and delays in treatments.
 - 2) Hitting 3,500 families in the borough with the bedroom tax, making it harder to make ends meet and forcing people into debt for the first time.
 - 3) Imposing harsh welfare cuts and forcing huge increases in the number of families in Southwark relying on food banks.
3. That council assembly calls on the cabinet to continue doing everything possible to support local residents to be healthy and active members of the community and to remove the barriers currently preventing some residents from leading healthy and active lives.

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

4. OTHER DEPUTATIONS

There were none.

5. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

5.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

(See pages 4 - 8 of the main agenda and the blue and yellow papers circulated at the meeting)

There was one urgent question to the leader, the written response to which was circulated on blue paper at the meeting. Two supplemental questions were asked of the leader. All questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

There were 33 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated on yellow paper at the meeting. There were 12 supplemental questions, all questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 2 to the minutes.

5.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

MOTION 1 – TACKLING EMPTY HOMES IN SOUTHWARK *(See page 10 of the main agenda and page 8 of supplemental agenda 2)*

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Adele Morris, seconded by Councillor Ben Johnson, moved the amended motion.

Councillors Tom Flynn and Leo Pollak moved and seconded Amendment B.

Following debate (Councillors Mark Williams, Hamish McCallum, Richard Livingstone and Neil Coyle), at 10.05pm the Mayor announced that the guillotine had fallen.

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

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

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly:
 - 1) Notes the projected rise in the borough's population within the next twenty years and the need to ensure sufficient housing as part of the borough's housing strategy and the new Southwark Plan.
 - 2) Notes that Southwark has one of the strongest records in London for delivering new homes, with more affordable homes being delivered over the last 3 years than any other London borough.
 - 3) Welcomes the administration's commitment to build 11,000 new council homes, with the first 1,500 to be delivered by 2018.
2. That council assembly also:
 - 1) Agrees that minimising the number of empty homes in the borough will also be a key way of ensuring the maximum number of homes for Southwark residents.
 - 2) Notes recent media reports of some other inner London boroughs where up to one third of new developments are said to be left empty as 'buy to leave' investment opportunities.
 - 3) Welcomes the new powers given to local authorities by the government to charge additional council tax for second and long-term empty homes and notes that Southwark was one of the first local authorities to use these powers.
 - 4) Notes, however, that minimising the number of empty homes in the borough on its own will not meet the growing demand for housing, which will require more homes to be built across the borough, particularly affordable homes.
3. That council assembly therefore calls on the cabinet to:
 - 1) Identify ways the council's planning powers could be used to ensure future new homes in Southwark do not stay empty for more than three months.
 - 2) Increase the number of existing empty homes in the borough that are charged council tax by reviewing the current council tax exemptions on empty homes.
 - 3) Support calls for the qualifying period for charging the empty home premium to be reduced from two years to one and for the amount to be increased from 150% to 200% council tax.

- 4) Continue to build more homes of every type in Southwark, including council homes at council rents.

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

MOTION 2 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVOLUTION (See pages 10 - 11 of the main agenda and page 10 of supplemental agenda 2)

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Rebecca Lury and Kieron Williams formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors David Hubber and Rosie Shimell formally moved and seconded Amendment C.

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

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

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly believes that local government has significant potential to shape outcomes for residents and to positively change the lives of people in our borough. Therefore, council assembly believes that local government is best placed to deliver services to residents to meet local need.
2. That local government has proved itself as the most efficient part of government. Local authorities are continuing to delivering services, balance budgets and grow local economies while at the same time making huge savings, following government cuts of up to 30% of councils' budgets.
3. That the devolution of public health to local authorities has been a welcome first step towards delivering better health outcomes and a more joined up approach to health and social care. Council assembly notes the efforts of this administration to put public health in Southwark at the front and centre of the council's priorities in every area, including transport, housing, leisure and environment.
4. That council assembly believes giving local government greater control over health and welfare spending has the potential to tackle health inequalities locally, to deliver better services and to save taxpayers money.
5. That council assembly calls on cabinet to work with other London boroughs and the Mayor of London to lobby government to be less centralist and to introduce greater devolution to local authorities in London. Council assembly further calls on cabinet to write to the Secretary of State for Health and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to call for the devolution of greater health and welfare powers to local government, in order to improve service delivery and local accountability.

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

MOTION 3 - LATE MOTION ON HIV TESTING *(See white paper circulated at the meeting)*

This motion was considered as part of the themed debate.

Councillors David Noakes and Dan Garfield formally moved and seconded the motion.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That Southwark Council:
 - 1) Recognises the importance of local action in coordinating and commissioning accessible and effective HIV testing to reach the undiagnosed and reduce late HIV diagnosis.
 - 2) Recognises that Southwark has a high prevalence of HIV (over 2 diagnosed per 1,000 residents) and commits to strengthening its own provision of HIV testing services through working with local NHS partners, HIV charities and patient groups.
 - 3) Recognises that late HIV diagnosis is a Public Health Outcomes Indicator in the Public Health Outcomes Framework.
 - 4) Recognises the volume and quality of public health and local government guidelines and performance indicators designed to support local authority implementation and monitoring of appropriate and effective testing guidelines.
2. That the council further notes:
 - 1) That an estimated 100,000 people were living in England with HIV in 2012; 22% were unaware of their status.
 - 2) That there is an impact of late diagnosis on individual health, public health and health budgets. Late diagnosis increases the likelihood of the need for complex and expensive treatment and the risk of onward transmission to others. 47% of people diagnosed with HIV in 2012 were diagnosed late (with a CD4 count <350mm³).
 - 3) That if diagnosed early, put on a clear treatment pathway and guaranteed access to antiretroviral therapy (ART), people living with HIV can expect to have a near-normal life expectancy and live healthy and active lives.
3. That recognising the weight of evidence in favour of expanding local HIV testing services, Southwark Council:
 - 1) Resolves to:
 - Act to halve the proportion of people diagnosed late with HIV (CD4 count <350mm³) in Southwark by 2020.

- Act to halve the proportion of people living with undiagnosed HIV in Southwark by 2020.
- 2) Further resolves to:
- Ensure that rates of late diagnosed HIV are included as an indicator in its Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
 - Ask the Director of Public Health to provide a report outlining what needs to be done locally in commissioning and provision of services in order to halve late diagnosed and undiagnosed HIV by 2020.
 - Become a supporter of the Halve It Coalition by contacting the Halve It secretariat (info@halveit.org.uk) informing them of this resolution and by agreeing to be listed as a Halve It coalition supporter.

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

6. OTHER REPORTS

6.1 THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2015/16

(See pages 12 – 26 of the main agenda and page 11 of supplemental agenda 2)

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 Mayor advised of a change to paragraphs 5 and 14 of the report, whereby 2014/15 should read 2015/16.

Councillors Fiona Colley and Tom Flynn moved and seconded Amendment D.

Councillors Anood Al-Samerai and James Barber moved and seconded Amendment E.

Following debate (Councillors Richard Livingstone and Nick Dolezal), the Mayor announced that the meeting would move to the vote on the amendments and the substantive.

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

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

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

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly notes that in accordance with the decisions of council assembly about council tax on 28 November 2012:
 - 1) That the local discretionary premium for homes counted as long-term empty (over 2 years) shall remain unchanged and be set at 150%.
 - 2) That the discount for second homes shall remain unchanged and be set at 0%.
 - 3) That the discount to replace class A exemptions shall remain unchanged and be set at 0%.
 - 4) That the discount to replace class C exemptions shall remain unchanged and be set at 100% for a maximum of two months only.
2. That the council reviews all council tax exemptions for empty homes.
3. That the council tax base for 2015/16 be set at 87,727.28 band D equivalent dwellings, as shown in paragraph 34 of the report.
4. That the assumed council tax collection level should be increased to 96.75% noting the risks outlined in paragraph 27 of the report.
5. That the council tax base for 2015/16 for St. Mary Newington be set at 10,515.90 band D equivalent dwellings.
6. That the council tax base for 2015/16 for St. Saviour's be set at 1,167.32 band D equivalent dwellings.
7. That the council tax reduction scheme (CTRS) for both working and pensionable age claimants shall remain unchanged in 2015/16, and note the consequential reduction in tax base of 21,645 band D equivalent dwellings as shown in paragraph 46 of the report.
8. That it be noted that:
 - Any minor and consequential amendments to the CTRS written policy are to remain delegated to the strategic director of finance and corporate services, in consultation with the monitoring officer.
 - No changes were made under the Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services' delegated authority during 2014/15.
9. That it be noted that following clarification from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the NNDR1 return showing the national non-domestic rates base will be signed off by the council's section 151 officer (strategic director of finance and corporate services).

7. MEMBER ALLOWANCES SCHEME - LONDON COUNCILS INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT

(See agenda pages 27 – 52 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 council assembly adopted the recommendations of the constitutional steering panel (see recommendations 2-4 below), having regard to the advice of the London Councils independent remuneration panel report (see Appendix 1 of the report).
2. That the basic allowance and special responsibility allowances be increased in accordance with the independent remuneration panel recommendation for allowances to be adjusted in line with the local government officer pay settlement, i.e. 2.2% increase from 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2016 covering years 2014/15 and 2015/16. That the licensing sub-committee payment and co-opted member's allowance be increased on the same basis.
3. That council assembly noted the level of the childcare and dependent carers allowances for councillors has increased in line with the London Living Wage, as recommended by the London Councils independent remuneration panel report and approved in line with the Southwark member allowances scheme under delegated authority (see paragraph 24 of the report).
4. That the member allowances scheme be amended so in future years the level of the childcare and dependent carers allowances for councillors is automatically reviewed in line with changes in the London Living Wage.
5. That the proper constitutional officer be authorised to update the member allowances scheme to reflect the changes approved and to make any consequential changes necessary.

8. AMENDMENTS

(See pages 6 - 11 of supplemental agenda 2)

Amendments are set out in Supplemental Agenda No.2.

The meeting closed at 10.20 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY****(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY 2015****URGENT QUESTION****1. URGENT QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI**

Please can the leader explain how the council failed to meet a simple deadline in the application for a judicial review of the Thames Tunnel proposals?

RESPONSE

Usual court practice for bringing judicial review proceedings is that an applicant has six weeks to bring an application, beginning on the day after the decision that is being challenged is made. Our legal team followed this practice and got the application in within this timescale.

However, the Planning Act which governs major infrastructure projects is worded slightly differently to other legislation. The judge ruled that the legislation means that the timing for a judicial review on cases like this should start on the day the decision is made, which is a day earlier than usual practice in judicial review proceedings.

No court has ruled on this interpretation of the wording until now, and both the council and one other applicant had their judicial review applications rejected on these grounds. This was not something that was appreciated by anyone including our QC, or even the Secretary of State – this was a new interpretation of the law which the judge explored in argument.

Justice ministers are now amending the Planning Act through the Criminal Justice and Courts Bill which is currently before Parliament. The effect of this change will be to clarify the rules around the timing for a judicial review in a case such as the super sewer. The new legislation will make it clear that the council's interpretation of the timing should be the one applied from now on. The government is now introducing uniformity for the time limits for issuing applications for judicial review but this was too late for the Thames Tunnel challenge which has meant that Southwark has been denied the opportunity to fight this case on behalf of local residents.

I am very disappointed by this decision which will have a huge impact on local residents for seven years – when there are better alternatives. To be clear, it is coalition ministers who want to push ahead with this and this scheme is the policy of Liberal Democrats and Conservatives in government. I welcome the cross-party support there has been in opposing this, and am disappointed that the leader of the opposition is now trying to play party politics to deflect the blame away from her colleagues in Westminster, which does nothing to support local residents or the interests of the ward which she represents.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Thank you Mr Mayor, and I thank the leader for his answer, and I think we all share the frustration about missing the chance to have our judicial review heard because of a one-day missing a deadline. I know that he's given an answer explaining about how that seemed to happen – and obviously it was a complete mess-up. I have no doubt he would have taken credit if the judicial review had gone well, and I just wondered whether he would actually apologise to the people of Riverside ward and the borough for it not going well?

RESPONSE

Mr Mayor; no, I'm not going to apologise to the people of Riverside or Southwark. I've been a leading voice in this campaign since Thames Water first proposed actually digging to Kings Stairs Gardens, and have led the opposition when they moved over to Chambers Wharf. I didn't need to take three months, unlike Simon Hughes, to decide that I was on the side of local residents in this debate, and opposed absolutely to the proposal to go from Chambers Wharf.

I'm not going to apologise, either, for a judge reaching a conclusion on an argument, having heard four hours of argument from lawyers, on this particular issue. I think in the answer I have given, I set out that this is a particularly complex issue, where the government itself has recognised there is inconsistency in the way that judicial review is approached, and is putting it right by itself. Does she want to apologise for Simon Hughes, and the way he has let down the residents of Bermondsey and Old Southwark, by being a coalition minister in this coalition government?

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Thanks, Mr Mayor. I mean, sadly, the Planning Act, as the judge says, was very clear about when the deadline was, and it was a complete screw-up by the council, and I think somebody ought to say sorry for that. But clearly the leader is not going to do that. Perhaps there is a silver lining, Mr Mayor; in that lots of money which would have been spent on the judicial review process will not now be spent because it's been thrown out because of the council's screw-up. That money that isn't being spent on a judicial review; could the leader of the council commit to using that money to manage the works as they go forward, because they will now be happening in a very densely populated area, and could some of that money that had been put aside for those legal costs actually be tonight committed to the people who live around Chambers Wharf, for managing the works as we go forward?

RESPONSE

I'm going to repeat the point; and I think it is regrettable that Councillor Al-Samerai has to try and blame someone for this. I've tried to explain in this answer and on other occasions where the fault lies here. Actually, the fault lies with Eric Pickles and Liz Truss, who have ignored the recommendations of the Planning Inspectorate. When is she going to stand up to Eric Pickles and Liz Truss? When is she going to hold them to account, and ask them to apologise? It is not good enough, I don't think; and it just represents, I think, the whole Liberal Democrat approach – we've got to blame somebody; let's blame the council, without thinking through who's really responsible. Simon Hughes wants to blame everybody but himself for the problems which are being inflicted on this borough.

So, Mr Mayor, I am not going to accept the criticisms which she is determined to place at this council in respect of this matter; and I'm going to say to her that I would have thought that it was absolutely clear from my actions to date, and this council's actions to date, through the resource and the energy that it has put in to opposing Chambers Wharf as a drive site, that we will stand absolutely shoulder to shoulder with the residents and schools affected by Thames Water. But I say again; she is really playing with fire if she is trying to divide this community and this council on this issue. It is going to take us absolutely nowhere if she keeps on trying to play the blame game. It is absolutely wrong, and I know the community will be very unhappy if she continues to pursue this line.

We are at one with this community, we will stand by them. We will continue to make the case against the government. And she should be standing up today and saying 'I will take on the government with you, shoulder to shoulder with this community', and not trying to blame somebody because of her government's decisions.

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(ORDINARY)
WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY 2015
MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

The 'Community Conversation' budget consultation document lists all the areas where the council spends money but fails to mention cabs, catering or consultants. Please could the leader tell me how much has been spent on these in each of the last three years?

RESPONSE

The Liberal Democrats and their Conservative masters have made brutal cuts across local government, targeting those with the most need like Southwark. It is shameful that rather than condemning government ministers like the MP for Bermondsey and Old Southwark, Southwark Liberal Democrats are still hanging on to the idea that there is money sloshing around in Southwark if only the administration was more prudent.

The Liberal Democrats have asked questions like this before, and I am surprised they keep going as the figures show huge waste under them and sensible spending under Labour. We will keep working hard to keep these costs low, but the Liberal Democrats really need to wake up and realise that the crisis in local government finance is one of profligate spending when they ran the council, and slashing essential services now they run the country. It is up to Labour to sort out their mess.

The table below shows the total spend figure for taxi transport (excluding VAT).

Financial year	Administration	Cost £000
2007/08	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	226
2008/09	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	222
2009/10	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	246
2010/11	Labour	195
2011/12	Labour	65
2012/13	Labour	52
2013/14	Labour	64
2014/15 (Estimate for year)	Labour	56

The table below shows the total spend on catering.

Financial year	Administration	Cost £000
2007/08	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	2,765
2008/09	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	1,765
2009/10	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	1,179
2010/11	Labour	913
2011/12	Labour	750
2012/13	Labour	586
2013/14	Labour	450

Financial year	Administration	Cost £000
2014/15 (Estimate for Year)	Labour	425

The table below shows the total spend on consultants.

Financial year	Administration	Cost £000
2007/08	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	12,600
2008/09	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	11,900
2009/10	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	11,900
2010/11	Labour	7,200
2011/12	Labour	5,300
2012/13	Labour	3,100
2013/14	Labour	2,700
2014/15 (Estimate for year)	Labour	2,700

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Thank you Mr Mayor; maybe he will answer this question because I didn't get an answer just then to whether any of that money would be spent on the people around Chambers Wharf, and I think it is really important. I will pursue by email and maybe I will get a reply to my email because I did not get a reply; and I have started this meeting with an apology that he does not reply.

So my next supplemental Mr Mayor, is around the cost of cabs and catering; and I noticed that in the budget consultation with residents there was not even the courtesy to tell them how much the council spends on cabs and catering, which is why I have to keep answering the question. In his answer, he suggests that I should never dare ask because the Liberal Democrats spends money on these things, but actually I believe that any money spent on these things when we are cutting vital front line services, is a waste of money and just for members in the room who don't know, when I first became Leader of the Opposition and kept being told about these terrible government coalition cuts, I was invited with the leader of the council to go and lobby government ministers, and they asked us if we could get a taxi together; so let me tell you this council does not know about waste and saving money.

Last night there was an event at which there were sandwiches and I would like to know whether those sandwiches and refreshments at the event last night were sponsored, because if they weren't it seems to me it's a good way of the council saving money and if they were we ought to do it more so that we don't spend half a million quid a year on council sandwiches?

RESPONSE

You know I – it really does come to something, doesn't it? I think I've got to reflect on that first. I think Councillor Al-Samerai is talking about the Housing Heroes Awards, where we recognise those tenants who have really given to their estates and their communities and she is saying should not have a sandwich when they come to be congratulated. Shame on her, shame on her – is she really saying that? She is! But there we are.

Look, this is a persistent theme; she keeps asking questions about sandwiches and taxis. Let's just put that together, if we got rid of that that would be £480,000 ok, well, that's an amount of money. But that is nothing compared to the £33 million that we are having to find in savings in our budget this year. It is nothing to the £120 million we have had to find since 2010.

And what I would also draw her attention to, I would also point out that in terms of spend, if we go back to the last Liberal Democrat year we now spend 22.5% of what they spent on taxis and transport; we now spend 35% of what they spent on catering in their last year; 35% and if you compare it to their glory days of 2007-8, we spend 15% of what they were spending when they were in office, and we spend 22.5% on what they last spent on consultants.

We will take absolutely no lessons, and I will certainly take no lessons from Councillor Al-Samerai, on efficiency. We are an efficient council that's continuing to deliver for the people of this borough; if she wants our tenants to go without sandwiches we will put it on a leaflet and tell them. What a disgrace, what a disgrace! Shame on her; shame on her.

POINT OF PERSONAL EXPLANATION FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

A point of clarification please I did not say they should not have the sandwiches, I asked a question about whether they were sponsored, I was making a suggestion about sponsoring which would save the council money and that is the reaction to a sensible suggestion about saving money. It was about sponsoring a reception; it is a perfectly normal thing to do and it would actually save the council half a million quid which I do not think is nothing.

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JANE LYONS

Could the leader provide an update on any communications he has sent or received and actions he has taken over the last six months regarding the future of the Dulwich Hospital Site?

RESPONSE

The council has made clear that it wishes to see a new secondary school on the Dulwich Hospital site. In July 2014, cabinet noted the projected shortfall of secondary places and indicated their wish for a secondary school to open on the hospital site. In October 2014, cabinet also agreed that the use of the site for a new secondary school should be included in the new Southwark Plan.

We have supported both the Charter and Haberdasher Askes bids to open a secondary school on the Dulwich Hospital site and we understand that the Education Funding Agency (EFA) will make a decision in March 2015. The acquisition of the site is the responsibility of the EFA but officers are monitoring progress and updates will be provided to cabinet later in the spring.

In the last six months, the council has had a range of meetings including with the EFA, Harris Federation, Haberdasher Askes, Charter School and the NHS.

In addition I have written to the EFA offering my support for Haberdashers Askes, and provided a quote of support for Charter to use in their application.

In June I wrote to the Education Secretary regarding the Dulwich Hospital site and confirmed my view that there should be a secondary school on that site.

Since then I have written to Lord Harris asking to meet with him about their role in education in the borough which includes standards in their current schools and their desire to build a Nunhead Primary school on the site.

I have met with and received letters from Dame Tessa Jowell MP about the work she is doing with ministers to secure a secondary school for this site. I have also been copied into letters from parents writing to the Department for Education in support of a secondary school on the site.

Councillor Mills, in her role as cabinet member for children and schools, has also had a range of meetings and correspondence on the hospital site including a meeting with the EFA just this Monday and a meeting with the Charter Educational Trust tomorrow.

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE

Is the leader concerned about the increase in accident and emergency waiting times and cancelled operations in local hospitals and the affect this is having on Southwark residents?

RESPONSE

Yes.

The government's cuts and top-down reorganisation of the NHS is having an impact on local people and our healthcare. This is not only through their management of the NHS, but also the huge pressure they are putting on local authority budgets which means that Southwark has less money available to pay for things like adult care services.

The coalition government's disastrous management of the health service also means that people are waiting longer for treatment. At King's College Hospital for example, one in five patients wait more than 18 weeks from referral to treatment – despite the excellent staff who are working incredibly hard to serve the health of our community.

In the last year, over 1,500 operations in the King's College Hospital NHS Trust and 600 at Guys and St Thomas's have been cancelled at the last minute for non-clinical reasons. This is over 2,000 who have been left waiting for an operation only for it to be cancelled at the last minute. In the last year King's have failed to meet their A&E waiting time target every quarter of 95% of patients being seen within four hours.

Government cuts are now creating more expensive and longer term problems for people with health and care needs. The government is putting the NHS through a complex and costly reform, whilst at the same time starving local councils of cash. This is creating pressure and impacting on the health and wellbeing of our residents. As with many of the government's policies it will hit vulnerable people the hardest.

The only reason things are not worse is because of the hard work that doctors, nurses and all the NHS staff put in, putting patients first and working to make sure that people are protected as much as possible from this heartless government.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE

Thank you Mr Mayor, and can I thank the Leader for the detailed answer and yes, I do have a supplementary.

Can I ask the leader if he will commend the NHS workforce for dealing with the constant pressure that they have always had to deal with, but that has rocketed since 2010? Can I ask the leader if he agrees that our Liberal Democrat MP in Bermondsey and Old Southwark has failed to serve the people of Bermondsey and Old Southwark and has instead served his Conservative paymasters? Can I ask if he agrees the NHS is in a perilous state, not because of the decision taken ten years ago by Blair, which is a fixation of some councillors on the other side, but for specific decisions taken since 2010 including the scrapping of NHS Direct, the 20% shortfall in paramedics in the London Ambulance Service and the 2100 cancelled operations in the last year in local hospitals alone; things that weren't happening in 2010?

Can I ask if the Leader agrees that the Liberal Democrats appears to have learnt nothing from the local election results last May, which the Evening Standard describes as them being 'pulverised'; instead talking about sandwiches when we are trying to talk about the future of the NHS? And finally, Mr Mayor, can I ask if the leader agrees Labour must win in May if Bermondsey and Old Southwark is to get the £2.5 billion investment for more doctors and nursing care workers that our community desperately needs, and we hear people talking about, week in, week out, on the door step while you are busy shuffling sandwiches in other meetings?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Coyle for his brief supplemental question with sub parts; I have thought about it carefully. I agree with all of his questions but most of all I agree that he will make a much better MP and representative for Bermondsey and Old Southwark on 7 May.

But there is a vitally important point that he has highlighted and that is about the NHS in crisis at this time. You can talk all you want about decisions that were taken under the Labour government but we did not see A&E in crisis during the period of a Labour government; in fact we have only seen A&E in crisis under this Conservative/Liberal Democrat government, just as the way we saw A&E in crisis and our NHS in crisis up to 1997, and the only lesson that we can draw and the only lesson that our residents can draw is that the NHS is only safe with a Labour government.

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

How many new homes at council rent currently have planning permission and, of these, how many have been built and how many are occupied?

RESPONSE

This administration's ambitious target to build 11,000 new council homes is, we believe, the biggest anywhere in the country. These will be council homes, at council rents, and are part of our contribution to tackling the housing pressure which London currently faces.

We are committed to building the first 1,500 by 2018. Of those homes:

33 have been built and are occupied. There are no homes which have been built and not occupied.

198 have got planning permission and are either under construction or awaiting construction to begin. This is phase 1 of our direct delivery programme and represents 60% of the total build in phase 1.

In addition phase 2 will deliver a large number of new council homes at council rents. In phase 2 we have identified approximately 500 sites. Feasibility studies have been commissioned and officers are reviewing the reports as they come in. The final number of units and the split of new council homes at council rents delivered will be subject to further development of these schemes and planning.

There are also additional sites (not included above) that also have the potential to deliver new council homes that could be developed through joint partnership arrangements.

Examples include:

- Albion Street Library and Civic Centre
- Albion Street Health Centre site
- Braganza Street Workshops
- Southampton Way/Sedgmoor Place site
- Copeland Road car park
- Manor Place Shops

In addition there are many new homes with housing associations which charge social rent – the equivalent to council rent. The table below shows the total completed each year which charge social rent this includes the new council homes built.

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Completed	16	466	450	298	1,230

Planning permission has also been granted for new homes. The council does not keep a break down of planning permissions for different types of affordable home. The table below shows the total planning permissions per year for affordable housing social rent/affordable rent/intermediate. The numbers are gross and include any direct delivery council housing.

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Planning	120	340	382 (plus 600 outline Planning Permission)	361 (plus 500 outline Planning Permission)	1,203 (plus 1,100 outline Planning Permission)

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Thank you Mr Mayor and I thank the Leader for his answer which is quite comprehensive, and I realise in a way that I asked a slightly misleading question as I asked about property at council rents, and you have included in your information the housing association properties which are also set at council rents.

I wondered if you could tell me the programme of building 11,000 new council homes is it going to be 11,000 new council homes at council rents, not including any affordable housing that we would otherwise, so could the leader guarantee that all 11,000 will be new council homes; it will not include the percentage of affordable homes that we would have got anyway with a new development, and it doesn't include any council homes that are being replacement for council homes that are being knocked down?

RESPONSE

It is 11,000 new council homes at council rent owned by the council and let at council rents and under council terms and I can also guarantee that it will be a Labour council delivering those 11,000 new council homes over the next 28 years. It might not be me as Leader seeing that 11,000 council homes, but I do hope, Mr Mayor, that whoever it is will invite me back together with colleagues here to see that 11,000th council home's door opened and new council tenants welcomed in.

It could not be a clearer commitment. The Liberal Democrats are always looking for something behind it; some secret plan; something that's not quite – you know, I think it's probably because, as a party, if you say something and then do something completely different you expect every other political party to behave in that way, whereas Labour in Southwark says exactly what we do. Could not be clearer.

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MAISIE ANDERSON

Can the leader confirm how much Southwark's spending power will be reduced following the government's announcement of additional funding cuts in the 2015 financial settlement?

RESPONSE

As part of the governments provisional grant settlement announced before Christmas, the minister announced an 'average' reduction in spending power across the country of 1.8%. For London the average was 3.4%; and for inner London the average was 5%.

The minister's calculation fails to take into account the Better Care Fund (which is clearly not Local Government's money at this time). If this is excluded then the average would have shot up to 8.8%, again with the metropolitan unitaries and the most deprived parts especially being disproportionately affected.

In 2015/16 and using the Government's calculations again, Southwark will be the second most badly affected London borough with a stated spending power loss of £21.2m (5.9%) in cash terms. Only Hackney with real term loss of £21.5m (6.3%) in cash fares worse – and this is before we take the Better Care Fund out of the equation. This is before pay awards, inflation and demand pressures are taken into account. In contrast leafy Surrey received a 3.1% increase.

Cabinet will next week receive a report on budget proposals to deal with these reductions in 2015/16. In line with reports that we have received through the year, I am expecting a report that will have to deal with cash loss through the Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) in cash terms of around £33m for next year.

In the chancellor's autumn statement we were advised that we face more of the same in the period to 2020, although we have no firm idea as to how this will be distributed.

I have met with the minister personally together with my Cabinet Member colleague and the council will continue to make representations.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MAISIE ANDERSON

Thank you Mr Mayor, and thank you to the Leader for your very detailed and, it has to be said, sobering answer to my question which was of course about the government announcement of additional funding cuts in 2015 financial settlement, and if we have learnt anything here this evening, it is that this Labour administration is delivering incredible, incredible things for the residents of Southwark despite an extremely challenging national political environment; so my question to you this evening is that the government cuts funding this year mean that the council will lose £160 for every household in this borough – how does this compare with other boroughs across the country?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Anderson for her supplementary question and it is a really sobering point. And you know later tonight and in February we will be looking at the budget, and it really is important to bear in mind the way in which Southwark and other Labour boroughs, in particular those boroughs representing some of the most deprived communities in our country, have been hit hardest by this government. You know, there is simply no fairness as I can see to the way in which this has been approached. You are right; we are losing £160 per household, on top of effectively £250 per person that we have lost up to now; £160 per household this year. Now, just two contrasts: in that hotbed of deprivation, Wokingham, they have seen this year a £49 increase in their spending power this year; and in Surrey as a whole, a £56 per household increase this year. Now, tell me how that is fair.

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH McCALLUM

What is the council doing to ensure that equal priority status and housing need points are awarded to people with mental health illnesses as to those with physical medical conditions? When was the last review of medical assessment procedures carried out, and what was the outcome?

RESPONSE

For the assessment of housing needs and associated medical needs the council is required to follow housing legislation and the case law that has subsequently developed. The case law test case is R v Camden Council LBC ex p Pereira 1998, which established that vulnerability and severe medical needs means an applicant being “less able to fend for himself than an ordinary homeless person so that injury or detriment to him will result, where a less vulnerable man/woman will be able to cope without harmful effects.” The starting position therefore is that the applicant has become, or will become, street homeless. It does not turn (as had been suggested in some earlier cases) on his/her ability to fend for him/herself while still housed. All councils across England are required to follow this case law. Southwark Council complies with this case law.

Part VI of the 1996 Housing Act section 167 (e) and the code of guidance for the allocation of affordable accommodation issued by central government in July 2012, also contains a strict framework for all councils across England to follow. The guidance is clear that the local authority must assist people who need to move on medical or welfare grounds (the criteria may apply to any member of the household) for example, a customer’s mental illness or disorder, a physical or learning disability, chronic or progressive medical conditions (e.g. multiple sclerosis, HIV/AIDS), infirmity due to old age, the need to give or receive care, the

need to recover from the effects of violence or threats of violence, or physical, emotional or sexual abuse, the ability to fend for themselves, young people at risk, people with behavioural difficulties, the need for adapted housing and/or extra facilities (e.g. a bedroom or bathroom), the need for improved heating (on medical grounds), the need for sheltered housing (on medical grounds), the need for ground floor accommodation (on medical grounds), the need to be near friends/relatives or medical facilities, or the need to move following hospitalisation or long term care. Southwark's new housing allocations scheme complies with these criteria.

The council is therefore required to provide reasonable preference through the Housing Allocations scheme to customers who have a severe medical need, welfare award or disability (including learning disability) where the current accommodation is unsuitable or it is unreasonable to remain in occupation. This can include where an applicant's condition is terminal and re-housing is required to provide the basis for the provision of suitable care, or the applicant's condition is life threatening and their existing accommodation is a major contributory factor. It may also include applicants whose health is so severely affected by the accommodation that it is likely to become life threatening, for example, where an applicant has significant mental health problems which are exacerbated by their accommodation. Southwark's housing allocations scheme awards priority Band 2 status for these customers and therefore complies with the 1996 Housing Act.

Southwark's housing allocations scheme was reviewed throughout 2012 and 2013, and a new scheme was adopted in December 2013. The medical assessment criteria comply with legislative framework mentioned above. The scheme commenced on 4 September 2014 and a review of its impact is currently being considered as part of a six-month review. This will be concluded during the first half of 2015. The medical priority status has been considered as part of this review process.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH McCALLUM

Thank you to the Leader for your, again, quite comprehensive answer.

You go into quite a lot of detail how medical priority status works in the borough for housing allocations. The question is specifically about the difference between physical and mental health issues; and I just wondered whether the Leader will join me in welcoming the steps that the Liberal Democrats have taken in government to put mental health and physical health on an equal footing, to invest money in mental health facilities and services but also most crucially to ensure that service provision across the board is delivered on an equal footing to both mental health and physical health, including the housing allocations policy here in Southwark?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor McCallum for his supplemental question, which raises a really important issue.

I am not familiar with what the government's current pledge is, but I know that we in Southwark have committed to regarding mental health as equally serious as physical disabilities, mental health issues, and that absolutely remains a constant of this council and of this administration. So I think my answer deals with how we look at mental health, as one of those factors which is taken into account in assessing somebody's allocation needs, and I think we already affectively give it equal status to some of the other issues.

You will know from your own ward and your own case work that we do have people with mental health issues living in council housing, because they are those quite often in the greatest need. So we do support those in need and those with mental health issues in the community, and we will continue to do so.

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR EVELYN AKOTO

Following the successful launch of the women's safety charter last month, can the leader tell me how many venues in Southwark have signed up to the charter?

RESPONSE

In December we delivered a key manifesto pledge by launching the successful Women's Safety Charter to help protect women against harassment in bars and clubs in the borough. This groundbreaking initiative, led by Southwark's deputy cabinet member for women's safety, Cllr Radha Burgess, demonstrates our commitment to the important issue of women's safety. We want to show that harassment of women and girls is not acceptable and this new charter is our commitment to promoting a culture where women's safety is taken seriously.

At present 30 licensed premises in Southwark have signed up to the council's Women's Safety Charter, pledging to take action against harassment of women in their venues, including some of the largest venues in the borough such as the Ministry of Sound and The Coronet. A further five venues have indicated their commitment and are expected to sign the Charter by the end of January.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR EVELYN AKOTO

Thank you Mr Mayor and I want to thank the Leader for this response. I want to also congratulate the council for a successful launch of the women's safety charter last month.

My question is what further work does the Leader think that the council would need to do to promote important issues of women's safety?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Akoto for her supplemental question and again I think it is useful of me to take this opportunity while I am standing here to commend Councillor Burgess and the work she has done leading the introduction of the women's safety charter. You know, it is pioneering work and I think all of us on all sides – I was very grateful to see members on opposite sides applauding at that.

That is really leading work and I think we should be proud of the stance that we are taking in our borough on this. We could do more of course in getting more venues to sign up to the women's safety charter, and of course Councillor Burgess, together with Councillor Situ, are working on the domestic violence strategy at this present time, in a bid to ensure that women do feel they can properly report domestic violence – well, all victims of domestic violence – but in terms of making women safer in our community. And I think again it underlines that we are on the side of sometimes those whose voices are not heard within our community, those who don't feel they can speak out. I can really say that I am really proud of the work that we have all done to play that leading role in Southwark.

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

How many long-term empty and second homes in Southwark have been charged full council tax or the Empty Home Premium since April 2013? What is the total number of second and empty homes in the borough broken down by tenure type?

RESPONSE

Since 1 April 2013, 979 second homes have been charged the full council tax (100%) and 536 long-term empty homes have been charged a council tax premium (150%).

It is not possible to break this down by tenure type.

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS

How does the council tax collection rate being set this for 2015/16 compare to the council's performance in previous years?

RESPONSE

The council tax base report being presented to council assembly tonight recommends a council tax collection rate of 96.75%.

Under this administration, council tax collection rates have been rising. In 2013/14 the introduction of the council tax support scheme impacted on our collection rates which went down slightly, although we still exceeded our target and continue to do so.

Since taking control of the council we have raised the collection rate to 96.25% in 2012/13 and to 96.5% in 2014/15 and are now proposing a further rise to 96.75% in the coming year. In each year our actual collection has exceeded this level.

Under the previous Liberal Democrat/Conservative administration we had the third worst council tax collection rate in the country. This administration has turned this around and our aspiration is to continue improving.

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Can the leader provide a breakdown of spend so far of the council's £2 million capital funding for cycling improvements?

RESPONSE

The £2 million cycle infrastructure fund is budgeted for expenditure over 4 years. Current spend is £13,000. The funding is expected to mainly be directed to the proposed Southwark Spine cycle route, which is currently under consultation as part of the borough's new Cycle Strategy, which accounts for the limited expenditure so far.

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANNE KIRBY

Can the leader give an update on the council's plans to build 1,500 new council homes by 2018?

RESPONSE

The council has ambitious plans to build 1,500 council homes by 2018.

837 homes have been already been scheduled as part of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the wider direct delivery programme. Phase 1 includes 332 homes of which 198 (60%) were council homes for council rents. Phase 1 has planning permission and the majority are now on site. Feasibility studies have been carried out on Phase 2 and are being reviewed prior to further scheme development and resident consultation. We are working to ensure that Phase 2 also delivers a substantial number of new council homes at council rents, which will also go towards the total 1,500 new council homes and expect to make an announcement about this in due course.

In addition a number of sites have been identified that also have the potential to deliver new council homes that could be developed through joint partnership arrangements. Examples include:

- Albion Street Library and Civic Centre
- Albion Street Health Centre site
- Braganza Street Workshops
- Southampton Way/Sedgmoor Place site
- Copeland Road car park
- Manor Place Shops.

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR SUNNY LAMBE

Can the leader explain how the additional funding recently awarded to Southwark Council through the government's transformation challenge programme will be used to help more residents back into work?

RESPONSE

Southwark Council, in partnership with Lambeth and Lewisham councils, has secured £1.1 million from the government's Transformation Challenge Award to deliver our Pathways to Employment programme in 2015/16. This is in addition to the £150,000 that was secured to launch the pilot in 2014/15.

Pathways to Employment supports Southwark residents with the greatest needs into employment.

The funding will be used to support key target groups from welfare into work and so helps deliver our commitment to support 5,000 local people into jobs.

Residents supported will include:

- Young people (18-24)
- Older people (over 50s)
- Lone parents
- People with physical health issues and learning disabilities
- People with mental health issues.

Support includes the provision of key workers who will work with clients to deliver support specific to their individual needs. Support will continue beyond the point at which work is secured to ensure that clients adjust to the world of work and sustain employment.

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON (BOROUGH, BANKSIDE AND WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

What support is the council providing to carers in the light of recent government cuts?

RESPONSE

Southwark Council commissions a Carers Hub that provides carers with information, advice and support. The Carers Hub offers carers assessments and provides carers' budgets for those eligible. They also run groups with peer support and counselling.

From April 2015 in line with the Carers Strategy and Care Act 2104, Southwark Council will be investing further in carers' services and will be commissioning:

1. An information and advice service
2. An outreach service
3. A health and wellbeing service
4. In-house carer team to carry out carers' assessments, support plans and reviews.

This administration is taking every step to try and protect those most in need and most vulnerable from the savage cuts of this heartless Liberal Democrat/Conservative government. We have therefore not cut back on carers' services and going forward we are committed to significant additional investment in order to reach out to many more carers, to support them in the critical role they undertake.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON (BOROUGH, BANKSIDE AND WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

I am going to thank the Leader for his answer to my question, clearly in light of the cuts and you have outlined how we support those carers in the borough, can I ask you to explain to us why it is important to continue to support carers in Southwark?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Seaton for his supplementary question on behalf of Borough, Bankside and Walworth community council. Well I think we have heard some of it already earlier this evening and indeed with Councillor Situ's speech.

Carers are our ultimate volunteers in a way. They are the ones who are saving our health service and our community and our council untold millions of pounds each year in terms of the support that they are giving to friends or relatives and that is why we should not take carers for granted because they are such an important part of our community. They enable our community to keep operating quite frankly, as I say I think we have kind of touched on it in the debate earlier on in the sense of the role of volunteering the key role that continues to play and I am very proud again of the work that we do, some of the pioneering work that we do as a council to support our carers within our community and I only hope that we will be able to continue to have the resources that we need as a council to carry on providing that really important job.

14. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES, EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS (BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

What is the council doing to address the stereotyping of young people by businesses?

RESPONSE

We are acutely aware of how the needs of young people have been abandoned by central government, that is why I am proud of how this administration have been proactive in our efforts to deal with this issue.

The Youth Fund is a £1 million a year council programme created specifically to assist young residents to remain in education, training or find employment.

The SEEDS project, delivered as part of the Youth Fund programme, provides a wage incentive to employers to create a job or apprenticeship opportunity for Southwark's young people at London Living Wage. The job or apprenticeship must be guaranteed for 12 months coupled with the employer committing to supporting the young person to find alternative employment if the job cannot be guaranteed after a year.

This new innovative offers support and guidance to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds including NEETS and care leavers. SEEDS also form an integral link between employers and young people, encouraging incentives for businesses to employ young people from disadvantaged backgrounds with secure, well paid employment.

The Getting Ready for Work (GRW) project, also part of the Youth Fund, provides tailored programmes to improve the core skills for young people in the modern world of work. GRW works in tandem with SEEDS to provide a pathway of support for Southwark's young people.

Both projects link closely with Southwark Works, which offers a range of support services for young people, including interview preparation and CV writing skills. Southwark Works has an employer engagement service that works with employers to understand their recruitment needs and prepares candidates to fill these vacancies.

The EBA (Education Business Alliance) works with a range of businesses across a diverse range of industries delivering high quality work related learning programmes and activities to Southwark Schools. Through these activities we aim to increase young people's skill sets, and alter the employers' perception of Southwark young people through positive engagement.

<http://www.southwarkeba.org.uk/>

EBA has worked with over 1,950 employers over the past year (mainly work experience), 3,548 work-related activities for secondary pupils and 424 primary school pupils are currently being mentored.

Mind Your Own Business encourages young people to apply for a £5,000 business bursary enabling them to kick start the setting up of their own business.

The project began over three years ago and to date 27 businesses have been established in the borough by young people aged 16 to 25 years of age.

Each young person also receives three years business support from London Youth Support Trust who specialise in helping young people establish their own business.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES, EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS (BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Thank you Mr Mayor and many thanks to the Deputy Leader for answering my question.

I do have a supplementary. What further work can we do as a council to ensure that young people are both consulted and included in the development of future provision of council services across our borough?

RESPONSE

Thank you Mr Mayor, I would like to thank Councillor Williams for that supplemental question, it is one which obviously I could not have written better myself. I do think that we saw an absolute display this evening, a perfect display, a perfect example from those two young women that addressed this assembly earlier this evening of the talent we have amongst our young people in our community.

This is a young borough, this is a young borough in terms of its population, obviously I am an exception as is Councillor Smith and others in the Chamber as he reminded me in the Labour group earlier on, but the fact is, if our services don't reflect the needs and concerns of young people, then we are not delivering the right services for this borough. It is as simple as that and that's why I am very proud that as the deputy leader, I was at the fore front sponsoring the child care commission because we have to start at the earliest ages and work that through and from the debate we have had this evening in terms of health and care, then that all links up together.

But I also see this from a political angle as well. We had a classic display of engaging young people last year through the Scottish referendum and we talked about lowering the age of voting to sixteen and I have always supported that and we saw the display in Scotland where young people in schools were debating actively the issues around that referendum process and I think Scotland as a whole and the United Kingdom as a whole has benefited from that and as soon as it comes to Westminster elections the better, and that's why our youth council needs to be empowered more and we need to get them more engaged in the scrutiny process, through determining what services this council provides for young people. So yes we have started, it is work in progress, there is more to do, but this council as it does with other policies and services we have heard about this evening, is at the fore front and we will be at the fore front to engaging young people more. Thank you.

15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PARKS AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Could the cabinet member please provide an update on progress with Greendale and securing the future of Dulwich Hamlet Football Club?

RESPONSE

We are committed to making better use of Greendale Fields and have been exploring options to bring forward plans that enable residents and the public to make good use of the open space there.

Further to the public consultation where we invited views on usage and people's aspirations for the open space, we are now in on-going discussions with Hadley Homes regarding the lease held by the club / Hadley Homes on Greendale. Although we believe that there is common ground that Greendale, other than the astroturf, should remain a green space but be properly maintained, it is important to make sure that this progresses.

We will therefore continue to proceed to secure control of Greendale and continue to work with the club owners and its supporters to deliver a sustainable financially sound future for Dulwich Hamlet FC.

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR JOHNSON SITU (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

How does the council plan to ensure that future regenerations within Peckham and Nunhead are sustainable?

RESPONSE

At last October's cabinet we agreed the New Southwark Plan where we have set out how we will deliver further regeneration and wider improvements in Southwark in the years to come. The main purpose of the planning system, reflected through the New Southwark Plan is to achieve sustainable development.

We will work with our partners to improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of Peckham and Nunhead, including through ensuring that there is sufficient land of the right type available to support growth and innovation; creating high quality built environments with accessible local services that support community needs; and, by protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment.

We will also encourage sustainable transport choices for local people by prioritising walking, cycling and usage of public transport networks. We are committed to reducing congestion and pollution in the borough by reducing the need for trips by motorised vehicles, and are working to make cycling more accessible for all with our borough Cycling Strategy.

We appreciate that there is not a one size fits all approach to sustaining and enhancing town centres and this is why we are engaging the community on proposals for Peckham Rye Station and Peckham Square, to ensure that changes in this area receive local support and realise our commitment to sustainable regeneration.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR JOHNSON SITU (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Thank you Mr Mayor and I would also like to thank the Cabinet Member for Regeneration for such a comprehensive answer. I do have a supplemental

question and on behalf of residents I would like to ask how the council plans to involve local residents in future on the sustainability of future regeneration.

RESPONSE

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Situ for your supplemental. I think with delivering regeneration projects across the borough but particularly in Peckham and Nunhead we have obviously adopted the Peckham Nunhead area action plan at the last council assembly meeting to make those developments sustainable in each degree, from an energy efficient point of view, we need to have active travel, walking and cycling at the heart of that, also more public transport, also high quality public spaces that people are proud of and can use on a regular basis and also making sure that they are maintained on a regular basis. I am working closely with Councillor Merrill on that to make sure that continues long into the future.

It is also really important I think and a view point on community engagement, is making sure that we get it right, because many of the regeneration programmes and projects in this borough are putting right mistakes that were made forty or fifty years ago and at the end of the day if we get it right now, if we think, you know, when we rebuild for a one hundred years, then we can get it right now, then our successors on the council won't have to in twenty eight years time when 11,000 council homes have been opened, they will not be tearing down the ones we are building at the moment because we will be getting it right now and at the highest possible quality, so I think it is absolutely crucial that people are consulted. We had the successful co-design programme down at Peckham Rye station. The co-design process has now moved down to the future of Peckham Square, so anything we can do to engage with people. Picking up another of Councillor Williams' point, is making sure that young people and a broad cross section of people are involved as much as possible to work to make sure that happens.

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS GONDE

Can the cabinet member give an update on the council's plans to make Southwark a dementia friendly borough?

RESPONSE

In March 2014 the council approached a number of organisations who would share its commitment to establish a Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) to act as one of the catalysts to making Southwark a dementia friendly community. There was a determination from the start that the DAA should seek membership beyond the traditional health and social care sector. Shakespeare's Globe hosted this first meeting where a great level of interest was expressed for a DAA and it was agreed to reconvene again.

A number of agencies have indicated a commitment to join the DAA (Age UK Southwark and Lewisham, Alzheimer's Society, Choice Support and Milwall Football Club to name a few). Further organisations have been approached and we are awaiting confirmation. Organisations as diverse as Morrison's, Albins Undertakers, Guys and St Thomas' Acute Trust, Southwark News and Peabody Trust have indicated interest and we are awaiting final confirmation that they will join the DAA. The council and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have agreed to support the DAA.

The council and CCG also fund further dementia support services (support workers and a dementia café) and 'community navigators' as a pilot project through the Better Care Fund. The support worker gives 1:1 support to individuals providing emotional support, information, referral / advice and facilitates a monthly Carers Group. The dementia community navigator post is a new proactive role to ensure that services and resources are effectively co-ordinated at a neighbourhood/GP level for the needs of the service user and their family. The pilot will provide valuable learning in relation to how this role can compliment the move toward more locality based services, the evolving service model for the centre of excellence and the council's goal of ensuring that Southwark becomes a dementia friendly community.

We can all play our part and I am very pleased to note that many officers and members have undertaken the dementia friend training.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS GONDE

Thank you very much Mr Mayor, I want to thank the cabinet member for her response and which was very comprehensive indeed. I do have a supplemental Mr Mayor.

Dementia, as you know, is one of the most significant public health challenges that we face in Southwark due to the boroughs ageing population and it is likely to continue as a problem in the coming years. What impact does the cabinet member think, becoming a dementia friendly borough, will have on our residents and those who suffer from dementia and those who care for them? Thank you.

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Gonde for this supplemental question. Mr Mayor, as part of our pledge to make Southwark an age friendly borough, we quickly came to the conclusion that we needed to lend our support to addressing issues of dementia. It is a growing issue, it is a very important issue in the borough, as it is indeed world wide. As you can see from my written answer, some of the work we have done so far in establishing Southwark Dementia Action Alliance has been quite immense and I am very proud to say that we have had a lot of buy in from many different groups and organisations right across the piece which is important because people living with dementia live in our community. They go in to Morrisons, they live in our housing associations properties and council properties etc., so they are part of our community so it is really important that we acknowledge the amount of work we have to do to make this borough a dementia friendly borough.

I think the impact will be of enormous positive benefit especially the research we have been doing in this work shows me that I believe that the figures with people who are living with dementia could be really under estimated and particularly amongst those in ethnic minority communities as well, so it is really important that all of us as a society, as a group, actually get to understand and learn just what dementia is. I would like to say that it is very good that we are actually working with the Alzheimers Society and those member who have taken up the opportunity, we are running information and training sessions and I know that Councillor Bill Williams has undergone that training and I know that other members as well, I know that Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall has gone one step further and has become a Dementia Champion so that training and information shared is available from the council. I would really encourage all members and staff to take up that training. We have had the training done by senior managers in the council.

I would just like to encourage more people to take up the training that this council is offering in order to ensure that people living with dementia, that we raise awareness about it, that we encourage the take up the training and information and that we can make Southwark a better place and that has got to be a good thing, I believe. You maybe don't, but I do.

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR JASMINE ALI

What are the current usage rates in our Southwark libraries?

RESPONSE

We are extremely proud of our record on libraries and we continue to invest in and promote our library services at a time when many boroughs are choosing to reduce services in direct response to the severe budget cuts made by the government.

During 2013/14, the library service loaned a total of 1,565,255 items and received 2,030,656 visits. Whilst borrowing books and other items remains popular, people also use our libraries for many other reasons. Examples of this include the annual summer reading challenge for children. Last summer, 5,321 local children participated - an increase of 2% on the previous year. Of these, 2,329 completed the scheme which requires them to read six books over the course of the summer. This represents an increase of 7% on the previous year.

Many of our services are accessible online and all libraries have free internet access. All libraries provide a range of basic IT training including an introduction to using a computer, job search skills and producing CVs. During 2013/14, 5,063 people attended these sessions and by December 2014 a further 4,184 had participated. Our libraries also offer online access to the UK Citizenship Test and the Driving Theory test. 1,321 people originating from 122 countries have used the Life in Britain Citizenship test since it was introduced in 2008 and 1,739 have registered for the driving theory test since 2010.

Other people use Southwark's libraries for the extensive programme of events and activities including author visits, the cultural programme at Canada Water, activities for under-fives and their families, after school homework help clubs, conversation cafes and groups for older people.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR JASMINE ALI

Just a supplemental for Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle. I just wanted to commend you on keeping all the libraries open. I mean it is too often an easy target and a lot of our local authorities up north have done that. I don't know if people go to Sheffield regularly but they have closed nearly all of their libraries, and you can actually feel that it has had an impact on the community, because where would you go if you wanted to access social media. Any way, well done for that because they are important community hubs. What I wanted to know is how our local communities in the borough have benefited from the council with all of our Southwark libraries open. Well done and thank you for your answer.

RESPONSE

Thank you very much Councillor Ali, I just want to take us back to just a few years ago to the summer of 2010 when the coalition government came into office and began inflicting cuts right across public services and especially across local government and many of our fellow councils in London have taken really, really tough decisions, one of them being closing the libraries and we saw protests, sit-ins, demonstrations, but we did not see any of that in this Labour controlled Southwark Council because we took the decision to keep all our libraries open because we listened to our community, they told us how much they valued the libraries and how much the community wanted to use the libraries. We listened and we responded and we not only kept all of the libraries open, Councillor Ali, as you know, we actually invested in the libraries, in the fabric of the libraries for example, The Blue Anchor, in Bermondsey, lovely new building, latest IT, WIFI, computers. The use of the libraries have changed, when I was going to school in Southwark and using the libraries, we now have reading groups, baby and toddler groups, we have talks by leading authors. During Black History month, I attended many events at Canada Water Library, my colleague Councillor Hargrove, you were there when author, Andrea Stuart, who wrote Sugar in the Blood, came across specially to give a talk to the members there and it was absolutely packed out. We were at Peckham Library when Sandra Agard, who works for the council gave a talk about Maya Angelou and again it was absolutely packed out. I am just saying this, to show you how well used our libraries are and that's why we took that decision. And also can I just say one more thing, seriously, no, no, seriously it goes to show the libraries are the hub of our communities irrespective of age, religion, gender. They have been used by everybody right across the community and that again has got to be a good thing for this council.

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR SANDRA RHULE

What was the turnout for the Southwark fireworks display this year?

RESPONSE

Southwark Fireworks in 2014 had the largest turn out ever, with over 33,000 visitors attending the event.

This was an increase of 65% on 2013 attendance and a huge 175% on 2012. We had over 150 security staff, volunteer stewards and police officers in attendance on the night to help everything run smoothly and whilst there was some inevitable congestion due to the numbers, the event itself was completely crime free which is just a fantastic achievement. We also received some really great feedback with over 92% of people rating the event 4 or 5 out of 5.

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

Will the cabinet member provide an update on the council's plans for day centre provision in the borough?

RESPONSE

The personalisation agenda, giving people more choice and control over their care and support arrangements, has seen a significant shift from traditional service models, such as day centres, to personal budgets with the majority of Adult Social

Care clients now choosing personal budgets. The trend over several years has been a decrease in the number of people attending day centres.

1. **Day Centres for people with learning disabilities** – there are two day centres, Riverside in the north of the borough and Queens Road day centre in Peckham which supports people with more complex, profound and multiple learning disabilities. Personal budget holders with learning disabilities are supported in many ways to access the community, including social, leisure, cultural, and employment opportunities outside of building based day centres and this is increasingly the pattern reflecting the choice of new and younger clients. The day centre provider has indicated that given changes in activity, demand resulting from personalisation policy, they would like to relocate from the Queens Road day centre. Council officers are due to meet with the provider (The Camden Society) to explore this with them and with clients and carers to ensure sufficient choice and capacity in the borough.
2. **Day Centres for people with physical disabilities** – the council provides day services for adults with physical disabilities and sensory impairments at Southwark Resource Centre in Walworth, where council staff are co-located with voluntary sector colleagues from Southwark Disablement Association and Southwark Carers. The building hosts a range of activities with input from local community organisations and health colleagues. In response to the choices being made by clients and carers for personal budgets rather than directly provided services, there are emerging options for transforming this service via delivery by the voluntary sector or a User Led Organisation (ULO), both of which would allow more choice and options for personal budget holders and self funders. After further development by clients and carers, options will be considered in 2015/16. Meanwhile the service continues to provide high quality support for local residents.
3. **Day Centres for older people** - Fred Francis and Southwark Park day centres are directly provided by the council supporting older people. There are plans for a centre of excellence to be established in the borough to strengthen the quality and range of support offered to older people with dementia and complex needs and their family carers. Work on the pathway for adults with dementia and the service model are in development, with consideration of how future service delivery will reflect integration of health, social care and the voluntary sector.
4. **Day Centres for people with mental health needs** – a review of the needs of BAME and marginalised groups is being carried out to inform proposals for developing mental health day services in Southwark for clients with mental health needs, most of whom are personal budget holders. This will inform the future of the Maroon's day centre as well as the provision currently offered by voluntary sector providers.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

Thank you very much to the cabinet member for her answer, I do have a supplemental question. How will the council ensure that people with dementia can access the new Cator Street and other planned centres of excellence given that 70% of the people with dementia are trapped in their own homes and a third live on their own?

RESPONSE

I have such a new good story about this. Our new centre of excellence being built specifically for people with dementia, the fact that we are actually training staff to actually go to homes doing out reach work for people with dementia, the fact that we are doing training in the council, we are doing a lot of things for people with dementia. You are absolutely right Councillor Hall, it is a very important part of the work we do and please on a serious point, you know this is a very serious point, is that we actually take this very seriously.

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Can the cabinet member update councillors on plans to expand the work of lay inspectors?

RESPONSE

The council currently funds and supports a number of 'lay inspection' schemes including the Care Homes 'Lay Inspection' scheme, the Innovation Grant funded Community Quality Champions programme and the Young Inspectors scheme supported by the Children's Rights Officers.

Alongside this Community Action Southwark (CAS) hosts Health Watch who play a key role in looking at users' experience of services. Officers are currently reviewing these arrangements to look at how we can strengthen the approach. I expect to consider the recommendations of this review in the spring so that I can ensure the council has a consistent and well co-ordinated approach that will promote an expanded and inclusive network of champions who can assess and influence the quality of our local services and the experience of users.

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR TOM FLYNN

Can the cabinet member give an update on the progress of Camberwell library?

RESPONSE

The development of the new library is well underway with the construction work due to complete in March 2015. The council will then complete its internal ICT and stock fit out before relocating from the current premises. We are aiming to open the new library by mid May.

The new library will maintain the council presence in the centre of Camberwell and as well as the usual library services, will provide access to a range of council services in the heart of the borough. This building will provide a welcoming, accessible and more pleasant environment set in a new Plaza.

Visitors will be able to borrow books, films and music, read and relax, print and scan, browse the web, spend some time studying, participate in a reading club, attend parent and toddler groups. It has been designed to be a well used council resource, offering an integrated customer access point for the primary housing area management, in which tenants can meet their tenancy officers and enquire about housing services and for customers who are seeking the convenience of pre-booked appointments to see a council officer. There is space available for hire to external organisations.

The library service will include the following:

- Full programme of activities including – lifelong learning, health training, film clubs, cultural events, authors reading sessions
- Reading club and book groups – all ages including toddlers and book start
- Spaces available for private hire – e.g. for community group meetings, training, social meetings. The flexible meeting room can accommodate up to 50 people.
- Dedicated library areas for young people and children. The children's library has a wet play area.
- 18 Study spaces for use
- Free Wi-Fi
- The provision of a plasma screen
- Items for loan including books, and DVDs
- Magazines and newspapers – areas to sit and read
- Computers and printing facilities to use; 22 in total of which 4 are dedicated to My Soutwark services.

Housing and customer services will include:

- Rooms to meet a housing officer e.g. for new tenancy sign ups, to discuss tenancy issues, rents etc. These will be pre booked appointments
- Ability to make payment.
- Ability to use the internet at computers and access the councils services online
- Private rooms to meet Customer Services representatives e.g. to discuss benefit claims
- Ability to drop in and meet with a Housing Officer
- Space available for staff to work in the office.

The new library is fully accessible with level access from the new plaza and plenty of circulation space for wheelchair users and a platform lift to the mezzanine level.

There are also 4 public toilets including one for children and accessible WC with baby change facilities. There is also space for 10 buggies.

We envisage the building being open 7 days a week. The proposed opening hours for the library are

Monday – Friday 9-8
 Saturday 9-5
 Sunday 12-4

Later opening times may be available for the bookable rooms.

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE DALE

Can the cabinet member give an update on the introduction of the council's ethical care charter?

RESPONSE

I am delighted to say that the council has implemented the Soutwark Ethical Care Charter for our main home care contracts. Cabinet colleagues and I will consider in March a procurement strategy report on the options for implementing the

Southwark Ethical Care Charter for all home care services by also bringing the currently spot purchased home care into scope. Financial provision has been identified to ensure this commitment is delivered across all home care.

This is a very important approach to restoring dignity and respect for home care workers and to ensuring our vulnerable adults are afforded high quality care and support at a time when the Liberal Democrat/Conservative government is imposing harsh and unfair cuts to the most vulnerable, those most in need and those who care for them.

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

What steps is the council taking to ensure good interventions at an early stage for residents with mental health issues to avoid presentations at local accident and emergency units?

RESPONSE

The Local Authority and Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCG) jointly commission services for people with mental health needs. The CCG being the lead commissioner, commission a range of community based services and interventions that support people with early signs of mental ill health or escalation of need, to reduce the need for urgent and unplanned care. This includes:

Community Based Support

- Universal access to a range of talking therapies is offered through the local Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) provision. IAPT sessions are delivered at GP practices across the borough and provide early intervention when patients first experience signs and symptoms of ill mental health.
- A community based Enhanced Assessment and Liaison Service has been implemented from 2014/15 to provide a single point of access to specialist mental health assessment and brief intervention followed by an appropriate care and support package in the community reducing escalation of need and ensuring appropriate support is accessed in a timely way.
- The local social care reablement team provide an innovative community based programme to support people who have had or are at risk of mental health crisis to maintain and regain their independence. The team accept referrals from assessment teams, crisis teams, and wards to ensure that people do not need to attend A&E services. They also work with A&E departments to ensure a timely discharge where reablement is an appropriate intervention.

Community Based Crisis Response

- A 24/7 peer support crisis line 'Solidarity in crisis' with outreach provision is delivered by Certitude to redirect people with non-urgent clinical requirements to an alternative type of provision in the community.
- The local Home Treatment provision provides hospital level care in the community and people's own homes for people in or at risk of mental health crisis, reducing the demand on hospital based services.

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR BEN JOHNSON

Has the council calculated how many books have not been returned to Southwark libraries and how much money has been lost from fines that should have been paid for overdue books?

RESPONSE

Southwark has a thriving and vibrant library service, with 7,643,705 items (books, CDs, DVDs and other items) loaned in the last five years.

Our computer system does not record the fine information in the way the question asks, but on our last check in December 2014, we had 67,898 books reported overdue. This represents less than 1% of total borrowing in the last five years.

Many of these items are returned shortly after their due date and the fines paid. Overdue reminders are sent to customers to encourage them to return items. The council is making it easier for library members to renew books and other items online or by telephone which is not only more convenient but also makes it easier for people to avoid fines. Customers who do fail to return items are not able to borrow further until overdue items are returned.

A far greater threat to our libraries than overdue books are the continuing government cuts to local services, which have resulted in many local authorities closing libraries. In Southwark, we have committed to keeping all our libraries open and we will continue to invest in this important service for our local residents.

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR CLAIRE MAUGHAM

Can the cabinet member explain what the council is doing to increase primary school places to meet demand in the north of the borough?

RESPONSE

The council is undertaking a range of expansions in the north of the borough to meet anticipated need, some already agreed by cabinet, some in the process of being brought forward for cabinet approval.

In September 2015 the following schools will be offering additional reception places:

- Rotherhithe Primary School 1 form of entry
- Phoenix Primary 2 forms of entry
- Grange Primary School 0.5 forms of entry
- Keyworth Primary School 0.5 forms of entry

In September 2016 the following schools will be offering additional reception places:

- Phoenix Primary School will be expanding from 2FE to 4FE
- Albion Primary School will be expanding by 1FE
- Charles Dickens Primary School is expanding from 1.5 to 2 forms of entry (FE) an additional 0.5FE.
- Keyworth Primary School is expanding from 1.5FE to 3FE an additional 1.5FE.

- Grange Primary School will be expanding from 1.5FE to 2FE
- Robert Browning Primary School, will be expanding from 1.5 to 2 forms of entry (FE)
- Redriff Primary Academy has plans to expand from 2FE to 3FE in September 2016. As this is an academy, they do not require council approval to expand.
- A new school, City of London Primary Academy Southwark will open on the site of the old Galleywall school, offering 2 forms of entry.

This will deliver 120 (4FE) additional reception places in September 2015 and potentially up to 270 (9FE) additional reception places in September 2016, in the north of the borough.

We are constantly reviewing 2015 and 2016 figures and developing plans for 2017 onwards.

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR JAMILLE MOHAMMED

Can the cabinet member explain what the council is doing to drive up standards in Southwark schools?

RESPONSE

We are proud of standards in our schools, which are above the national average in all external examination areas. 89% of our schools are judged good or outstanding by Ofsted, and by the end of the spring term, this will increase to 90%. There are no schools deemed inadequate or requiring Special Measures.

We are narrowing the attainment gap for Early Years and Reception children with 66% of Southwark school children achieving a Good Level of Development at Foundation Stage (up from 60% in 2013). This is higher than the national (60%), London (62%) and statistical neighbour averages (63%).

The Key Stage 2 SATs results for 2014 have been validated and the percentage of Southwark school children achieving Level 4 (the expected level at the end of Year 6) is in the top quartile for reading, writing and maths combined.

GCSE results will not be validated until the end of January, but preliminary results suggest that the majority of local authorities in England have seen a decline in performance at GCSE, following two major reforms of Key Stage 4 performance measures. Southwark's preliminary results suggest that 61.7% of Southwark children achieved 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths GCSE, compared to 65.2% in 2013. Southwark's results are substantially better than national (56.1%), London (60.6%) results and statistical neighbour average (57.3%). Compared to the rest of England, Southwark was ranked 22nd and remained in the top quartile for this measure (an improvement of 11 places from 33rd last year).

At A-Level, results will not be validated until the end of January, but preliminary results show that the percentage of Southwark pupils who achieved passes equivalent to at least 2 A levels remained fairly constant at 96.3% (96.7% in 2013). Southwark's performance continued to be better than national (87.8%) and London (88.5%) levels and also our statistical neighbour average of 85.8%.

Southwark was ranked 8th out of 150 LAs, moving up from joint 18th last year. 8.4% of Southwark pupils achieved 3 or more A* or A grades, up from 7.1% in 2013.

Our ambition is to continue to improve standards in our schools and discussions are underway with secondary schools as to how we can, in partnership, support every Southwark school to reach the ambitious target of 70% of pupils attaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C (or equivalent with new assessment and reporting procedures from 2016) over the next two to three years.

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHANIE CRYAN

Can the cabinet member confirm whether there are any further plans for new secondary schools to open in Southwark?

RESPONSE

We are working with a number of partners both to expand existing schools and to procure new schools to meet anticipated demand for secondary places. This includes working with neighbouring boroughs through the Associations of Directors of Children's Services.

We have closely supported both the Charter and Haberdasher Askes bids to open a secondary school on the Dulwich Hospital site and continue to work closely with the EFA and NHS to do all we can to secure the site for the school.

We would be delighted to work with the provider not selected by the EFA to see if we can work together to identify an alternative site elsewhere in the borough.

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

When will the council carry out an assessment of the impact of its free school meals programme on primary school children's obesity levels in the borough?

RESPONSE

The council will formally assess the impact of the Free Healthy School Meal (FHSM) programme on primary school childhood obesity as measured through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP).

The NCMP measures children at Reception and Year 6, so the soonest available national weighing point will be when the Reception pupils benefiting from the FHSM introduced in 2011 reach Year 6 in 2017 and annually thereafter.

The FHSM programme is only part of the solution to the high obesity levels and evaluations of the wider strategy will seek opportunities to identify the role that FHSM has played in us tackling this important issue for our children and young people.

30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN

Will the cabinet member commit to no new schools being built in pollution hot spots in Southwark and installing air filtration systems in existing schools in these areas?

RESPONSE

The council has produced an Air Quality Strategy and Air Quality Improvement Plan which are published on the council's website. The Strategy shows that the greatest impact of air pollution falls in the north west of the borough and along some stretches of major routes.

All the schools that are expanding have had Air Quality Assessments undertaken. To date, air quality has not been raised as a significant issue in any of these schools.

As part of the planning and design process, consideration is given to the need for assisted ventilation where this would be recommended in respect of insulation from noise and this can also be beneficial in respect of air quality.

With regards to existing schools, it would normally be the responsibility of the individual governing body to consider the need to provide air quality mitigation, should it be required. However, a Cleaner Air for Schools project has been in progress for the past year which has included outcomes such as parents using 'park and stride' to prevent vehicle emissions peaking at the school gates, green barriers, anti idling campaigns and has also assisted schools with improving the numbers of students who use active transport (walking and cycling) to get to school. Following this project, officers continue to test air quality at several primary schools in the borough. The outcome of this monitoring will be considered when giving future advice to schools.

Along with the declared Air Quality Management Area, the GLA, and TfL have identified seven Air Quality Focus Areas in Southwark; currently no new schools are planned within these areas.

31. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES OKOSUN

Please list all the potential free school sites in the borough and for each one state what progress is being made?

RESPONSE

The council's policy is to support the opening of new schools where there is a need for school places and we are working in partnership with the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and the DfE to achieve this objective. We are also working with neighbouring boroughs through the Associations of Directors of Children's Services.

Under the current scheme, there are three new free school applications for Southwark which have progressed to interview stage. These interviews are taking place in the next couple of weeks with decisions made at the end of the spring term.

The council is working in partnership with City of London Corporation to open a new primary school on the Galleywall site, which is shortly to be vacated by Southwark Park Primary School when they move to their new site. Discussions regarding the refurbishment are underway and if approved by the EFA, this school is planned to open in September 2016.

We have closely supported both the Charter and Haberdasher Askes bids to open a secondary school on the Dulwich Hospital site and continue to work closely with the EFA and NHS to do all we can to secure the site for the school. This will continue regardless of which school is successful.

We would be delighted to work with the provider who the EFA does not buy the site for to see if we can work together to identify an alternative site elsewhere in the borough.

In addition, we have most recently sought to secure the Southwark Fire Station site for a school and await a decision by the Fire Authority.

Plans have already been approved for the new Belham School which will open in September 2015 in temporary accommodation, pending the move to their remodelled and new accommodation in September 2016. Designs for this scheme are well advanced and a planning application is being submitted in January.

We are also continuing discussions with the EFA and representatives of Harris Nunhead in their aspirations for further free school provision.

32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL

Please can the cabinet member provide an update on the implementation of the borough-wide 20mph zone? What has been the cost of introducing the measure? What steps are to be carried out for the post implementation review of the impact of the policy on traffic flows, with particular emphasis on the impact in the south of the borough?

RESPONSE

The borough-wide signage only 20mph scheme is due to be completed by the end of January 2015.

The total cost of the scheme on completion is expected to be in the region of £450,000 for implementation. £860,000 remains for post-implementation monitoring and any required physical measures.

A breakdown is included below:

Implementation	£347,000
Publicity Campaign	£58,000
Pre-monitoring	£30,000
Review of existing	£15,000
Total	£450,000
Post-monitoring	£50,000 (estimate)
Improvements to existing	£20,000 (estimate)
Physical measures post monitoring	£792,000

As part of the monitoring process 156 'before' Traffic/Speed counts have been carried out of which 44 (28%) were in the Dulwich Community Council Area.

All those roads will be monitored again within 12 months of implementation to understand the impact the scheme has had, following which a targeted programme of physical intervention will be introduced after consultation in locations of genuine need because of poor compliance etc.

33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Can the cabinet member set out how many times Capita have incurred penalties for their performance since they became the council's IT contractor, the reasons why and how much they have been fined on each occasion?

RESPONSE

Under contract, Capita are obliged to pay penalties when services fail to meet minimum service levels.

Penalties have been paid consistently since the early months of the contract which started in February 2013. Penalties continue to be imposed in line with contractual terms as appropriate.



Council Assembly (Council Tax Setting Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Council Tax Setting Meeting) held on Wednesday
25 February 2015 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2014/15, Councillor Sunil Chopra

Councillor Evelyn Akoto	Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Jasmine Ali	Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Maisie Anderson	Councillor Vijay Luthra
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Jane Lyons
Councillor Radha Burgess	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Claire Maugham
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Stephanie Cryan	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Catherine Dale	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Jamille Mohammed
Councillor Karl Eastham	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Paul Fleming	Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Tom Flynn	Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Chris Gonde	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Lucas Green	Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Jon Hartley	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Ben Johnson	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Eleanor Kerslake	Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Sarah King	Councillor Bill Williams
Councillor Anne Kirby	Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Sunny Lambe	Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE	Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

The Mayor encouraged all councillors and members of the public to support the following mayoral events:

- Southwark civic service at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 7 March 2015 at 11am, celebrating one thousand years of Borough Market in Southwark.
- A fundraising evening at Dulwich College on Friday 13 March 2015. "Celebrating Diversity", which will raise funds for the Mayor's charities, helping the homeless - UK Homes4Heroes and The Robes Project. Bookings can be made with the Mayor's office.

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

There were no late items of business.

At this juncture the Mayor announced that he wished to bring to everyone's attention the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government's requirement that the votes on key budget decisions by local authorities should be recorded. This requirement would apply to the final substantive votes on items 2.2 and 3.1.

The Mayor explained that the group whips had agreed the format of the meeting. The Mayor advised that this was set out in the programme motion which had been tabled at the meeting. The motion explained how the business of the meeting would be conducted.

PROGRAMME MOTION (*See white paper circulated at the meeting*)

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

RESOLVED:

That the meeting be conducted as follows:

Item 2.1: Council Plan - Time limit for item - Up to 60 minutes

Debate to include the following business:

- Questions on report
- Leader of the Council to present recommendations
- Amendment A moved and seconded
- Report and Amendment to be debated as a single debate
- Debate to hear six other speakers: Labour 3, Liberal Democrat 2 and Conservatives 1
- The leader's right of reply will then be heard and the votes taken.

Item 2.2 Policy and Resources Strategy

Item to be debated until 9.30pm at the latest, at which time the right of reply will be heard and votes taken.

Debate to include:

- Questions on reports
- Councillor Fiona Colley to present recommendations
- Councillor Anood Al-Samerai to reply on behalf of opposition
- Three amendments to be moved and seconded
- Report and Amendments to be debated as a single debate
- Separate vote on each Amendment
- Recorded vote on substantive motion.

Item 3.1 Setting the Council Tax

To be considered as normal but with the legal requirement to take a recorded vote on the substantive motion.

Other reports

To be considered as normal.

Note: relevant procedure rules:

- CAPR 1.16(4) Recorded vote by roll call (Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014)
- CAPR 1.14(4) Order of debate – single debate.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

The Mayor announced that all councillors had been granted a dispensation by the monitoring officer to vote on the council tax report.

There were no disclosures of interest.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillor Lisa Rajan.

2. REPORTS FROM THE CABINET FOR DECISION

2.1 COUNCIL PLAN 2014/2015 - 2017/2018

(See pages 1 – 46 of the main agenda and pages 1 – 2 of supplemental pages 1)

There were seven question from members, the answers to which had been circulated on lilac paper at the meeting. Seven supplemental question were asked of the leader of the council. The questions and written responses are attached as appendix 1 to the minutes.

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

Councillor James Barber, seconded by Councillor Rosie Shimell, moved Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Michael Situ, Gavin Edwards, David Noakes, Michael Mitchell, Ben Johnson and Nick Dolezal), Councillor Peter John exercised his right of reply.

Amendment A 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 the proposed Council Plan 2014/15, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report, be agreed.

Note: The cabinet recommendation had not been amended, therefore in accordance with the budget and policy framework procedure rule 2 (e), the decision was implementable with immediate effect.

2.2 POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2015/16 TO 2017/18 - REVENUE BUDGET

(See pages 47 - 172 of the main agenda and pages 3 - 4 of the supplemental agenda)

There were seven question from members, the answers to which had been circulated on lilac paper at the meeting. Seven supplemental questions were asked of the cabinet member for finance, resources and corporate strategy. The questions and written responses are attached as appendix 2 to the minutes.

The Mayor reminded everyone that the meeting had earlier agreed that there would be a single debate on the report and Amendments B, C and D.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9), Councillor Fiona Colley, cabinet member for finance, strategy and performance, moved the report.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9), Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, leader of the majority opposition and shadow cabinet member for finance, responded to the cabinet member's statement.

Councillor Neil Coyle, seconded by Councillor Helen Hayes, moved Amendment B.

Councillor Michael Mitchell seconded by Councillor Jane Lyons, moved Amendment C.

Councillor Adele Morris, seconded by Councillor David Hubber, moved Amendment D.

Following debate (Councillors Bill Williams, Tom Flynn, Lisa Rajan, Paul Fleming, Jasmine Ali, Richard Livingstone, Rosie Shimell, Rebecca Lury, Victoria Mills, Darren O'Brien, Stephanie Cryan, Johnson Situ, Darren Merrill, James Okosun, Evelyn Akoto, Kieron Williams, Mark Williams, James Barber, Masie Anderson, Lucas Green, Ian Wingfield and Jon Hartley), Councillor Fiona Colley exercised her right of reply.

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

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

Amendment D was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

At this juncture the clerk explained that the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, which had come into force on 25 February 2014, required a recorded vote on key budget decisions by local authorities. The regulations required a recorded vote on decisions only. Therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.16(4) (a roll call recorded vote), the bell was rung for one minute after which time the doors to the room were closed.

The substantive motion was put to the vote, and the votes having been recorded, the Mayor declared the result as follows:

In favour of the substantive motion (48):

Councillors Evelyn Akoto, Jasmine Ali, Maisie Anderson, Radha Burgess, Sunil Chopra, Fiona Colley, Neil Coyle, Stephanie Cryan, Catherine Dale, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Nick Dolezal, Karl Eastham, Gavin Edwards, Paul Fleming, Tom Flynn, Dan Garfield, Chris Gonde, Lucas Green, Renata Hamvas, Barrie Hargrove, Jon Hartley, Helen Hayes, Peter John, Eleanor Kerlake, Sarah King, Anne Kirby, Sunny Lambe, Lorraine Lauder, Richard Livingstone, Rebecca Lury, Vijay Luthra, Claire Maugham, Darren Merrill, Victoria Mills, Jamille Mohammed, Leo Pollak, Sandra Rhule, Martin Seaton, Andy Simmons, Johnson Situ, Michael Situ, Charlie Smith Cleo Soanes, Kath Whittam, Bill Williams, Kieron Williams, Mark Williams, Ian Wingfield.

Against the substantive motion (15):

Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, James Barber, David Hubber, Ben Johnson, Maria Linforth-Hall, Jane Lyons, Eliza Mann, Hamish McCallum, Michael Mitchell, Adele Morris, David Noakes, Damien O'Brien, James Okosun, Lisa Rajan and Rosie Shimell.

Absent (Nil)

The Mayor declared that the substantive motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That 10 February 2015 cabinet recommendations for a general fund budget requirement (after use of reserves) for 2015/16 of £282.3m and a nil council tax increase for 2015/16, attached as Appendix 1 of the report, be agreed.

2. That it be noted that the Mayor's 2015-16 final draft budget was approved unamended by the London Assembly on 23 February 2015. The Mayor's band D precept is therefore confirmed as £295.00 for the 32 boroughs.
3. That the 2015/16 – 2017/18 Medium Term Resources Strategy, included as Appendix L of 10 February 2015 cabinet report, be agreed.
4. That council assembly notes the reduction in government funding to local authorities for Discretionary Housing Payments of £40 million in 2015/16 and expresses concern that in Southwark the cut of 20% could risk more people becoming homeless. Council assembly notes that the council is already facing significant pressure on temporary accommodation.
5. That council assembly notes the continuing pressure on residents resulting from central government's welfare reforms and notes that in Southwark, discretionary housing payments have been used to provide short-term assistance to people affected by the bedroom tax, the benefit cap and other welfare changes.
6. That council assembly therefore calls on the cabinet to review the criteria of the council's Welfare Hardship Fund to include homelessness prevention, in order to mitigate the government cuts to Discretionary Housing Payments and to support our most vulnerable residents facing the threat of homelessness.
7. That council assembly also notes the popularity of the new Neighbourhoods Fund providing a flexible opportunity for truly local decision making by ward councillors and community councils.
8. That the Neighbourhood Fund be increased from £542,000 to £630,000 (total £30,000 per ward) and council assembly instructs the strategic director of finance and corporate strategy to make appropriate allocations to fund this from reserves in 2015/16 (£88,000) and to ensure that provision is made in the General Fund budget in future years.

Note: The cabinet recommendation had been amended, therefore in accordance with the budget and policy framework procedure rule 2 (g), the leader gave his consent to the amendment and the decision was implementable with immediate effect.

3. OTHER REPORTS

3.1 SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX 2015/16

(See pages 173 - 185 of the main agenda)

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

Councillor Fiona Colley, seconded by Councillor Jasmine Ali, moved Amendment E.

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

At this juncture the clerk explained that the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, which had come into force on 25 February 2014, required a recorded vote on key budget decisions by local authorities. The regulations required a recorded vote on decisions only. Therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.16(4) (a roll call recorded vote), the bell was rung for one minute after which time the doors to the room were closed.

The substantive motion was put to the vote, and the votes having been recorded, the Mayor declared the result as follows:

In favour of the substantive motion (61):

Councillors Evelyn Akoto, Jasmine Ali, Anood al-Samerai, Maisie Anderson, James Barber, Radha Burgess, Sunil Chopra, Fiona Colley, Neil Coyle, Stephanie Cryan, Catherine Dale, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Nick Dolezal, Karl Eastham, Gavin Edwards, Paul Fleming, Tom Flynn, Dan Garfield, Chris Gonde, Lucas Green, Renata Hamvas, Barrie Hargrove, Jon Hartley, Helen Hayes, David Hubber, Peter John, Ben Johnson, Eleanor Kerlake, Sarah King, Anne Kirby, Sunny Lambe, Lorraine Lauder, Maria Linforth-Hall, Richard Livingstone, Rebecca Lury, Vijay Luthra, Eliza Mann, Claire Maugham, hamish McCallum, Darren Merrill, Victoria Mills, Jamille Mohammed, Adele Morris, David Noakes, Damian O'brien, James Okosun, Leo Pollak, Lisa Rajan, Sandra Rhule, Martin Seaton, Rosie Shimell, Andy Simmons, Johnson Situ, Michael Situ, Charlie Smith Cleo Soanes, Kath Whittam, Bill Williams, Kieron Williams, Mark Williams, Ian Wingfield.

Against the substantive motion (2):

Councillors Jane Lyons and Michael Mitchell.

Absent (Nil)

The Mayor declared that the substantive motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed Greater London Authority precept of £295.00 at Band D be noted.
2. That the Southwark element of the council tax for band D properties in Southwark be set at £912.14.
3. That a discount of £1.68 be applied to properties in the former parish of St Mary Newington.
4. That no discount be applied to properties in the former parish of St Saviours.
5. That the council tax for band D properties in Southwark be set for:

Band D council tax	Discount	Net band D for the area
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	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
the former parish of St Mary Newington	1,207.14	(1.68)	1,205.46
the former parish of St Saviours	1,207.14	0	1,207.14
the remainder of the Borough	1,207.14	0	1,207.14

6. That the formal resolution for council taxes in 2015/16 (shown in Appendix A of the report) be approved.
7. That the existing local war disability and war widow's schemes for housing benefit be continued in 2015/16.
8. That it be noted that under delegated authority the strategic director for finance and corporate services will amend the council's Section 13A Discretionary relief policy to include a 100% exemption from Council Tax for those classed as having 'personal circumstances' as Southwark registered foster carers fostering Southwark children.

Note: The cabinet recommendation had been amended, therefore in accordance with the budget and policy framework procedure rule 2 (g), the leader gave his consent to the amendment and the decision was implementable with immediate effect.

3.2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2015/16 INCLUDING: ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND ANNUAL MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STATEMENT

(See pages 186 – 205)

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (1), Councillor Fiona Colley, cabinet member for finance, strategy and performance, moved the report.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly notes the treasury management strategy 2015/16 to be managed by the strategic director of finance and corporate services under financial delegation.
2. That the treasury management policy set out in paragraph 9 of the report be noted.
3. That the annual investment strategy 2015/16 referred to in paragraphs 14 to 17 of the report and set out at Appendix A of the report be agreed.
4. That the prudential indicators covering capital finance and treasury management for the years 2015/16 to 2017/18 referred to in paragraph 25 of the report and set out in Appendix B of the report be agreed.

5. That the minimum revenue provision statement, setting aside prudent sums to reduce debt and long term liabilities, referred to in paragraphs 26 to 27 of the report and set out in Appendix C of the report be agreed.

Note: The cabinet recommendation had not been amended, therefore in accordance with the budget and policy framework procedure rule 2 (e), the decision was implementable with immediate effect.

3.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL PENSION BOARD

(See pages 206 – 211 of the main agenda)

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 statutory requirement for Southwark Council to establish a local pension board in accordance with the local government pension scheme regulations 2015 (the regulations), be noted.
2. That a local pension board be established.
3. That the role and function and constitution of the local pension board be as set out in Appendix A of the report, in conjunction with the requirements of the regulations.
4. That the council's constitution be amended to include the local pension board.
5. That the proper constitutional officer be authorised to make any necessary consequential changes to the constitution as a result of the above.

3.4 CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES 2014/15 - ELECTRONIC SUMMONSES

(See pages 212 – 215 of the main agenda)

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 constitution be updated to allow the implementation of the Local Government (Electronic Communications) (England) Order 2015.

2. That the proper constitutional officer be authorised to make any necessary consequential changes to the constitution as a result of the above.

3.5 COUNCIL ASSEMBLY DATES 2015/16

(See pages 216 – 218 of the main agenda)

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:

That the following dates for meetings of council assembly be agreed and that these dates be fixed in the council calendar for the 2015/16 municipal year:

Council Assembly Meetings 2015/16	Type of Meeting
Saturday 16 May 2015 (As agreed by 26 November 2014 council assembly)	Annual Meeting Note: To be held jointly with Civic Association's Civic Awards Ceremony.
Wednesday 8 July 2015	Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday 14 October 2015	Provisional date for an Ordinary Meeting, subject to formal agreement on whether to hold a Leader's Public Question Time in 2015
Wednesday 25 November 2015	Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday 20 January 2016	Ordinary/Council Tax Base Meeting
Wednesday 24 February 2016	Budget and Council Tax Setting
Wednesday 23 March 2016	Ordinary Meeting
Saturday 14 or 21 May 2016 (Note: 21 May 2015 is preferred date but at this stage this is subject to venue availability and civic diary)	Annual Meeting

4. AMENDMENTS

Amendments were set out in the supplemental agenda, pages 5 – 13.

The meeting closed at 9.57pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(COUNCIL TAX SETTING MEETING)**

WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2015

QUESTIONS ON REPORTS: 2.1 – COUNCIL PLAN 2014/2015 – 2017/2018

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN HAYES

Is the leader confident that the council will be able to deliver on the commitments set out in the council plan in the context of a £20.4m government cut to the council's spending power this year, with further cuts likely in future years?

RESPONSE

Yes, I am confident that we will deliver our plans. We knew the Conservative/Liberal Democrat government would continue to disproportionately hit the councils with the highest need and this was detailed in our manifesto. From this we developed the council plan so that the commitments that the Labour councillors made to residents in the election now become the policy of this council, and are policies that we are confident that we can deliver.

We also know that while a future Labour government will continue to make cuts to public spending, they will look again at the funding formula which has seen an increase in spending in the affluent towns of the home counties, whilst taking an axe to the areas most in need.

I had hoped that having a government Minister as a local MP, would mean that we had someone in government fighting for a fair deal for Southwark. Sadly, he has systematically failed to stand up for Southwark. The only way to make sure that people in Southwark get a fairer deal from government is to elect three MPs who will stand up for local people: Harriet Harman, Helen Hayes and Neil Coyle.

Despite this, we have not let Liberal Democrat/Conservative cuts, cut our ambition. We are presenting a council plan which is the most bold and radical in London. It will make us the first council in the country to offer free swimming and gyms to all residents, to build 11,000 new council homes and achieve some of the best school results in the country.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN HAYES

Thank you Mr Mayor. I would like to thank the leader for his answer and I welcome the leader's assurance that the council will continue to deliver on its ambitious commitments despite the government's cuts to our budget. Unlike this government, Labour has pledged to ensure that local government funding is distributed fairly on the basis of need. Does the leader agree that a fairer funding settlement would enable Southwark to do even more to deliver for our residents?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Hayes for her supplemental question. Yes I do agree. I think it's quite frankly outrageous that Southwark has lost something like £155 per household this year from government funding whereas other Tory boroughs in Surrey are net gainers per household in terms of the amount of money received from government. I can't see any sense in that and I can't see there's any fairness in that and I really am amazed when one of the local MPs argues that it is fair that Southwark should lose when rich boroughs and rich districts and rich counties should receive more. I don't know what planet he's living on but it won't be as MP for Bermondsey and old Southwark after May 7.

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE

Can the leader give an update on the council's campaign to extend the Bakerloo line to Camberwell and the Old Kent Road?

RESPONSE

Two years ago, I got agreement from the Mayor of London to recognise the potential for the Bakerloo Line Extension to deliver real growth in homes and jobs in Southwark. Since then it has become a political priority for the Mayor and last week, the Chancellor also joined in his support.

Last week the Chancellor and the Mayor set out the "Long Term Economic Plan for London". The Bakerloo Line extension has now become one of the government's top two priorities for potential major capital infrastructure spending together with Crossrail 2. The Chancellor challenged the Mayor and TfL to bring back detailed costings and proposals for the BLE ahead of the next Comprehensive Spending Review which will take place after the election. We already know that some major work has already been undertaken in this regard, so it really looks as if the Bakerloo Line Extension has now found its way into longer-term treasury thinking.

We will continue to make the case for the Bakerloo line to run along a dual line in Southwark – along the Old Kent Road and through Camberwell and Peckham. I am confident that we can demonstrate the overwhelming case for both of these routes as well as a commitment to find a funding solution for their delivery.

This is great news for Southwark and our campaign, alongside the community to extend the Bakerloo line.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE

Thank you Mr Mayor and I thank the leader for the answer. Just a quick follow-up question Mr Mayor. What does the latest announcement mean for Southwark Labour's campaign to extend the Bakerloo line and how does the leader intend to keep putting pressure on the Mayor and the government for the Bakerloo line extension?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Coyle for his supplemental question and of course whereas Simon Hughes will cease being MP on May 7, I am confident that Neil

Coyle will start serving our community as Member of Parliament for Bermondsey and Old Southwark on that day, and I'm sure one of the first issues that he will take into government with him is our proposals to have the Bakerloo line extended further through Southwark both along the Old Kent Road and through Camberwell and Peckham, and I think what I really want to draw to his attention is the fact that when Labour and when this administration run a campaign, we deliver on it, we keep our pledges and we deliver on it and we can date back the current Chancellor's commitment to the Bakerloo line extension back to the conversation I had with Boris Johnson two years ago. That is where this became a political priority for London and now it is a political priority for our country in the Treasury and that is good news for Southwark. We will carry on doing exactly what we have been doing delivering on our promises for the people of our borough, delivering a Bakerloo line extension which will mean completely new transport solutions and a completely changed public transport atmosphere to people of our borough and I hope and I'm confident that he will be part of the government delivering that for us.

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL FLEMING

How will the leader ensure that the council's ambitious house building programme enables communities to stay together and that local people benefit from regeneration of their local area?

RESPONSE

The council has committed to build 1,500 new council homes by 2018. Many of these homes will be built on underutilised land on housing estates. In order for local residents to directly benefit from these new homes the council introduced a local lettings policy which will allocate 50% of these new homes to those with a housing need on that estate. This will enable the elderly to downsize into a brand new home which meets their need as well as freeing up their existing home for reallocation. Others with a housing need like over crowding will also be a priority when allocating these high quality new homes. This will help give an additional housing option for those wishing to stay within their local community. Contractors working on the delivery of new homes will also have to provide local labour opportunities to enable local people to benefit from apprenticeships and construction jobs.

Regeneration provides a broad spectrum of benefits to all local residents existing and new. These include jobs, new homes, investment in public facilities like leisure centres, libraries, schools and public spaces as well as new homes and public transport improvements.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL FLEMING

Thank you Mr Mayor. The Thatcherite coalition government of which local MP Simon Hughes is an unfortunate member has introduced an exemption for housing developers reducing affordable housing contributions which will mean that new developments in Southwark could offer only a fraction of potential affordable housing which has been usually required to this point. Does the leader agree that this policy will have a devastating impact on affordable housing in Southwark if we are unable to do anything about it as a Council?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Fleming for his supplemental question. I do agree with him. I think Southwark has an incredibly proud record in recent years of delivering the most affordable housing in our borough, of any borough bar-none in London, and we have the most ambitious plan to deliver council housing in our borough over the next four years and beyond when we deliver 11,000 new council homes but I think it would be ridiculous actually if this government proposal went ahead. It would really stand in the way of us delivering homes for people from all backgrounds in our community; if we're going to keep our communities together we need housing of all tenure, of all costs, of all variety and you can only do that if affordable housing is part of that mix and part of that delivery, so I think the government have got it wrong on this, they are a government that's running out of ideas, running out of steam, making the wrong decisions and we look forward to booting them out on May 7.

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS GONDE

The Liberal Democrats have suggested that the council's free swimming and gyms policy should not be a priority for public health, just as they did with free healthy school meals. Can the leader assure me that free swimming and gym use will remain a top priority for this administration?

RESPONSE

Councillor Gonde is quite right to highlight the Liberal Democrats' consistent opposition to Free Healthy School Meals. However, when they saw what a success it was, and when their own national party was about to adopt a similar policy to the one they had so vehemently opposed, they performed a u-turn and claimed to back it.

With free swimming and gyms we can expect more of the same. Liberal Democrat Councillors oppose a policy and then when we make it a success claim that they support it.

I am happy to assure Councillor Gonde that free swim and gyms remains a top priority for this administration. This is a phased process, and we are starting off by targeting particular groups, before rolling out a universal offer. As a first step, cabinet agreed to begin a pilot offer in spring this year. We have agreed:

- 18s and under free swim – all day Friday; afternoons from 2pm until 6pm on Saturday and Sunday
- 16 to 18 years free gym – all day Friday; afternoons from 2pm until 6pm on Saturday and Sunday
- 14 to 16 years free youth gym sessions – at selected times on Friday evenings, Saturday and Sunday afternoons
- Free 'Silver Sessions' – access to the 60+ sessions all week
- Free access to The Castle for those with disabilities (from Summer 2015) – all day Friday, afternoons from 2pm until close on Saturday and Sunday
- Free gym and swim for referrals to key healthy lifestyle schemes (from April 2016)
 - o MEND family weight management programmed
 - o GP physical activity referral scheme including Kickstart
 - o NHS Health Checks fitness passport scheme.

Cabinet also agreed for the next stage of the roll out to be in June next year. We have asked officers to explore free access to gym and swimming for all residents – all day Friday; afternoons on Saturday and Sunday. We will continue to be ambitious to roll this out as far and as fast as we can to give people access to gyms and swimming improving health in our borough.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS GONDE

Thank you very much Mr Mayor and thank you Leader for your answer. In previous years the Liberal Democrats have always proposed savings to the budget by cutting funding for free school meals until their party nationally decided to do a u-turn on this. Now does the Leader agree that despite government cuts to Southwark's budget it is important that the council invests in giving residents an opportunity to lead healthy and active lives?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Gonde for his supplemental question. He is absolutely right, we have the ridiculous position of the Liberal Democrats complaining actively across Southwark against free healthy school meals until Nick Clegg decided that actually its quite a good idea and can make a real difference, probably the most embarrassing u-turn that an opposition has had to make in recent times and in fairness they've been a bit more cautious about free swimming and gym use, they haven't vehemently opposed it yet just for fear that Nick Clegg will decide actually its a really really good idea but you know its reassuring, if the Liberal Democrats normally oppose something, its normally because you're doing the right thing and you're improving the lives of our community and our residents so we'll carry on, we'll deliver this free swimming and gym pledge Mr Mayor and I'm very proud of it being an absolute centrepiece of our council plan going forward.

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES OKOSUN

Can the leader update us on progress with the council's Childcare Commission and when the outcomes will be published?

RESPONSE

The report has now been completed and is due to be published next week.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES OKOSUN

Thank you Mr Mayor and I thank the Leader for his answer to my question. I would like to ask a supplementary question as well. Could the leader please explain why the council plan makes no mention of how or when any recommendations from the Childcare Commission will be implemented or how they will be funded in the budget?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Okosun for his supplemental question. Well until the Commission presents its report, we don't know what's going to be in it and we don't know what funding might be required, it's as simple as that so it would be a

bit premature to put into a council plan proposals we don't know what exactly they will be or what funding will be required, so I think it really is a question of you commission a report, you wait for a commission to report and then you act on the recommendations of that commission. You don't commission a report, make up its findings including the council plan and then wait for the commission to report its findings, that would be completely the wrong way round so I think it would be a question of wait and see what the Commission says next week and responding then.

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Can the leader update us on work identifying site options for a new secondary school in the north of the borough, as mentioned in the Quarter 2 2014/2015 commentary on BSL7?

RESPONSE

The council has made clear that it wishes to see a new secondary school on the Dulwich Hospital site. Officers now believe that the site has space for up to 8FE (1200 plus a 400 place sixth form). In October 2014, the cabinet agreed that the site should be included in the new Southwark Plan as the council's priority for providing secondary school places. The site is a short walk from East Dulwich Station and offers excellent transport links throughout the borough.

The council expects to hear the results of the Education Funding Agency (EFA) interviews with potential sponsors in March. We also understand that heads of terms have been agreed with NHS Property to sell the site, alongside the re-provision of new health facilities on the same site.

In terms of sites to the north of the borough, the Mayor of London has recently indicated that the Fire Training site on Southwark Bridge Road should be sold to the EFA for a new school. I strongly support using this site for a school.

There is one other potential site, which is currently the subject of confidential commercial discussions with the EFA. Officers are also opening discussions with all borough secondary schools to explore opportunities for expansion. I have asked officers to prepare a comprehensive report on secondary school places for consideration by cabinet in July 2015, so I will be able to give a further update in the summer.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Thank you Mr Mayor. I have to say I thought perhaps the Leader had got a little bit confused when I started reading his answer about a new secondary school in the north of the borough and he talked about Dulwich but he does go on to talk about the others. In terms of the fire station and the on-going question about whether or not that could become a secondary school, I just wonder if you could tell us what your thoughts are on the dispute that's going on obviously with the Labour members on LFEPA at the moment who are suggesting that it's not possible to do this and it seems to be that we've got you very helpfully supporting the school and them very unhelpfully not, so how do you think you can help to resolve that?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Morris for her supplemental question. I have been absolutely clear since I was first asked about this whether this is an appropriate place for a school but it is an absolutely appropriate place for a school and I think it could be a fantastic location with a fantastic educational offer for residents of North West Southwark. I've had conversations with local members of LFEPA, I'm told and I think they're simply wrong on this and they need really to square the circle to make sure that this works. I think that the EFA, let me just say this the EFA are getting closer I think to making an offer which LFEPA doesn't believe in any event would put them in an invidious position of having to accept a much lower offer so I think the figures are coming closer together. I think it always has been about the figures quite frankly, the Labour members of LFEPA wanting to protect the fire authority and the fire authority's budget quite rightly at a time of cuts by the Mayor but at the end of the day it is for the Mayor to justify the cuts he's making to LFEPA and other public services in London, its for the Mayor to make sure its his budget which adds up and is not necessarily for Labour LFEPA members to worry too much about that. This is the Mayor's responsibility at the end of the day and nobody should forget it's the Mayor's responsibility to make sure that there is sufficient capital and revenue in the fire service budget to make things work but I am absolutely clear and this administration is absolutely clear - we want to see a secondary school on this site, we welcome these proposals and I hope there will be an announcement shortly that a school will come to that site.

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Can the leader explain why there are no commitments or milestones in the council plan on reducing health inequalities caused by air pollution, obesity, consumption of alcohol/illegal drugs, or sexually transmitted infections?

RESPONSE

The Council Plan does not contain all the business of the council. Measuring impact on health inequalities is the responsibility of the Health and Wellbeing Board as success in this area requires a multi-agency approach and not just Southwark Council working in isolation. As Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, I have focused the work into a few areas to ensure that in those, all agencies are working together to achieve real outcomes for people in the borough.

Tackling health inequalities is the responsibility of almost every part of the council. Health and wellbeing are influenced by social and environmental determinants, income, employment, health behaviour and health services. The Council Plan reflects the approach taken in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy which is to develop a public health perspective to mainstreaming services so that within the broader headings of the Council Plan there will be specific public health outcomes.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

I thank the leader for the council for his response but can I press him again if he really does feel that public health and health inequalities has the priority and weight that it should have in the council plan bearing in mind that the council does have the lead responsibility in this important area.

RESPONSE

I want to thank Council Noakes for his supplemental question. I think it's there, I think it's absolutely clearly there, I think we have been absolutely serious in saying that public health, since it came back to us nearly two years ago, is an integral part of what we do and I think it does absolutely ring out through the pledges that we have made and the plan that is set out within our council plan. I mean if you just think about housing, so many of the health inequality issues in our borough come about because of poor quality housing and poor housing conditions, both in the private rented sector and within our own stock so what we're doing to tackle rogue private sector landlords, what we're doing to make every council home warm, dry and safe and then following on with new kitchens and bathrooms for our tenanted properties, that will have as big an impact I think on improving the public health of the residents of our borough as anything as any particular drug or medical step that could be taken.

Now I don't lose sight of what he says in his question about other indicators and those other indicators continue to be reported to council, continue to be reported in to the health and wellbeing board but I think that this is a council plan where public health and the importance of public health really rings out and is front and centre and we will never lose sight of that. We will never lose sight of the other health indicators that he has questioned about, they are picked up elsewhere within the council's business, we will acknowledge the importance and their seriousness but as I say, I think this is a council which has demonstrated time and time again over the last two years how important, the importance to give to public health.

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(COUNCIL TAX SETTING MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2015

**QUESTIONS ON REPORTS: 2.2 – POLICY AND RESOURCE STRATEGY – 2015/16
TO 2017/18: REVENUE BUDGET**

1. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE

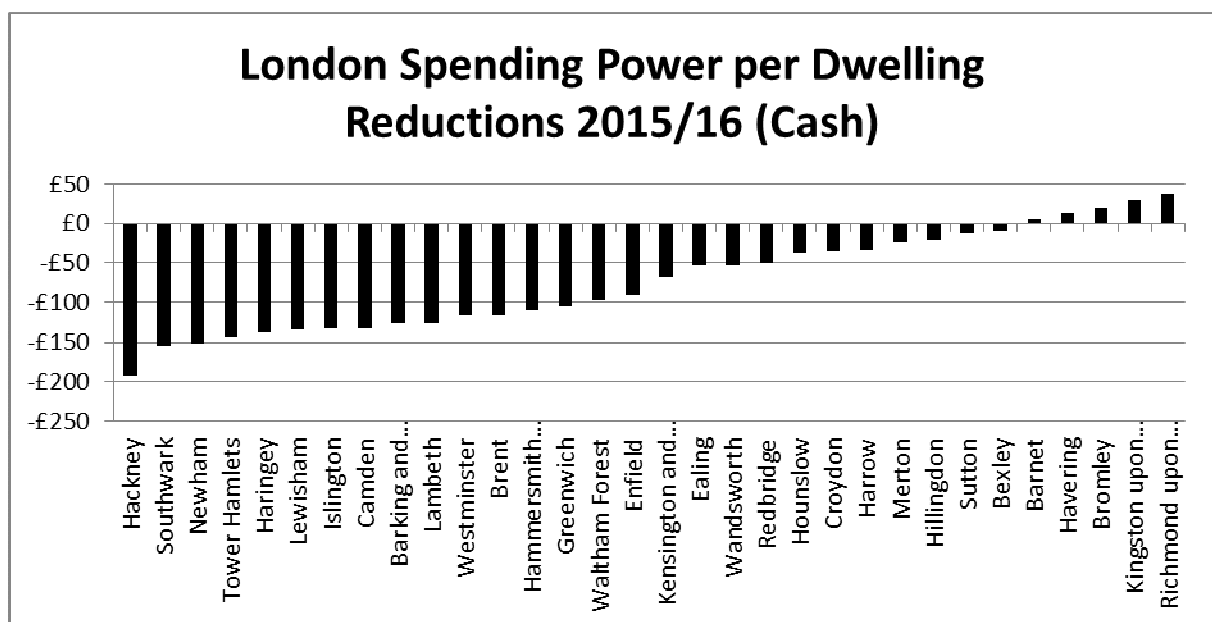
In the foreword to the cabinet report at Appendix 1, the cabinet member notes that Southwark is the third hardest hit local authority in the country in 2015/16 in terms of reduction in spending power. Does the cabinet member agree that it is unfair that government cuts to local authorities are hitting the most deprived boroughs the hardest?

RESPONSE

I do indeed.

The government's own figures show that in 2015-16 Southwark, the 25th most deprived local authority area in the country, is due to suffer the third highest spending power reduction – losing £155 per dwelling. Meanwhile many others areas are seeing far smaller reductions or even a spending power increase. For instance by the same per dwelling measure London's two least deprived boroughs, Kingston and Richmond, are gaining £29 and £37 respectively.

Across London, and indeed the country, we can clearly see a pattern of the poorest areas being the hardest hit.



SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE

Thank you Mr Mayor. The council has been lobbying the government for a fairer funding settlement for Southwark which is the third worst hit local authority in the country this year despite being the 25th most deprived area. What response have you had from MPs in Southwark to the council's campaign for a fairer funding for our borough particularly local Liberal Democrat MP and government minister Simon Hughes?

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Coyle for his supplemental question. He's quite right, the leader and myself went to meet with the local government minister, Chris Hopkins and also wrote to our three local MPs asking them to join us in lobbying against the terrible unfair funding cuts that Southwark Council has suffered once more this year. Now both Harriet Harman and Tessa Jowell replied to me very promptly confirming that they would support us in that lobbying. They wrote to the Minister and they joined us in that fight. It was some time, I was beginning to wonder if I would in fact get a response from Simon Hughes and I did finally just on February 9 this month and I have to say though I was really quite shocked with it because at first I thought it come from Eric Pickles, such was its vehemence. The key statement I believe though is for him to say 'I do not believe that Southwark Council has been disproportionately impacted by changes to local government finance.' I simply could not believe it, how our local MP, one of our local MPs can believe that us receiving the third highest cut in the country to our spending power can be fair and just, I do not know. We need an MP who is going to stand up for our area and not let them down in this way and on May 7 they will have that chance.

2. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE DALE

Paragraph 11 of the report proposes a one off use of reserves of £6.2 million to the revenue budget. Given the uncertainty about future government funding to local authorities, is the cabinet member confident this proposal will not significantly affect the council's ability to manage potential risks?

RESPONSE

Since 2010 local authorities across the country have faced the most dramatic reductions in government funding that have ever been seen. The reductions in funding for Southwark have consistently been amongst the highest in the country. These funding cuts have demanded substantial measures to ensure the savings and efficiencies can be made to deliver balanced budgets while protecting the services residents value the most.

In 2010/11 the previous Liberal Democrat/Conservative administration created a contingency within the base budget to mitigate future funding risks that were expected from the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review. This contingency was recommended specifically by the s151 officer in the context of the threatened austerity measures and was accepted as a concept by council assembly. Since then the risks have only grown as local government has seen the biggest cuts in

the public sector. The 2014 Autumn Statement has confirmed that it would be prudent for local government to prepare for yet more funding cuts in the period up to 2020.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE DALE

Thank you Mr Mayor. I would like to thank the cabinet member for her answer. In their budget amendments both the Liberal Democrats and the Tories suggest we should cut our contingency to paper their government's cuts. Does the cabinet member think that this is wise?

RESPONSE

I'm surprised here Councillor Dale that I do not think it is wise to cut contingencies, the reality is that we have a very difficult challenge ahead of us over the next year to deliver £30 million of savings. Our contingency budgets over the previous years have been a great help to us both to cushion us in case we are unable to deliver those savings which fortunately we have been able to but the to feed in to the following year to make a contribution towards the following year's revenue budgets. Whilst we're setting a one year budget tonight, we have to think of the future, we have to think of the financial soundness of this council and it's not just contingencies that is irresponsible in the amendments tonight, we're seeing unrealistic council tax collection levels and council tax cuts is really not a wise move in the current climate and the local MP further in his letter suggested that we simply raid the reserves to cover the funding cuts from government. Well if we followed his advice from 2010 we'd be bankrupt by now. I think what is shown by the amendments tonight is that the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives are willing to be very irresponsible in their budget amendments in order to get a few cheap headlines and it's a good thing they're not running this council.

3. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

How much historic council tax and business rate debt has been collected or written off in each of the past four years?

RESPONSE

The council has a duty to recover all council tax and business rates that are owing to it. I'm pleased to report that we are making great in-roads into our historic debt position with a view to minimising outstanding debt in our accounts.

In carrying out our responsibilities there are circumstances and events that inevitably arise that make the 100% collection of this debt impossible. It is important that we regularly write off uncollectable debt as not to do so permits an overstatement of the amount we actually stand to receive and overstates the council's financial position.

Over recent years write-off activity has been particularly influenced by the need to cleanse outstanding debt dating back to the previous outsourced arrangement.

Council Tax

Year	Collection for current year	Collection for past years	Total collection	Total written off
2014/15 as at Dec 2014	87,720,133.77	3,680,852.92	91,400,986.69	943,338.08
2013/14	97,570,538.05	4,951,195.95	102,521,734.00	6,043,715.65
2012/13	91,865,105.04	4,976,398.45	96,841,503.49	1,004,953.19
2011/12	88,240,197.76	5,537,234.62	93,777,432.38	9,436,750.11
2010/11	87,384,252.11	5,180,822.75	92,565,074.86	2,017,361.23

Business Rates

Year	Collection for current year	Collection for past years	Total collection	Total written off
2014/15 as at Dec 2014	175,280,143.24	2,061,392.45	177,341,535.69	420,903.65
2013/14	198,887,867.81	4,034,703.05	202,922,570.86	2,141,513.01
2012/13	192,134,035.05	5,218,709.69	197,352,744.74	7,075,477.19
2011/12	184,212,030.94	3,350,971.78	187,563,002.72	6,750,097.01
2010/11	166,234,360.96	6,884,279.90	173,118,640.86	1,384,356.08

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Thanks very much Mr Mayor and thank you to the cabinet member for her answer. We talked at the last council meeting about council tax collection rates and how the council has made progress on in-year collection but that's been balanced out really by a lack of progress or going backwards on collecting historic arrears so I just wondered if the cabinet member could tell me what she's doing to make sure we do collect historic council tax arrears?

RESPONSE

I'm afraid I can't accept the premise of the leader of the opposition's question to say we're going backwards on collecting for past years. The fact of the matter is we are improving in-year collection, we are cleansing the system of uncollectible debt which in many cases is inherited from Liberata for instance but as we manage that and as we drive down that historic debt, there's less of that debt to collect so yes we're not collecting quite as much as in previous years but that's because there's not as much to collect.

4. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

What research has been carried out as part of the budget challenge process into the impact on recycling levels in other boroughs that have scrapped the free provision of biodegradable food waste bags to residents?

RESPONSE

Officers reviewed what other boroughs in London offered in terms of food waste recycling before proposing this saving. For the 2014/15 financial year we found:

- 10 boroughs did not operate a separate food waste collection, including Sutton who ended their pilot and did not extend due to cost in 2012
- 11 boroughs operated food waste collection but did not supply bags at all – directing customers to buy their own, or suggesting alternatives such as newspaper
- 6 offered bags but charged, including Bexley, London’s highest performing borough for recycling.
- 6 supplied bags free, including Southwark Council.

Of the five other boroughs providing free food waste bags last financial year, three stated they were reviewing this offer in light of the ongoing need to find savings and may not be able to continue free provision. They have not yet published their decision in this matter.

Residents will still be able to recycle food waste and can use newspaper to line the caddies or buy food waste bags from most supermarkets. They cost between 8 to 10p per bag so would cost the typical household between 20p and 30p per week. Alternatively, the food waste can be placed directly into the caddie.

This will not adversely impact the recycling rate and comprehensive communication will be carried out to make sure all residents know of the changes and the alternatives that are available to allow them to continue to recycle food waste.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

I thank the cabinet member for her answer. I’d like to ask last year recycling levels fell across 18 London boroughs. Isn’t it obvious that this will happen in Southwark too if you’re just going to tell people to wrap up their food waste in newspapers or buy their own bags or won’t they just use non-biodegradable carrier bags that will contaminate the waste supply? It seems like you’re making recycling harder not easier with very short sighted cut for a relatively small saving.

RESPONSE

I’m afraid I can’t agree with Councillor Rajan on this point. Southwark has doubled recycling and is doing extraordinarily well to turn things around from the situation we inherited where recycling rates have plateaued very significantly. It was right for us to provide food bags I believe when we introduced food waste recycling but I think now it has imbedded that this is a saving we can make. It is very difficult at all times on recycling and on waste savings we always want to do more. It is something we will be monitoring carefully but from the work officers have done, it’s laid out in the written answers, to talk to other boroughs about their experiences,

we have no reason to believe that no longer providing free food waste bags will result in any reduction in food waste recycling.

5. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

What work is currently underway to identify efficiencies within the public health budget to ensure more funding for preventative work to reduce health inequalities in Southwark?

RESPONSE

There are a series of specific workstreams that have already been identified to drive efficiencies within the public health budget in order to re-invest in preventative programmes to improve health outcomes.

As reported to cabinet in January and February, both the healthchecks and the adult integrated drug and alcohol treatment system are being re-commissioned with the expectation of reduced costs and better outcomes. In addition, the council is jointly investing in the development of SH24, which aims to revolutionise sexual health care in Lambeth and Southwark by using internet and telephone technologies to deliver sexual and reproductive health care remotely, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Further to these specific projects, the existing commissioning arrangements are scrutinised for both cost effectiveness and service outcomes.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

Thank you. I'd like to thank the cabinet member for her answer. I wondered whether perhaps in collaboration with the cabinet member for public health if she would commit to publishing annual reports on the evidence based justifications for the way that we are spending the public health ring-fenced funding from government, I think this might be particularly important in light of the point that the Leader made earlier about the fact that we may be spending some of that money on the new swimming and gym pledge which as you point out is a new initiative and we will need to build up in evidence base for.

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Shimell for her question. I'm prompted by Councillor Hargrove to note that the Director of Public Health already provides an annual report every year and I'm sure she will cover in that annual report how the public health money is being spent.

6. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

How much is the current corporate 'telephony refresh' costing and what levels of savings is it expected to produce?

RESPONSE

The recent refresh of mobile telephony is still in progress and involves the replacement of previous contracts and tariffs with O2 being the new provider. This arrangement that is defined as a core enabling project has been undertaken to rationalise the support and maintenance activity relating to mobile telephony and especially e mail integration on the mobile devices that requires intervention by the provider.

The cost savings related to the new arrangements for supporting mobile devices are part of the consolidated contract but are not explicit to those functions. The costs of the transfer are neutral to the council, with new handsets being provided free of charge; termination costs on old arrangements where necessary are being funded from the residual replacement fund for mobile devices. Where no longer required, devices are not being replaced.

Once the programme is fully rolled out, officers will be assessing the impact of fewer devices and the benefits of lower tariffs and budget savings will be offered as part of the 2016/17 budget setting process.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Thank you Mr Mayor. Thank you to the cabinet member for her answer, I have a supplementary question. Why is the administration failing to get a grip on the on-going IT issues for staff and councillors when it affects their morale and our morale and productivity so badly and are all these costs being met by the contractor?

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Mann for her question. I agree that IT is a significant issue for us to continue to work on. I think the situation is very much improved, I am very much more concerned about our staff's morale than I am about members in this case because I think it's a lot more important that our staff are able to do their job and so it is much improved, we are on an on-going process to improve IT, it will take time but we'll be continuing to work very hard on that.

7. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

In addition to the council's waste management facility, what work has the council carried out so far on the scope for further installation of photovoltaic or solar panels across its estate to reduce the council's energy costs and carbon footprint?

RESPONSE

The council has endeavoured to maximise all possibilities to use and incorporate solar panels where feasible.

Solar panel systems can create both savings on electricity bills and revenue by way of government subsidies known as the Feed in Tariff. Under this scheme the government pays a set rate for every kWh of electricity the solar panels generate. However there is a cap of 25 sites, after which the rate per kWh reduces

significantly, which would most significantly impact on the economic viability of the initial investment for projects above this number.

Key considerations are sites that have the right type of roof, which does not receive any shade and which is facing in a southerly direction. Consideration and installation of photovoltaic panels (PVs) is not straightforward requiring detailed examination of practicality, payback, initial cost and long term benefit.

We have solar thermal panels on the roof at Canada Water Library and Dulwich Leisure Centre. We have identified some scope for additional PV panels on 160 Tooley Street above and beyond the existing solar thermal panels, and this is being reviewed as part of the 2015/16 schedule of repair/investment works. We are also looking at the potential for Queens Road 1 and Queens Road 2.

Panels will be installed on the Peckham Pulse as part of the environmental works in summer 2015 and on The Castle. We are also looking into the possibility of installing panels on Surrey Docks Watersports Centre.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you for your answer. I have two supplementary parts. When do you expect to reach this cap of 25 council sites when it appears that only one site currently has PV cells, and will you consider supporting the Cannock Chase model of installing self funded photovoltaic cells on council properties where they are planning to give free electricity eliminating part of the fuel poverty they have in that council area.

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Barber for his question. As you will see from the answer, we have done a significant amount of work looking at a very practical level at the feasibility of putting our cells on as many sites as we can and will continue to promote that work. I can't tell you tonight but I'm happy to write to you about when we might hit the 25, and on the Cannock Chase model although I am happy to work with Councillor Merrill to look at that but I'm not familiar with it myself.

Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting) held on Wednesday 25 March 2015 at 7.00 pm at Harris Academy Peckham, 112 Peckham Road, London SE15 5DZ

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2014/15, Councillor Sunil Chopra

Councillor Evelyn Akoto	Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Jasmine Ali	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Maisie Anderson	Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Vijay Luthra
Councillor Radha Burgess	Councillor Jane Lyons
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Stephanie Cryan	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Catherine Dale	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Jamille Mohammed
Councillor Karl Eastham	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Paul Fleming	Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Tom Flynn	Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Chris Gonde	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Lucas Green	Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Jon Hartley	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Ben Johnson	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Eleanor Kerslake	Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Sarah King	Councillor Bill Williams
Councillor Anne Kirby	Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Sunny Lambe	Councillor Mark Williams
	Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

The Mayor informed the meeting of two mayoral events:

- The first being 'Celebrating Diversity', which took place on 13 March at Dulwich College. This was a fundraising event in aid of the Mayor's two chosen charities - UK Homes4Heroes and The Robes Project. It was a wonderful evening of cross cultural dining and global entertainment.
- The next major event in the Mayoral calendar is the Mayor of Southwark's Charity Ball 2015, which is being held at Gouman Tower Hotel, Tower Bridge, London Saturday 9 May 2015, from 6pm to Midnight. The Mayor encouraged members to attend and stated that tickets were available from the Mayor's office.

The leader of the council, Councillor Peter John, updated the meeting on issues arising from the unexploded World War 2 bomb that had been unearthed in Bermondsey on Monday 23 March 2015. He extended the council's thanks to all the services involved in the clearing of the area and the disposal of the bomb. He commended council officers for their hard work during the evacuation period and gave a special mention to the SE1 website for their coverage of the incident; he also thanked them for providing up to the minute information to the local community.

Local ward councillor, Councillor Ben Johnson, echoed Councillor Peter John's praise for all the services and staff involved in the incident.

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

The Mayor explained that the group whips had agreed the format of the meeting. The Mayor advised that this was set out in the programme motion which had been tabled at the meeting. The motion explained how the business of the meeting would be conducted.

PROGRAMME MOTION (*See white paper circulated at the meeting*)

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

RESOLVED:

That the meeting be conducted as follows:

Item 3 - Themed debate - add an extra 45 minutes to hear community evidence as follows:

Submissions (45 minutes)

- To receive submission from the three groups listed in the themed section of the agenda. Five minutes for each group to speak and to ask a question of the cabinet member.

- Five minutes for questions from members (Note: Limit of two questions per group subject to time limit of 15 minutes per submission).

Themed debate (60 minutes)

1. Councillor Fiona Colley, cabinet member for finance, strategy and performance (7 minutes)
2. Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, leader of the majority opposition group to speak and move amendment (5 minutes)
3. Theme open to debate by all other councillors (45 minutes)
4. Councillor Fiona Colley right of reply to the debate (3 minutes)

Item 4 - Deputations

- Meeting to agree not to hear the three deputations listed in the agenda.

Item 5.2 - General Motions

- To be taken in order set out in agenda.

Motion 5.2.2: Mental health services in Southwark.

- To agree the following change to the wording in the motion and amendment:
Delete employee references to NHS and **insert** 'health service'.
- To agree to a change of seconder for Amendment C - Councillor Lucas Green to second Amendment C.

Note: The following procedure rules were suspended.

- CAPR 2.7 (2) Time limit of themed debate
- CAPR 1.14 (15) Alternation of motion or amendment
- CAPR 1.14(4) Single debate.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosure of interests.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

1.5 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2015 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

2.1 PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the public.

3. THEMED DEBATE - WELFARE REFORM WITH AN EMPHASIS ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION

3.1 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

(See pages 1- 2 of supplemental agenda 2)

The meeting agreed to receive submissions from the following:

Pecan (Southwark Foodbank)

Council assembly heard community evidence from Pecan (Southwark Foodbank). The following members had questions of the submission: Councillors Neil Coyle, Richard Livingstone, Lisa Rajan, Damien O'Brien, Martin Seaton, Barrie Hargrove and Anood Al-Samerai.

At the close of the questioning, the Mayor then thanked Pecan (Southwark Foodbank) for their submission.

Southwark Citizen Advice Bureau

Council assembly heard community evidence from Southwark Citizen Advice Bureau who had a question for the cabinet member for finance, strategy and performance. Following the cabinet member's response, the following members had questions of the submission: Councillors Maria Linford-Hall, Helen Hayes, Eliza Mann, Chris Gonde and Dora Dixon-Fyle.

At the close of the questioning, the Mayor thanked Southwark Citizen Advice Bureau for their submission.

Blackfriars Advice Centre

Council assembly heard community evidence from Blackfriars Advice Centre who had a question for the cabinet member for finance, strategy and performance. Following the cabinet member's response, the following members had questions of the submission: Councillors Hamish McCallum, Michael Situ, Barrie Hargrove, Adele Morris and Sunny Lambe.

At the close of the questioning, the Mayor thanked Blackfriars Advice Centre for their submission.

3.2 MOTION ON THE THEME: WELFARE REFORM WITH AN EMPHASIS ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION

(see pages 1 - 3 of the main agenda)

The cabinet member for finance, strategy and performance, Councillor Fiona Colley, presented the motion on the themed debate.

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, the leader of the majority opposition party, responded to the cabinet member's motion and proposed Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Kath Whittam, Radha Burgess, Maria Linford-Hall, Anne Kirby, Michael Mitchell, Kieron Williams, James Okosun, Peter John, Jamile Mohammed, Jasmine Ali, Rosie Shimell, Neil Coyle, Richard Livingstone, Ben Johnson, Ian Wingfield and Nick Dolezal), the cabinet member for finance, strategy and performance, responded to the debate.

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

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

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly believes that the coalition government's welfare reform has utterly failed, with hardship and deprivation increasing, at the same time as the cost of implementing the reforms is mounting.
2. That council assembly condemns the government's changes to benefits which have targeted the most vulnerable and hit families with children under five harder than any other group.
3. That council assembly notes that despite the government's rhetoric on repairing the nation's finances, cuts to welfare have been offset by tax cuts for the most well off, meaning the government's welfare reform has made no overall contribution to paying down the deficit.
4. That council assembly notes that residents in Southwark have been hit hard by the coalition government's welfare reform, including:
 - The cruel and unfair bedroom tax, which has hit 5,000 Southwark residents

- A benefit cap which disproportionately affects families in London and has left some households facing the threat of eviction
 - Unacceptable delays in personal independence payments, which have left over 300,000 disabled people in limbo nationally as they wait for a decision on crucial support
 - Cuts to local government funding for discretionary housing payments and council tax benefits.
5. That council assembly notes this administration has prioritised our most vulnerable residents, using our resources to protect them as far as possible from the worst excesses of the government's welfare cuts, including:
 - Providing financial assistance and support for residents affected by the bedroom tax and other welfare changes through the welfare hardship fund
 - Providing a much-needed safety net for our most vulnerable residents through the Southwark Emergency Support Scheme, despite government cuts to the funding
 - Helping residents to ensure they are claiming all benefits entitled to them, through the Rightfully Yours advice service.
 6. That council assembly is concerned about the rollout of universal credit, particularly following direct payment pilots in Southwark, which have highlighted the risk of residents struggling to cope with complex budgeting and increasing numbers of residents falling into rent arrears.
 7. That council assembly welcomes the steps that have been taken by this administration to mitigate against these risks and to promote financial inclusion, working in partnership with Lambeth and Lewisham to deliver support for residents to prepare for universal credit, including opening bank accounts, dealing with debt and coping with budgeting on a monthly basis.
 8. That council assembly believes that employment is central to improving the financial resilience of our residents and recognises that current welfare to work provision fails to meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents. Council assembly therefore welcomes the steps this administration is taking to support residents with the most complex needs to develop the skills, motivation and experience to be able to secure employment.
 9. That council assembly believes that the growth of insecure, low-paid, poor quality jobs under the coalition government is undermining the UK's ability to earn our way out of the current cost of living crisis and adding to welfare spending.
 10. That council assembly believes that the country's welfare system can only become sustainable for the long-term by getting more people into work, and creating better paid and more secure jobs.
 11. That council assembly therefore welcomes Labour's national commitments to:
 - Abolish the cruel, costly and failing bedroom tax, which is hitting over 400,000 disabled people nationally
 - Make work pay by increasing the national minimum wage and encouraging

- more employers to pay a living wage
- Tackle the root causes of rising housing benefit spending by getting 200,000 homes a year built by 2020
- Introduce a compulsory jobs guarantee, paid for by a bank bonus tax, to provide a paid starter job for every young person unemployed for over a year, and everyone over 25 unemployed for over two years.

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

4. OTHER DEPUTATIONS

As part of the programme motion the meeting

RESOLVED:

That the meeting not receive the following three deputations:

- A group of local residents in respect of establishing a council complaints advisory forum
- CoolTan Arts
- SE1 Parents.

5. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

5.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

(See pages 4 - 9 of the main agenda and the blue and yellow papers circulated at the meeting)

There was one urgent question to the leader, the written response to which was circulated on blue paper at the meeting. Two supplemental questions were asked of the leader. All questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

There were 33 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated on yellow paper at the meeting. There were 16 supplemental questions, all questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 2 to the minutes.

5.2 MOTIONS

MOTION 1 – FINANCIAL ADVICE IN HEALTH CENTRES *(See page 11 of the main agenda)*

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Stephanie Cryan, seconded by Councillor Rebecca Lury, moved the motion.

Councillors David Noakes and Eliza Mann moved and seconded Amendment B.

At 10.07pm the Mayor announced that the guillotine had fallen.

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

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

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly acknowledges the inherent link between financial health and health and wellbeing, particularly mental health.
2. That council assembly welcomes the work of the healthy communities scrutiny sub-committee exploring the health of the borough, including financial health. Council assembly welcomes the committee's work in highlighting the impact of financial exclusion on health, in particular the impact on those with mental health concerns who are also struggling financially.
3. That council assembly therefore calls on cabinet to introduce financial health services in health centres, to provide high quality debt and income maximisation advice and welfare benefits casework for patients in Southwark.
4. That council assembly believes that the provision of high quality financial advice will improve the patient experience and optimise the time of GPs and health professionals, as well as directly targeting the link between mental and financial health.
5. That council assembly notes that many user-led local mental health services which give patients holistic support, including financial advice, are currently struggling and at risk of closure because of a number of factors including:
 - A move away from block contracts and a traditional day centre model to personal budgets and recovery-focused day activities
 - The recent decision by the CCG, as the lead commissioner, to commission mental health services with a national provider, instead of a Southwark-based consortium of mental health voluntary sector providers
 - The complexity of the Section 75 pooled budget arrangements.
6. That council assembly notes that changes to local mental health services, including financial advice for users, need to be managed and supported carefully and therefore calls on cabinet to:
 - Urgently commission a report laying out the financial stability and viability of the local voluntary sector mental health services in Southwark and bring a report back to the next cabinet meeting
 - Explore one-off or ongoing transitional funding prior to the introduction of community and wellbeing grants in October to support long-established and trusted local services, providing high-quality debt- and income-maximisation advice or welfare benefit casework services in Southwark, in order to avoid any gaps in service provision and allow these services to develop alternative funding sources to make them viable.

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

MOTION 2 – MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN SOUTHWARK (See pages 11 - 12 of the main agenda)

As part of the programme motion the meeting had agreed to the change outlined below to the wording of the motion and amendment and to a change to the seconder of the amendment.

- **Delete** employee references to 'NHS' and **insert** 'health service'.
- Councillor Lucas Green to second Amendment C.

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Ben Johnson and Adele Morris formally moved and seconded the revised motion.

Councillors Tom Flynn and Lucas Green formally moved and seconded Amendment C.

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 notes that:
 - Mental health issues will affect 1 in 4 people at some point in their lives and that 70,000 people in Southwark will suffer from mental health issues
 - Mental health issues can shorten life expectancy by fifteen to twenty years
 - People with mental health issues are more likely to experience homelessness, and anxiety and depression have been linked to overcrowded and unfit housing.
2. That council assembly notes that the coalition government has taken some steps to improve mental health services:
 - Invested £400 million in early support for people with mental health issues
 - Introduced maximum waiting times for talking therapies and the Crisis Care Concordat to ensure nobody experiencing psychosis is ever turned away from accident & emergency
 - Pledged extra investment for new inpatient beds, better case management and improved access to mental health care for children and young people
 - Helped fund the Time to Change campaign which challenges mental health stigma and discrimination
 - Called on all health service trusts to aim for a 'Zero Suicide' policy and established a government-wide mental health taskforce.
3. That council assembly notes, however, that despite the government's commitment to put mental health treatment on a par with physical health, mental health trusts in

England have seen their budgets fall by more than 8% in real terms, equivalent to almost £600m, and spending on children's mental health services in England has fallen by more than 6% in real terms, equivalent to nearly £50m, since 2010.

4. That council assembly condemns the government's cuts to spending on children's mental health services, which have led to increased waiting times and children being treated on adult psychiatric wards or having to travel hundreds of miles across the country to get the help they need.
5. That council assembly also notes that the government's cuts to local authority budgets which have led to a £90m shortfall in funding for social care.
6. That council assembly welcomes the extensive work undertaken by the council and the CCG to tackle stigma, raise awareness about mental health and promote wellbeing in Southwark, including:
 - Setting up a Parity of Esteem Programme Board chaired by the GP clinical lead for mental health, to review the extent of inequality amongst people with mental health problems
 - Providing training for teachers and head teachers to recognise and support children and young people with mental health issues in schools
 - Working with the Time to Change campaign
 - Providing community grants for small organisations to promote wellbeing with their clients/members
 - Commissioning mental health first aid courses for voluntary and community sector
 - Adopting the Mayor of London's Healthy Workplace Charter to minimise the risk of mental distress in the workplace and promoting to all employers in Southwark.
7. That council assembly welcomes Labour's national commitment to provide fairer access to mental health services, including ensuring all professional health service staff receive mental health training and changing the NHS Constitution to give people the right to psychological therapies for mental health problems like anxiety and depression, helping to give mental health the same priority as physical health.
8. That council assembly calls on the cabinet to:
 - Extend advocacy services available for Southwark residents with mental health issues
 - Consider the appointment of a Southwark Mental Health Champion to act as a link between the council, clients and the different agencies working in mental health
 - Ensure that mental health services receive their fair share of public health funding and review funding for mental health services each year
 - Ensure each council department deals with residents with mental health issues consistently and with a supportive and sympathetic approach
 - Improve the promotion of counselling services available for staff experiencing mental health or emotional issues.

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

MOTION 3 – BETTING SHOP ENFORCEMENT (*See pages 12 - 13 of the main agenda*)

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Renata Hamvas and Lorraine Lauder formally moved and seconded the motion.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly recognises the growing concern of local residents and the council about the proliferation of high street betting shops in Southwark; particularly the rise in high stake Fixed Odds Betting Terminals.
2. That council assembly is particularly concerned by recent evidence which suggests that despite age restrictions on gambling, some young people under the age of 18 are using these highly addictive gambling machines in betting shops.
3. That council assembly notes that the council does not currently have the power to inspect gambling venues to ensure that age restrictions are being properly enforced, nor is there a requirement for a 'Think 21' or 'Think 25' policy, as there is in premises selling alcohol, tobacco or other age-restricted products. Council assembly also notes that there are currently no regulations on layout in gambling premises to ensure that all customers entering the premises are in line of sight of staff.
4. That council assembly further notes that of the 80 gambling premises in Southwark, only two have recently been subject to spot-checks by the Gambling Commission and that both premises failed these checks.
5. That council assembly believes that it is vital that betting shops have sufficient controls in place to prevent children from using these highly addictive gambling machines, which could lead to young people developing gambling problems later in life.
6. That council assembly therefore calls on the cabinet to lobby local MPs and government to give local authorities more powers of enforcement in gambling premises, which are effectively self-regulating, to bring them in line with other licensed premises.

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

MOTION 4 – IMPROVE SERVICES AT LONDON BRIDGE STATION (*See pages 13 - 14 of the main agenda*)

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Helen Hayes and Sarah King formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Damian O'Brien and Hamish McCallum formally moved and seconded Amendment D.

Amendment D 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 believes that the current situation for rail passengers at London Bridge station is completely unacceptable.
2. That council assembly notes that almost three months since the introduction of the new timetable at London Bridge the situation at the station is worse than ever, with increasing chaos and disruption and dangerous overcrowding.
3. That council assembly notes that passengers in Dulwich, Peckham Rye and South Bermondsey, are facing increasing delays and cancellations to an already reduced timetable, and that unacceptable levels of overcrowding are also being experienced at other stations including Herne Hill and Loughborough Junction as passengers seek to avoid London Bridge.
4. That council assembly believes that the chaos at London Bridge has demonstrated that Network Rail and Southern are not capable of sorting out the mess.
5. That council assembly notes that the Secretary of State for Transport, Patrick McLoughlin MP, has so far failed to respond to letters from elected members in Southwark on the issues at London Bridge, and requests that Cabinet writes to demand his urgent personal intervention to improve the service for passengers at London Bridge.
6. That council assembly notes that there are significant transport issues on trains across South East London in addition to the problems at London Bridge, including the lack of capacity on the Southeastern line into London Victoria, affecting passengers at Nunhead, Peckham Rye and Denmark Hill.
7. That council assembly notes the success of London Overground services run by Transport for London, which have consistently achieved high ratings for punctuality and customer satisfaction, while more than trebling passenger numbers, and whilst using much of the same infrastructure as Southern.
8. That council assembly notes that it is Labour's policy to allow public sector organisations to bid to run rail services, and that in London we have a public sector organisation, Transport for London, which already runs some of London's rail services to an extremely high level of customer satisfaction.
9. That council assembly welcomes the government announcement in July 2013 which will allow some commuter rail services out of Liverpool Street station to be managed by Transport for London. Council assembly further notes that it was London Liberal policy in 2012 for Transport for London to run commuter rail services into the capital.
10. That council assembly therefore calls on the Secretary of State to allow Transport for London to run all rail services in South East London in order to have a properly integrated transport system.

11. That council assembly also notes that the long-term improvements at London Bridge should not just be for commuters, but also improve and green the local environment around the station for residents. Council therefore calls on the cabinet to work with Team London Bridge, Network Rail and Transport for London to ensure:
- That the new public realm around the station is of equal priority to the development of the station
 - That no opportunity is missed to reduce local traffic and air pollution to make the area more pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly
 - Support for local independent and creative businesses.

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

6. REPORT FOR DECISION FROM THE CABINET

6.1 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

(See pages 15 - 56 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 Mark Williams, cabinet member for regeneration, planning and transport, moved the report.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the 17 March 2015 cabinet recommendations on the community Infrastructure levy and section 106 planning obligations and community infrastructure levy supplementary planning document be noted.
2. That the examiner's report on the Southwark community infrastructure levy (Southwark CIL) (See Appendix A of the report), be noted.
3. That the Southwark CIL (Appendix B of the report), be approved and brought it into effect on 1 April 2015.
4. That Southwark's "Regulation 123 List" (Appendix C of the report), be approved.
5. That the Southwark CIL infrastructure plan (Appendix D of the report), the updated equalities analysis (Appendix E of the report) and consultation report (Appendix F of the report), be noted.

6.2 CAPITAL STRATEGY AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME REFRESH FOR 2014/15-2023/24

(see pages 57 – 91 of the main agenda and pages 48 – 71 of supplemental 1)

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 Fiona Colley, cabinet member for finance, strategy and performance, moved the report.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations of the 10 February 2015 cabinet for a refreshed general fund capital programme for the period 2014/15 to 2023/24 of £585.6 million, as detailed in the cabinet report attached as Appendix 1 of the report, be agreed.
2. That the recommendations of the 10 February 2015 cabinet for the housing investment programme (HIP) for the period 2014/15 to 2021/22 of £1,538.4 million as detailed in the cabinet report attached as Appendix 1 of the report, be agreed.
3. That the Southwark Council capital programme 2014/15 to 2023/24 which outlines the key achievements of the capital programme since 2011 and the council's capital investment plans for the next ten years attached as Appendix 2 of the report, be noted.

7. REPORT FOR INFORMATION

7.1 SPECIAL URGENCY AND URGENT IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS - ANNUAL REPORT

(see pages 92 – 99 of the main agenda)

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen. 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:

That the schedule of special urgency and urgent implementation decisions (set out in Appendix 1 of the report), taken in accordance with access to information procedure rules 19 and 20, be noted.

8. OTHER REPORTS

8.1 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

(see pages 100 – 113 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:

That the council's pay policy statement, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be agreed.

8.2 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK AND PERFORMANCE OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE IN 2014/15

(see pages 114 – 122 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 Jon Hartley, chair of the audit and governance committee, moved the report.

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

RESOLVED:

That the work and performance of the audit and governance committee in 2014/15 be noted.

8.3 COUNCIL CALENDAR 2015/16

(see pages 123 – 137 of the main agenda and page 6 of supplemental 2)

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:

That the calendar of council meetings for the 2015/16 municipal year as shown at Appendix 1 of the report, be noted.

9. AMENDMENTS

Amendments are set out in supplemental agenda 2.

At the close of the meeting the chief executive apologised to the Mayor and members for the absence of the Mace bearer and the Mace, she promised to look into the matter and report back to members.

The meeting closed at 10.24pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(ORDINARY)
WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2015
URGENT QUESTION

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Will the leader of the council and the relevant cabinet member meet urgently with local user groups, Open Door Resource Centre and Cool Tan Arts, to discuss mental health service provision in the borough?

RESPONSE

Councillor Hargrove and the director of public health met Cool Tan Arts on Monday and are happy to meet with them again if they want.

Open Door Resource Centre has not requested a meeting, but if they do, Councillor Hargrove would be happy to meet with them.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Thanks very much Mr Mayor. The reason for the urgency is because Cool Tan and Open Door tried to put in deputations this evening, and I think it is a real shame that they have not been agreed to be heard. The reason is that actually I think there is a serious issue going on in the council at the moment and I am hoping the leader will give his personal attention to it, it feels like mental health is falling between the CCG, public health, adult social care and community engagement. Now I am not saying all the people, all the cabinet members, don't really have the best of intentions but there is something actually slipping and officers themselves had admitted that to me quite recently; that is why I am suggesting the leader of the council personally meet a couple of those groups. I don't think Cool Tan are still here sadly and I know they were really keen and I hope that some of you saw their email, but if the leader of the council could personally commit to visiting them and some of the other groups, I think that would be a really good sign that this issue is being taken seriously.

RESPONSE

Thanks Mr Mayor and thanks to Councillor Al-Samerai for her supplemental question. I saw that there was a deputation request from Cool Tan but I have not seen anything from Open Door so I am not sure that they did put in a deputation request. I saw the email from Michelle and I spoke to Michelle and her colleagues earlier on and I think this is quite important to note that what they came to talk about tonight is a particular project which is not funded by the council and has never been funded by the council. It is funded by other agencies including charities, well it may be falling between the cracks but that will be probably be due to government cuts rather than anything this council is doing and that is the difficulty. What I have said in my answer is that Councillor Hargrove and the

director of public health and Cool Tan met on Monday. Barry is meeting again next Wednesday with Cool Tan and the director of public health and hopefully the director of adult and social care; we will look at what assistance we can give to them to keep the project going until their applications for funding - there is an application for funding to another charity or organisation - is determined. But that is not going to be determined until June because who ever their previous funders were have messed some paper work up, that is no fault of the council but I am very happy to talk to Cool Tan and see what advice and assistance and help we might be able to give because it is quite a modest amount of money that they are requesting. Cool Tan are not slow in coming forward and letting us know about their services and concerns. Michelle and her team do an excellent job of keeping us well aware of there work and the challenges they face; we visited them in the past and I have no doubt we will visit them in the future. But this is a charity which is receiving very clear attention from the council at the moment, and I don't think there is anything we are doing that is allowing them to fall through any gaps that we are responsible for, in fact we are lifting them up, but as I say I think there is an issue of government changes and government funding which needs to be addressed.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Thank you, it was actually a five year charitable trust grant they had and I think one of the problems they told me they have with the council is dealing with different departments, it is great if you could talk to them this evening, please don't be complacent and say they are all being perfectly looked after because they are clearly not, so hopefully something positive will come out of this evening. It does also I think bring up a wider point about how deputation and community evidence are dealt with at this meeting and I noticed some of the people of community evidence said they were invited, I think some of the more vulnerable community groups may find it more difficult to navigate the constitutional system. I just wondered if the leader could tell us whether he thinks the new deputations / community evidence, what ever it is called work now or whether he's got any suggestions to make for groups struggling to navigate the constitutional team, to be a bit more welcome.

RESPONSE

I would point Councillor Al-Samerai back to pre 2010 when deputations were effectively banned, Councillor Morris can shake her head and say that was five years ago; she was a cabinet member then, she was the cabinet member for communities and she did not want to hear from - I am not going to take any lectures from Councillor Adele Morris who we should hear from - you did not want to hear from anybody. Now I cannot hold Councillor Al-Samerai responsible for everything before 2010 even though she was a councillor, what I will say to Councillor Al-Samerai is that I think community evidence is working; we hear things from relevant people with relevant things to say and I don't think it is difficult for people to navigate - I will remind constitutional officers and I am reminding you now, make it as easy as possible for people when they talk about community evidence and deputation. I love the work Cool Tan does but being on the Largactyl Shuffle, I have known them for many years I am sure that Michelle is somebody who can navigate the council's structure. In event of other groups we will always be vigilant but that's part of our job as councillors as well to help point people in the right direction not just our responsibility or my responsibility or council officers responsibility it is all our responsibility.

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(ORDINARY)
WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2015
MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JASMINE ALI

Can the leader tell me what the next steps are for the council following the launch of the Childcare Commission report?

RESPONSE

We welcomed the Southwark and Lambeth Childcare Commission report at our cabinet meeting of 17 March 2015. On this very important issue for families, the commission identified ways in which government, the Mayor of London, employers and local authorities can support families better and increase access to high quality childcare for children – giving them the best start in life.

We will receive a report back to cabinet at our next meeting to agree our response and local action. We are committed to doing what we can locally to improve the childcare offer and to push the wider agenda in support of families.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JASMINE ALI

Thank you Mr Mayor and I would like to thank the leader for his answer, and I do have a supplementary if that's okay.

The Childcare Commission correctly emphasises the importance of early years telling us what we now know, that a child's early expectations has more of an effect on its long term outcome than their material circumstances, and it goes on obviously to acknowledge the importance of Sure Start and children's centres, but as a mum with a baby and a toddler you can see over the last four years that Sure Start have been crumbling and the ones that are left open, you have to queue for half an hour in the cold to secure a place and the other ones you have to pay, but the problem is child minders cannot afford to pay, so I am just asking the leader, do you feel confident that the council will be able to deliver on the commissions proposals on early year services in Southwark, because they are very good, but given the financial challenges that we face?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Ali for her supplemental. I think one thing that marks Southwark out at the moment from other boroughs is that all our Sure Start centres remain open, that is not the same story in other boroughs. We will do what we can to deliver on the recommendations that the Child Care Commission has made in so far as they affect the council, there are some good incentives, ideas, in there but I think what the commissions report demonstrates quite clearly for everybody is that it is a whole government and community solution that is needed; you are

absolutely right, it is really important in terms of a child's development, education, life prospect, those first thousand days of that child's life, so quality affordable child care is vital with an educational element in it to deliver those better outcomes.

But that requires the government to think about, as the commission report says, think about re profiling of what we spend during a young persons life. The Mayor of London is thinking about what he can do in his role as chair of the LEF with his responsibilities TfL to see what he can do to help parents get back into work, responsibility for businesses in the local community, to see what support they can give and it is our responsibility as a council to see what we can do as well in terms of expanding the child care offer, the quality affordable child care offer, in Southwark - we welcome the report. I am confident we can get quite a long way with it but it does require other bits of the system to work in order to make a real and lasting difference. I think if we really believe in children and their futures and their ability to thrive then we have to look at a child's life from 0-18 and we should not be looking at false compartment of 5-16 or 5-18.

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

What are the rates for patients presenting in accident and emergency at local hospitals with mental health issues since May 2010 and how does this compare to English averages?

RESPONSE

The council does not hold this information in the way that the councillor has asked. However, there is some publically available data on accident and emergency (A&E) attendances in people with a mental health problem which can be found here:

<http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/mental-health/profile/severe-mental-illness/data#gid/8000031/pat/44/ati/19/page/0/par/E4000003/are/E38000171>

This is NHS data and not council data.

The latest data for this item is the FY 2012-13. Southwark had 799 presentations (272.2/100,000 of population) during this year. The rate is higher than the London clinical commissioning group (CCG) average of 215.8/100,000 but is within the 95% confidence intervals for the England benchmark (of 243.5/100,000) which means it is not significantly higher than the English rate. It should be noted that these figures are the number of attendances not number of people attending (some people may attend more than once).

The Mental Health Information Network which provides this data is a new resource which has been running for about a year and so there is no trend data for this item. The data for this item is designated as 'of concern' with regard to quality so should be treated with caution.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

I would like to thank the leader for his answer, he set out the specific data that I requested on the number of patients presented in local A&E with mental health issues is not available and the information that is available at the moment isn't wholly accurate. I wonder if he and the Well being Board have any plans to scrutinise the issue further on a local level to make sure we have a picture of this

situation, as this strikes me it is crucial information to have if we are going to know how well local services for people with mental health problems are working.

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Shimell for her supplemental question; I think this is a good question for me to take back to colleagues who make up the Health and Well being Board. I think what was interesting, at the meeting last week actually, we were looking at a chart of how our health services compares to eleven other developed economies including France and Spain, Germany and the USA for instance and we scored incredible high, I think third it is the worst score we have in terms of the quality of care, timeliness of care and things like that, but what we score incredibly badly on – 10th out of 11th - was in terms of someone's healthy life, so what strikes me at looking at that is that we are putting money in at the wrong end potentially of the health services. We are putting in at the acute end with people presenting at hospital with acute conditions rather than spending money on prevention, rather than spending money on ensuring that they are living healthy lives and of course ensuring that those with mental health issues are leading healthy lives in the community rather than ending up in hospital is one of those factors we need to address, so it is part of the jigsaw that we need to look at and we will look at, at the Health and Well being Board.

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE

Is the leader concerned about recent figures which showed that Southwark renters are paying more than half their income on rent and the effect this could have on residents being able to afford to stay in the borough?

RESPONSE

Rental figures, as compiled by the House of Commons Library, show that in Southwark the median weekly income for full time employees was £622.60, and the median weekly private rent was £324.90. This puts rent as a percentage of income at 52%. In Southwark, as across London, private house prices and rents have risen considerably in recent years, and much faster than local incomes.

The Liberal Democrats and Conservatives in government are ignoring the cost of living crisis and continue their dogmatic approach to selling off council housing. In Southwark we are trying to tackle the issue head on. Our new long term housing strategy to 2043 is the first genuine attempt to develop a long-term housing plan in London for many years and our commitment to deliver 11,000 new council homes, including 1,500 by 2018 is the biggest council house building programme in the country.

We will use every tool at our disposal to lead the way in London providing quality homes for people on a mix of incomes, enabling existing communities to have a future in the borough. We will continue to work with housing associations and developers to build the homes of all tenures the borough desperately needs.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE

Thank you Mr Mayor, and I thank the leader for his answer, my supplementary is very brief. Does the leader agree that Southwark needs a Labour government - not quite that brief - a Labour government which will cap rent increase, ban rip off

letting fees, provide more security through longer term contracts and build more homes to meet growing demand.

RESPONSE

Absolutely yes and it needs you as an MP in Bermondsey and Old Southwark. The issues raised are really critical. I think what Emma Randalls, Shadow Housing Minister, has got in her charter for private renters provides all those things of what you are talking about - securing accommodation effectively for somebody who is renting private accommodation. But you know what we are seeing in London comes back to this, and there are other questions later on this, but what this comes back to is there is a housing shortage in London, a housing crisis in London, that is what is forcing up rent, that is what is creating the condition that people cannot buy homes to live in. We are playing our part in this borough but it really requires the rest of London to step up. Do you know last year there were only 18,000 homes completed in London, 18,000, it is the lowest we have had for years and years, it is chronic. When the Mayor's target is 42,000, we actually need 55,000, we are building 18,000 homes, so for the Liberal Democrats to criticise Southwark where we are building more affordable housing than anywhere else, we are pressing ahead with homes of all kinds, to be criticising us is really rich. They need to go out to Liberal Democrat Sutton, there is no other Liberal Democrat council they can go to, but they can go to their Tory friends and tell them in Bromley and tell them in Bexley that it is good to build homes, because homes are what people, what Londoners, need and if they won't do it, a Labour government will.

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Can the leader state the final cost of all the Childcare Commission's work, including the production and launch of its recent report?

RESPONSE

The cost was £57,600 to the Institute of Public Policy and Research for the research and report and approximately £100 for miscellaneous costs. Southwark and Lambeth will each pay half of the cost (£28,800). This is considerably less than the initial £75,000 budget which was allocated.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you to the leader for his answer. So on the Child Care Commission - over a year ago we suggested spending money to help with child care costs and you said you would do a child care commission report, so we thought, ok, at least we have it on the agenda. So it has been over a year and the child care commission reported, so can the leader tell me how tomorrow, for a Southwark family, the cost of childcare would have been reduced over the last year?

RESPONSE

Well, the report has been received by cabinet and we will have a second report at our next meeting which will look at how we can implement things locally - obviously the Liberal Democrats had a manifesto commitment last year which was rejected soundly and roundly by the people of Southwark. I think the people of

Southwark had more say in us providing a long term solution rather than giving them a couple of hours which is what the Liberal Democrats were offering.

We are about providing long term solutions, we are about providing long term solutions in housing, we are about providing long term solutions in affordable quality child care and that is what we are going to do and when we have a Labour government after May 7, I am confident we will work with that government to deliver on all of the parts of the Child Care Commission report and that will result in more affordable quality child care in Southwark, that is what the people of this borough need. Just in the way they have been affected by benefit cuts and they need a Labour government to sort them out and they need a Labour government to sort out the housing.

So that is the answer to her question - free healthy school meals, 11,000 council homes - 1500 by 2018, a guaranteed job, education and employment for every eighteen year old will be delivered, warm dry and safe for every council home, putting right the neglect of a Liberal Democrat council for the last eight years. I could go on Mr Mayor, opening leisure centres, opening libraries - the next one will be in Camberwell in June, I am looking forward to that, maybe we will invite Helen Hayes MP on to that, I don't want to leave you out of it Helen - providing school places after the school places crisis presided over by the Liberal Democrats but anyway that wasn't your question but anyway we are on top of child care, don't worry about it.

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ELEANOR KERSLAKE

What is the council doing to encourage responsible lending?

RESPONSE

As the cost of living crisis hits Southwark families hard, some of our residents are turning to pay day lenders and other irresponsible lenders as they are desperate to make ends meet. As a council we are doing what we can to make sure that our residents on the lowest incomes have alternatives.

This administration does not let council premises to payday lenders and will not do so. In addition we are working with the Credit Union which encourages responsible lending. Our policy of a £10 account for every 11 year old at the credit union will not only help young people to learn about responsible saving, it will also be an opportunity for the credit union to speak with parents and help them access information about good finance.

We are also in discussions with the London Mutual Credit Union about opening a Walworth branch and hope to make an announcement on this in due course.

We are making it harder for pay day lenders to open with the introduction of Article 4 powers last year, and we are making it harder for them to advertise by reaching agreement with major billboard companies to not carry pay day lender adverts.

The Money Savvy Southwark Project through Southwark Citizens Advice Bureau (which is funded by the council among other funders) is working with the national Illegal Money Lending Team to raise awareness of illegal money lending and promote membership of the credit union. Features on affordable lending options including the services of the Credit Union are being scheduled for Southwark Housing News, Southwark Life and the Credit Union will have a presence at this

year's Tenants Conference. The local advice agencies are also working with us to provide a range of advice on debt and money management and this can include referrals to the Credit Union.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ELEANOR KERSLAKE

Thank you Mr Mayor and I would like to thank the leader for his response. I have a short supplemental and would just like to ask if there are any further updates on the council and LMC discussion on a credit union for Walworth.

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Kerslake for her supplemental question. We are in active negotiations with London Mutual Credit (LMC) Union about providing Trade Union Office potentially and hopefully in the cash office that we will be vacating on Walworth Road and I think that will be a fantastic use for that office to be put to, we are not there yet we can't say everyone has signed on the dotted line but that is our hope and aspiration and I believe that we will deliver that, that is going to be good news for the residents of Walworth. It is a shame you know, the Credit Union having to come to the fore because other banks have let them down because of general incompetence and because of benefit changes which have hit people but we again are playing our part in partnership with London Mutual to help people of Walworth.

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Can the leader confirm what discussions and meetings the council has had with Development Securities or any other interested parties in regards to the Southwark tube station site with particular reference to Styles House and council-owned land?

RESPONSE

The Direct Housing Delivery report which came to cabinet in October 2013 noted that Development Securities have proposed a jointly delivered scheme with the council. This scheme could be viable if it optimised the quantity of new council homes and could be supported by Styles House residents. Officers have met with Development Securities to explore this option. However, to date, Development Securities have not presented a proposal that can be taken forward. The council has not indicated in any way that it would include council-owned land, either at Styles House or elsewhere in the joint venture which Development Securities have secured with Transport for London (TfL) to redevelop the Southwark tube station site.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Thank you, can I thank the council leader for his response, in the light of the fact that this is the second miscommunication on the future of Styles House and the land surrounding it, with last years publication forward plan and the sale of the low rise blocks, will the council leader confirm that Styles House residents will have to approve any deal concerning the future of their homes and gardens?

RESPONSE

Yes, I am happy to give that.

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR KARL EASTHAM

What is the council doing to prevent the loss of affordable housing following the government's introduction of an exemption for housing developers from paying for affordable housing?

RESPONSE

Since December the government has exempted housing developers who turn empty buildings into private housing from paying for affordable housing. In Southwark, this policy means that former industrial sites that are currently vacant ahead of being developed could deliver only a fraction of the potential affordable housing, rather than the 35% affordable housing provision usually required.

The coalition government's policy will increase developers' profits at the expense of affordable housing desperately needed in the borough. The policy could potentially cost the people of our borough thousands of affordable homes.

At a time when more homes of every kind are so badly needed, it is disgraceful that the government should introduce such a scheme. In response to this announcement, we have therefore been looking at what measures we can take to limit the impact that the government's policy will have on the borough.

Southwark is now the first council in London to officially introduce measures to prevent losing potential affordable homes through the government's Vacant Building Credit (VBC).

We are putting in place a raft of measures through local planning policy to mitigate the impact. This includes setting guidelines to define what makes a building vacant or in use. Applicants will also have to prove that the relevant building have been actively marketed for at least two years to prevent owners intentionally emptying homes and businesses to take advantage of the VBC. We will seek to amend our Development Plan to establish a local VBC exemption policy on the basis that the credit is not needed to kick start development and that it undermines the sustainability of future development in the borough.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR KARL EASTHAM

Thank you to the leader for his answer my supplemental is, does the leader agree that at a time that London is facing a growing housing crisis the government should reverse this catastrophic decision to put developers profits ahead of affordable housing which is desperately needed in our borough and across the council.

RESPONSE

I couldn't agree with Councillor Eastham more in respect of his supplemental question, and again I think it is an example of where one size doesn't fit all, where a policy which might look good outside London just does not work in London - outside London where you are getting problems getting developers to build out the

fact that they can go back to get rid of some of the affordable housing it is an incentive to start building, but this is not the case in London and should not be the case in London, so it is an ill considered bid an interference I'd say from Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and demonstrates again why devolution of powers, such as over housing and some of these critical issues be devolved down to London sub regions. For the borough to get on with it because we are the ones who are actually delivering in Southwark and Eric Pickles should come and talk to us rather than thinking up daft policies which are going to have really disastrous affects on affordable housing for our borough.

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH McCALLUM

Please list the planning consents since May 2010 (broken down by ward) where affordable housing has been provided on-site; off-site; or where in-lieu payments have been accepted?

RESPONSE

Ward	Application number	Purpose Code
Brunswick Park	09/AP/2332	Affordable housing off site payment
Brunswick Park	11/AP/0196	Affordable housing off site payment
Brunswick Park	13/AP/0422	Affordable housing on site by developer
Brunswick Park	14/AP/0764	Affordable housing on site by developer
Camberwell Green	12/AP/1308	Affordable housing off site payment
Camberwell Green	13/AP/2211	Affordable housing on site by developer
Camberwell Green	10/AP/2600	Affordable housing on site by developer
Camberwell Green	11/AP/0196	Affordable housing on site by developer
Camberwell Green	03/AP/2385	Affordable housing on site by developer
Camberwell Green	13/AP/0561	Affordable housing on site by developer
Camberwell Green	12/AP/2444	Affordable housing on site by developer
Camberwell Green	13/AP/2902 & 14/AP/0117	Affordable housing on site by developer
Cathedrals	10/AP/3372	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	11/AP/1071	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	13/AP/1403	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	10/AP/3316	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	10/AP/2707	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	12/AP/1784	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	13/AP/1123	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	13/AP/2075	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	13/AP/3791	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	10/AP/3131	Affordable housing on site by developer
Cathedrals	12/AP/1066	Affordable housing on site by developer
Cathedrals	12/AP/3558	Affordable housing on site by developer
Cathedrals	12/AP/0035	Affordable housing on site by developer
Chaucer	11/AP/0217	Affordable housing off site payment
Chaucer	11/AP/2577	Affordable housing off site payment
Chaucer	10/AP/2429	Affordable housing on site by developer
Chaucer	10/AP/2081	Affordable housing on site by developer
Chaucer	10/AP/2849	Affordable housing on site by developer
Chaucer	11/AP/0217	Affordable housing on site by developer
Chaucer	09/AP/1940	Affordable housing on site by developer
Chaucer	13/AP/3450	Affordable housing on site by developer
Chaucer	13/AP/0294	Affordable housing on site by developer

Ward	Application number	Purpose Code
East Dulwich	11/AP/0024	Affordable housing commuted sum – viability based
East Walworth	14/AP/0833	Affordable housing off site payment
East Walworth	11/AP/0138	Affordable housing on site by developer
East Walworth	11/AP/1180	Affordable housing on site by developer
East Walworth	11/AP/2577	Affordable housing on site by developer
East Walworth	12/AP/1455	Affordable housing on site by developer
East Walworth	12/AP/2797	Affordable housing on site by developer
Faraday	12/AP/2332	Affordable housing on site by developer
Faraday	13/AP/1235	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	10/AP/1860	Affordable Housing Bankside off site
Grange	10/AP/1935	Affordable housing off site payment
Grange	12/AP/1423	Affordable housing off site payment
Grange	12/AP/2942	Affordable housing off site payment
Grange	12/AP/2942	Affordable housing off site payment
Grange	13/AP/2971	Affordable housing off site payment
Grange	13/AP/3059	Affordable housing off site payment
Grange	14/AP/1302	Affordable housing off site provision & payment
Grange	10/AP/1860	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	10/AP/2725	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	10/AP/2824	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	10/AP/3010	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	10/AP/3458	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	06/AP/1293	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	09/AP/1917	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	10/AP/3074	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	10/AP/1935	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	11/AP/3251	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	12/AP/0164	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	11/AP/4364	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	12/AP/2702	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	12/AP/2942	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	14/AP/0117	Affordable housing on site by developer
Livesey	10/AP/3239	Affordable housing on site by developer
Livesey	13/AP/0876	Affordable housing on site by developer
Livesey	13/AP/1738	Affordable housing on site by developer
Livesey	11/AP/0139	Affordable housing on site by developer
Livesey	13/AP/2782	Affordable housing on site by developer
Newington	11/AP/0868	Affordable housing off site payment
Newington	11/AP/0868	Affordable housing off site payment
Nunhead	10/AP/3173	Affordable housing on site by developer
Nunhead	11/AP/2851	Affordable housing on site by developer
Peckham	13/AP/2901	Affordable housing on site by developer
Riverside	13/AP/2405	Affordable housing off site payment
Riverside	14/AP/3861	Affordable housing off site payment
Riverside	09/AP/0174	Affordable housing on site by developer
Riverside	10/AP/3008	Affordable housing on site by developer
Riverside	12/AP/3127	Affordable housing on site by developer
Riverside	07/AP/1262	Affordable housing on site by developer
Rotherhithe	09/AP/1999	Affordable housing off site payment
Rotherhithe	11/AP/1097 &	Affordable housing on site by developer

Ward	Application number	Purpose Code
	13/AP/3225	
Rotherhithe	09/AP/1999	Affordable housing on site by developer
Rotherhithe	11/AP/0963	Affordable housing on site by developer
Rotherhithe	13/AP/1429	Affordable housing on site by developer
South Bermondsey	10/AP/0614	Affordable housing on site by developer
South Bermondsey	12/AP/1485	Affordable housing on site by developer
South Bermondsey	12/AP/3201	Affordable housing on site by developer
South Bermondsey	12/AP/4049	Affordable housing on site by developer
South Bermondsey	12/AP/3860	Affordable housing on site by developer
South Bermondsey	13/AP/1864	Affordable housing on site by developer
South Camberwell	12/AP/1630	Affordable housing on site by developer
Surrey Docks	11/AP/2565	Affordable housing off site payment
Surrey Docks	11/AP/2565	Affordable housing on site by developer
Surrey Docks	13/AP/2426	Affordable housing on site by developer
Surrey Docks	11/AP/2242	Affordable housing on site by developer
The Lane	11/AP/0914	Affordable housing on site by developer
The Lane	13/AP/2311	Affordable housing on site by developer

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH McCALLUM

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you to the leader for your comprehensive reply, I think hand in hand with the reply you gave to Councillor Eastham and to Ed Milliband's puppet over there, it paints a picture of quite dire straights for affordable housing in the borough. By my reckoning, this shows that 30 out of 100 applications in the borough have had off site housing provisions, 26 of which - that is 87% - are in the north of the borough, does that not prove that this council is only serving it to fail to deliver mixed communities or housing stock to right of affordability in a place where people need to live.

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor McCallum for the applause and the fact of the question just demonstrates how uninterested the Liberal Democrats are in delivering a housing solution for our borough, to think that eleven affordable on-site homes is better than delivering four or five times that number on a bit of council land a 100 yards away is ludicrous - you are not interested in solving the housing crises, you and your government are responsible for the fact there has been a slow down. The reality is we are the ones interested in providing council housing because at the end of the day council housing is the only housing which is affordable for many of our residents. We have heard tonight about the poverty which is affecting residents yet you think the answer is let us have affordable housing here, some where people earning £80,000 a year can live, that is not affordable housing it is not housing that this borough needs. We need more council homes, that is why we have taken in lieu payments and we are building with that money that's why we are going to build 1,500 council homes more than any other council in this country by 2018, I am proud of that, I am proud of the answers that we are delivering, you should be ashamed, ashamed Hamish, the fact that Simon Hughes is a government member which has let down this borough time and time again, so if you want a serious debate about housing, I will have it any time or any where because we are the ones providing the solution we are the ones who are committed to housing solutions, you are not and that is clear. I have gone on long enough but Mr Mayor, but can I just say - I think I have answered the question,

there is absolute clarity in that question - you are opposed, from your question you are opposed to payment in lieu of on site affordable housing, therefore you are opposed to building council houses with that money therefore you are opposed to council housing it is the only conclusion I can draw from your ill thought out comments, questions and applause.

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR VIJAY LUTHRA

Can the leader confirm which housing estates will be included in the kitchens and bathrooms replacement programme from April this year?

RESPONSE

Cabinet has announced the first phase of homes which will benefit from our commitment to kitchens and bathrooms. This builds on the work we have been doing to ensure that every council home is warm, dry and safe.

Area 1: Borough & Bankside / Walworth

Ayres House
 Borough Road Estate
 Braganza Street
 Browning Estate
 Cooks Road
 Dodson Estate
 Falcon Point (Banks Edgar Development)
 Gateway Estate
 Haddonhall Estate
 Hayles Buildings
 Kennedy Walk
 Kennington Park House
 Kennington Park Road
 Kingston Estate
 Lant Estate
 Manor Place
 Marshalsea Estate
 Minnow Street Estate
 New church Road
 Nursery Row
 Pasley Estate
 Pelier Estate
 Portland Estate
 Pullens Estate
 Sharsted Street
 Stopford Road

Area 2: Bermondsey / Rotherhithe

Ainsty Estate (Larch House, Beech House)
 Astely Estate (Clare House, Fitzroy House, Brodie House, Mandeville House)
 Canada Estate
 Charles McKenzie House
 Cranbourne House
 Downtown Estate (Estate Houses Globe Pond Road)
 Eldridge Court
 Longfield Estate (Cragie House, Ash House, Fairby House, Stansfeld House, Hartley House, Dartford House, Alfred Salter House)

Mawby Estate (Lanark House, Mawbey House)
 Millpond Estate
 Pedworth Sheltered
 Plough Estate (Yeoman St, Chilton Grove, Plough Way)
 Setchell Estate (Hazel Way, Setchell Way, Alscot Way, Curtis Way)
 Slippers Place Estate (Moreton House, Cornick House, Gataker House, Arica House)
 Wessex House
 West Lane

Area 3: Camberwell / Peckham

Bromar Road
 Camberwell Grove
 Caroline Gardens
 Gilesmead Estate
 Ledbury Estate
 North Peckham Estate

Area 4: Nunhead / Dulwich

Arnold Dobson House
 Brimington Estate
 Clifton Crescent
 Daniels Estate
 East Dulwich Road
 Fenwick Road
 Gautrey Road
 Hanover Park
 Hanover Park
 Hollydale Road
 Honor Oak Rise
 Jack Jones House
 Kirkwood Road
 Limes Walk
 Linden Grove Estate
 Lytcott Grove Estate
 Moncrieff Estate
 New James Street Estate
 Oliver Goldsmith Estate (Purdon House, Flamborough House)
 Princess Court (College Road Estate)
 Queens Rd Estate
 Raul Road
 Rye Hill Estate
 Rye Hill Park Estate
 Sasson House
 Solomans Passage
 St Marys Road
 Stanbury Road
 Tappesfield Estate

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

What steps is the council taking to address lower take-up rates of talking therapies among black and minority ethnic (BME) residents with mental health issues?

RESPONSE

Therapeutic services such as the one referred to in the question are commissioned by the NHS, not the council. The Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is preparing to re-tender the Talking Therapies service in April 2015. The Talking Therapies service specification considers findings from the equalities impact assessment and engagement done and includes requirements to improve access for BME groups, for example improving self-referral options and targeted work in faith communities. The CCG currently commissions multi-ethnic counselling services that deliver therapy in several languages and this is included in the new specification for the procurement of a Talking Therapies service.

This is an important issue and I am pleased that the CCG share our concerns and are actively doing something about it.

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAN GARFIELD

Can the leader give an update on plans for internal and external decoration of properties in phase 4 on the Aylesbury estate?

RESPONSE

The buildings in the area covered by phase 4 of the Aylesbury regeneration programme are not scheduled to be demolished for about ten years. The buildings occupy a central part of the estate adjacent to Michael Faraday School and are in close proximity to the first development site of the regeneration programme.

Warm, dry and safe works and fire safety works are already programmed for the site. The council has had discussions with resident representatives and has agreed that a programme of external decorations would significantly improve the appearance of these buildings. These improvements would enhance the physical environment that the residents of these blocks and the rest of the neighbourhood live in. As these works would have no direct benefit to leaseholders in the blocks, the council has agreed that these additional works will be exempt from any Section 20 leaseholder billing.

We plan to start work on site in June this year, to be completed by June 2016.

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON (BOROUGH, BANKSIDE AND WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

What actions has the council taken to try and help ensure (an element of) the existing Southwark fire station building is retained so there is potential for it to be returned to use as a fire station at a later stage and used for community use in the interim?

RESPONSE

The council opposed the Mayor's decision to close Southwark Fire Station. We do not believe this decision was in the best interests of people in Southwark. However, now that the station is closed, decisions need to be made about the future of the site. The council is not lobbying to retain the fire station building. Instead, we have been arguing that the site should be the location of a new school in the north of the borough. Our officers have been in discussion with the Deputy

Mayor for Education and Culture and investigating the possibility for a school on this site.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON (BOROUGH, BANKSIDE AND WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Thank you Mr Mayor, and I would like to thank the leader for his answer, I have a supplementary which is really to under score the reason why the question has been put forward; concerns was expressed at the Borough, Bankside and Walworth community council that the increased population density in our area would require need for a fire station in Southwark Park. Now just to be quite clear, your answer said you are not going to press the Mayor to replace that station, are we quite clear that the population density and the reduced access to this facility will mean that the distance between a fire station and local people would not mean that there is an increase in potential delays in attending fires.

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Seaton for his supplemental question. I think the facts surrounding the impact that the closure of Southwark Fire Station are going to have were well rehearsed and well made by colleague's right across the chamber last year in our opposition to the closure of Southwark Fire Station.

I think in the context on the changed circumstances of where we are now, where LFEPA are selling the fire station, we have to look what is the best use we can get for our community from it, and a use which includes a secondary school on that site, rather than purely housing, has got to be something that we would welcome and I know that it is something councillors in Cathedrals ward would welcome so that is what we are pressing the Mayor for at the moment, now if circumstances change and we have a different Mayor before this is all sorted out, because it seems to be taking a long time, then maybe we will review the situation but what we are arguing for and what our community wants is proper community use, if that is going to be a school, so be it and I think we would welcome that.

13. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR JOHNSON SITU (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

The community council would like a general update about increasing the provision of school places in Peckham and Nunhead for both primary and secondary and specifically, what plans are there for Highshore School and have other alternatives been considered rather than demolishing the building?

RESPONSE

I am happy to update Peckham and Nunhead Community Council on the planned increases to the provision of primary and secondary school places in Peckham and Nunhead.

Proposals to expand Bellenden Primary School (an increase from 1 form of entry (FE) to 2) and Ivydale Primary School (an increase of 2FE to 4FE) will add 150 reception places to the Peckham and Nunhead area from September 2016 onwards. This will bring the total number of primary reception places on offer on that date in the area to 900, above the projected figures for the area. If the Harris Nunhead proposal goes ahead, this will provide an additional 60 reception places

to the provision, although capacity exists within the area to cope with demand without it.

Belham Primary Free School is opening in September 2015 and will offer an additional 60 reception places. It is not within the borders of the Peckham and Nunhead Community Council but very close to them and recruiting from an area covered by the Community Council.

In respect of secondary expansions, the Department for Education have announced earlier this week their approval for the Southwark-based Charter School to open a free school on the Dulwich Hospital site. This will add up to 8 forms of entry (1350 places) with a sixth form to the secondary provision in Southwark with good transport links throughout the borough. Approval was also given earlier this year for St Thomas the Apostle College to open a Sixth Form, which will add to the post 16 offer in the locality.

Cherry Garden School is a primary special school located in South Bermondsey ward for pupils aged 2-11 with severe learning difficulties, complex needs and autism. The existing accommodation, constructed in the 1960s, is not fit for purpose and not suitable for the increasing numbers of referrals. New accommodation for Cherry Garden School has been a long standing commitment for the council and the borough has seen a considerable increase in diagnoses of children with autism. The existing Highshore building is not suitable for conversion for a modern special school. We have considered converting the existing buildings but because of its quirks and poor construction (particularly the hall) it is not possible (or economic) to refurbish the building. Cherry Garden pupils have a range of needs which mean that they need larger spaces than a mainstream school and specialist equipment. However, the site is suitable for the development of a new building which would be built to a high quality design in keeping with the locality.

14. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

How will the council improve consultation on traffic and transport schemes in the Dulwich area?

RESPONSE

We recently consulted on the first draft of the New Southwark Plan (NSP) for an extended four month period. The plan sets out updated and new draft planning policies that will be used to decide planning applications across the borough once the plan is adopted in 2017. It also includes draft visions for neighbourhoods and areas including an updated vision for Dulwich that builds on the contents of the adopted Dulwich Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Undertaking a consultation for the New Southwark Plan is a statutory requirement. It is also important to involve local residents at this early stage in the preparation of such an important planning document and provide the opportunity for views to be put forward. The consultation included a series of meetings, events and mailings throughout the borough.

The Southwark Cycling Strategy was also consulted on during the NSP consultation period. Planning and transport officers coordinated marketing materials and meetings to ensure both documents were promoted and discussed

together, ensuring effective use of resources and consistency in approach. While the council received overwhelming support in favour of stronger cycling policies and programmes, officers were made aware of concerns that some residents, particularly in Dulwich, have in regard to what impact a cycle route, such as a Quietway route, may have on their street.

The council is committed to working with and involving local residents, as part of the Cycling Strategy delivery programme there will be a Dulwich wide consultation on possible improvements to the road network for pedestrians and cyclists. This will ensure all issues are considered together and local residents will be able to share their views before formal consultation takes place.

The next stage of consultation on the New Southwark Plan takes place in the autumn when the 'Preferred Option' of the plan will be consulted on.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Thanks very much indeed to the cabinet member for his reply; we had an exciting Dulwich Community Council - we have had two Dulwich Community Councils on the trot - one of the issue in parts of Dulwich, certainly in parts of College, is that residents association have traditionally had very strong link with the Dulwich estate but not necessarily with the council, I wondered if it would be helpful if councillors and the Dulwich society and the other amenity societies in the south of the borough were to try and pull together a list of local groups and contacts that the council could use for future consultations.

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Simmons for his question. We had a deputation from some concerned Dulwich residents and groups at cabinet last week and we have discussed with them our plans for more consultation and pre consultation on there views before we can come forward with road improvement schemes in that part of the borough and we are going to do a Dulwich wide piece of consultation properly over the early summer or early autumn, which we are currently designing. We have a meeting coming up and it will be very, very helpful if we can get a comprehensive list of all the interested groups in Dulwich so we can make sure as many people as possible can be reached, so if you send that across we will get it arranged.

15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS (BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Can the cabinet member for regeneration, planning and transport set out what steps the council is taking to improve traffic flow at the Rotherhithe tunnel on Lower Road and to ensure the C10 and 381 bus routes better serve the Rotherhithe peninsula? Can he also explain what steps he is taking to lobby Transport for London (TfL) on these issues?

RESPONSE

Officers are working with TfL to develop plans for Lower Road in order to deliver the measures identified in the Area Action Plan as well as the proposed Cycle Superhighway (CS4). Proposals to remove the Lower Road gyratory will be brought to public consultation later this year. TfL are also due to re-start design work on CS4 in the autumn and this will include proposals to address congestion at the tunnel roundabout. The council also expects TfL to conduct a comprehensive review of the local bus network as a result of proposed development at Canada Water, which together with the removal of the gyratory will result in significant alterations to bus routing through the area. As part of this work we are calling on TfL to increase the number of bus services in the area. Finally, the council has requested that TfL develop mitigating measures in response to the proposed tolling of the Blackwall Tunnel and the proposed Silvertown Tunnel. We are concerned that TfL's proposals at Blackwall and Silvertown will worsen traffic levels and air pollution in Rotherhithe, and we will continue to press TfL on this issue?

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS (BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you to the cabinet member for a full and frank answer, I do have a supplemental. Can you shed any further light on a highly lightly impact of the proposed tolling of both Silvertown and Blackwall Tunnels that will have a definite adverse affect on my ward of Rotherhithe and its environment.

RESPONSE

Thank you Councillor Williams for your question, yes and thank you also for Bermondsey and Rotherhithe community council hosting me a couple of months ago talking about this issue, thank you very much and I will come back again, we really are very, very, very concerned of the knock on impact of the new crossing at Silvertown which will be tolled, which also means that the Blackwall Tunnel next to it will be tolled as well. Transport for London and their models show and claim that it will not have any impact, any adverse impact on the Rotherhithe peninsula or the approach to the Rotherhithe tunnel, now quite obviously if you have got two toll tunnels just over here and then a relatively short drive away you have a free tunnel which one are you going to use, so we are really, really concerned. We have met with Transport for London already, we keep meeting with them and pushing really, really hard. We have already told them we cannot support the Silvertown crossing and the proposals for tolling and if they want us to either support those proposals or to at least take a non committal view either way as it were, we will push them really, really hard and we are going to have proper mitigating measures for residents in Rotherhithe for the road net work area that includes removal of the road and gyratory and includes delivery of cycle superhighway 4 and includes mechanisms that if there is increased pollution or increased traffic there is a payment mechanism or some other mechanism triggered so those benefits can be stopped. So it is something we are absolutely on top of and we are going to keep pushing and I welcome post May 7 to shoe horn this in working with the new Member of Parliament for Bermondsey and Southwark, Neil Coyle, I am sure that's the case.

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING) FROM COUNCILLOR SUNNY LAMBE

How much has the council saved by increasing the amount of waste diverted from landfill since 2010 and how has this improved the council's environmental impact?

RESPONSE

In 2009/10, over 53,000 tonnes of Southwark waste was sent to land fill sites representing 45% of the waste collected.

The Labour administration has made a concerted effort to drive down the amount of waste buried in the ground and has published a target of 95% diversion from land fill by 2018. This will both save money and help the environment.

Our current diversion from land fill rate for 2014/15 matches the target set with just 6,000 tonnes of waste sent to land fill this year. This represents a net saving to the Council of £945,000.

Our environmental impact has also been reduced significantly. Disposing of waste to landfill produces methane and leachate.

- Methane is 21 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.
- Landfill leachate has the potential to pollute groundwater and requires treatment.

By diverting waste away from landfill, typically at Rainham in Kent, to sites such as SELCHP in Deptford for energy recovery, the council is also minimising emissions from fuel used for haulage vehicles.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING) FROM COUNCILLOR SUNNY LAMBE

Thank you Mr Mayor I have a supplemental question to ask, may I thank the cabinet members for their answers to my question. My supplementary question is this, it is very welcomed to hear that the council has made a target for 95% from waste away from landfill. Does the cabinet member believe that there is more to be done to increase our diversion rate even further than this?

RESPONSE

Well thank you for your question, yes there is more that can be done. Landfill diversion is a very serious issue, as you know I put in my answer, taking things to landfills produces 21% more emissions and methane etc and also the transport that takes it, it normally goes down to Rainham in Kent. We are reducing that and one of the ways we are is by our contract with Velio, who take the waste that we cannot recycle or use to the SELCHP centre, which is literally just up the road, saving time - and as a double whammy - reducing omissions from trucks and it also helps heat homes, around about 2,600 homes that will heat, so that has another double whammy on reducing the O2. So the council is very committed in doing all it can to reduce O2 emissions and get landfills down, so hopefully we will be further down by then.

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING) FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS

Can the cabinet member explain how the plans for the Camberwell Old and New Cemeteries will enhance the ecology and biodiversity of the site?

RESPONSE

Accessible green space in the borough is hugely important, as is good quality biodiversity within those green spaces. The plans the council has for the cemeteries is to improve a small area of currently closed off contaminated land by opening it up to the public whilst also helping in the council's plan to have cemetery space for those whose religious or cultural beliefs demand that they give their loved ones their last request in the area they lived in.

The areas of land will be opened up and will be designed in such a way that greatly enhances the bio diversity of the area.

Specifically the plans would:

- Ensure woodland management for currently unmanaged areas in line with recommended best practice
- Create large areas of coppice habitat (currently a rarity in the borough)
- Create a continuous boundary of native hedging/other planting providing a buffer and wildlife corridor – this would be an important habitat
- Allow for the clearance of scrub and self seeded trees that bring forward opportunities for woodland ground flora to flourish; this would be an important habitat
- Create new meadows that are a Biodiversity Action Plan target habitat and would create important new habitat
- Seek to retain as many existing trees as possible on the site
- Deliver overall the diversity of habitats (a mosaic of habitats) would mean that the sites would be more ecologically valuable than at present.

The site is currently a site of importance for nature conservation and this status will be maintained.

Following the community engagement exercise we are reviewing our plans with partners such as London Wildlife Trust. This is to ensure that the plans for new burial space are ecologically sound as they can be and that we retain as much of the current habitat as possible that local people value.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING) FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS

Thank you I would like to thank Councillor Merrill for his response and also to add that I am sure you are aware that there have been various press report for cemeteries, I am really concerned that there have been misinformation being communicated about proposals, for example, some residents seem to think we are selling off all the cemeteries.

How will this cabinet member continue to communicate effectively with residents in my ward and provide assurance that these plans will open up the land to the public

and retain as much as the current habitat as possible?

RESPONSE

Thank you for your question, in fact I am in continuous engagement with other residents, in fact I have had two meetings today, it is a continuous work in progress. I can reassure you quite easily that I am completely engaging, we are looking at how to open this land, we are looking at how to continue our burial service, which many of our residents in their darkest hour with their family need, but that is no reason why we cant do that and make a wonderful place, a green place, for the local residents and I am listening to their concerns and implementing and changing plans to meeting residents needs, it is a balancing act and I am working on it and hopefully you will be at the meeting and we can work together on this.

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING) FROM COUNCILLOR LEO POLLAK

What is the council doing to promote renewable energy options?

RESPONSE

We are committed to leading by example in our expansion of renewable energy technologies to reduce our carbon footprint and our spending on fossil fuels.

Some of the major renewable projects already installed or committed to are noted below:

- Since early 2014, thanks to a new district heating network, 2,600 homes in the borough have been receiving heat and hot water directly from the SELCHP energy from waste facility.

This innovative scheme, the first of its kind in London, removes the long standing reliance on gas boilers, producing very significant carbon savings and other environmental benefits as a result.

Projections are that the network will reduce carbon emissions in the borough by 7,700 tonnes CO₂ a year.

We will be actively seeking future opportunities to expand this district heating network, with potential sites including the proposed major developments at Canada Water.

- We are currently constructing a large scale photovoltaic array on the roof of the Integrated Waste Management Facility off the Old Kent Road.

This array is scheduled to become operational in the next couple of months, and we understand it is the largest of its type in London. The array will generate a projected 660,000 kWh of electricity every year (the equivalent of powering 130 average sized homes), and save 340 tonnes CO₂ a year as well.

- Within our housing stock, our teams are about to initiate a pilot scheme for the installation of solar panels on suitable roofs of estate blocks, starting at

Four Squares and Hawkstone Low-Rise. If these pilots are successful, the intention is to significantly expand this scheme where feasible amongst our housing stock.

- Along with a raft of other energy efficiency measures, solar panels are also being installed as part of the new Castle Leisure Centre at Elephant and Castle, and are planned as part of the refit of the Peckham Pulse leisure centre.

We will of course continue to assess all areas of our operational estate, including schools, for suitability for the future installation of renewable energy measures.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING) FROM COUNCILLOR LEO POLLAK

Thank you sir, I would like to thank the member for environment and recycling for his answer on every thing the council is doing to promote renewable energy options in our borough and it's telling to contrast our flag ship for renewable initiative with that of the Liberal Democrat administration of 2002 and 2010. I think of their flagship renewable initiative, I think of what has come to be an apt symbol of their group, I think of the wind turbines of top of Strata and Elephant and Castle still smug, highly visible, lacking in purpose or momentum. Ours by contrast is the absolutely incredible intergraded waste management facility off the Old Kent Road, which has the largest photovoltaic array on the top of it in all of London and it is projected to generate 660 kilo watts per hour every year, so I would like to ask the cabinet member, would he like to update me on the progress on its construction of solar panels at the new waste facility.

RESPONSE

Yes, thank you for your question. The solar panel facility is the kick start to us bringing in renewable energy onto our estate. I can report I went up there a couple of weeks ago and had a look at them and I must admit beauty is in the eye of the beholder, they are the most beautiful solar panels going - the engineering on them, and I am a builder by trade, so I know what I am talking about, they look wonderful - the guys now are just bringing down the wires, just doing the final connections and I am hoping, in fact the officer might be listening to the tweets going on and I might even get a tweet to say they are flicking the switch or about to flick the switch to our renewable energy strategy.

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING) FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Whilst acknowledging that crime overall in Southwark has fallen quite significantly, there remains a serious problem with the use of knives in offences. What is the council doing to help improve the detection and sanction of offenders?

RESPONSE

I am pleased to state that recorded knife crime in Southwark has almost halved from 324 recorded crimes in 2009/10 to 166 in 2014/15.

Recorded incidents of knife crime with injury have also reduced significantly. From March 2012 – December 2014 the figures have reduced from 73 offences to 31. This is supported by similar reductions in knife crime with injury recorded through the London Ambulance Service.

The council has continued to invest in a number of innovative programmes to improve the sanction detection rates for recorded knife crime incidents this includes:

- Warden Service weapon sweeps – the service carried out weapon sweeps on a weekly basis, and found 30 weapons, including knives, in the financial year 2014-5 to date.
- A youth worker in Kings A&E department – the council has continued to fund a youth worker through Redthread, who provide support for young people who are victims of knife or gun shot injuries. Redthread worked with 50 young people who had assault related injuries. This is not all knife related.
- Southwark Anti Violence Unit- Southwark has an integrated gangs intervention team who have worked with over 140 clients since 2012 and helped 71 into education training or employment. A number of these clients have been victims of knife crime. 56% have not been convicted, arrested or have any cases pending.
- The Youth Offending Service runs anti knife crime group sessions as part of their interventions, focusing on addressing the attitudes and perceptions of carrying a knife.
- Our continuing investment in CCTV network is now bearing fruit with over 10% more offenders brought to justice with the aid of our investment in CCTV.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING) FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Thank you Mr Mayor and I thank the cabinet member for his response, figures released by the Mayor of London show that in 2013-14, Southwark had the lowest figures for sanction and detective rates for knife crime, involving violence injury, in the whole of London; does he agree that this is a very disturbing fact and will he outline what he intends to do to try to make sure we don't stay at the bottom of league next year?

RESPONSE

I thank you for the question you asked. Certainly the figures provided to us by the Metropolitan Police is that the figures have been down for the latest year 2014-15 and we are continuing to work with the police to ensure that there is a high detection rate., Our wardens are playing a massive role in doing that, in doing weapon checks, investment we made in our CCTV are continuing to detect people who are carrying knives. One of the ways in which we can detect knife crimes at quite an early time is to ensure that we have more police officers and that was what this administration campaigned about last year, it was sad not to see so many members opposite supporting the campaigning itself and clearly if we have

more police officers on our streets we can ensure that we identify and detect knife crime. One of the other ways in which we can support it is also ensuring that actually those who should not be having knives in the first instance, that they should not be doing so, and that is why we do have a very good proof of age scheme to ensure that those who are vulnerable and young, that they should not be carrying it and should not do so.

So I will continue to work with the police to ensure that we keep the figures down, as we understand, the figures are down are certainly in line with the London average, we will continue to do so.

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING) FROM COUNCILLOR RADHA BURGESS

Can the cabinet member give an update on the council's Domestic Abuse Strategy?

RESPONSE

I am pleased and proud that the Domestic Abuse Strategy was approved by cabinet last week. The strategy has been a product of community conversations and partnership discussions since last year September.

It reflects this administration's strong commitments to creating a safer and Fairer Future for our residents. The strategy represents a bold and holistic new approach to tackling domestic abuse which has had a devastating effect on victims, their families and our wider community. It also reflects the input of our key partners the Safer Southwark Partnership, Southwark Health and Wellbeing Board, Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board and Southwark Safeguarding Children's Board who have made it a shared priority. Working in a multi-agency partnership remains the most effective way to reduce domestic abuse at both an operational and strategic level and this theme is the fulcrum to the strategy.

Significantly, this strategy reflects the views of local communities in the borough: survivors; support workers and voluntary and community groups' representatives, as well as youth organisations. For at its core, the strategy builds communities' capacity for early prevention by working closer with community leaders, advances greater intervention by health care practitioners, and challenges relevant agencies to take a sterner approach to enforcement. Above all, this strategy makes it unequivocal that this council and its partners will not tolerate any form of domestic abuse.

A detailed delivery plan has been developed alongside the strategy, allowing officers to work on reflecting the strategy's recommendations in our specialist Domestic Abuse services. The re-commissioning of a new service in the summer offers us the ideal opportunity to embed our new approach in the way we support some of the most vulnerable in our community.

The new strategy and the delivery plan will be available on the council's website for both our residents' and partners to hold us to account on how we are progressing and to provide a better support for those affected by Domestic Abuse.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING) FROM COUNCILLOR RADHA BURGESS

Thank you Mr Mayor and I thank the Cabinet member for his answer, this strategy is very welcome particular it's welcome to service users, survivors and the local community have been integral to its development, can the cabinet member provide assurance that the implementation of this strategy will enable greater and more effective early intervention enabling greater levels of prevention as well as enforcement.

RESPONSE

I thank Councillor Burgess for her question, not just for her question but also the role in which she played in the development of this strategy.

One of the reasons why I am quite confident that the recommendations on this strategy would deliver in reducing domestic abuse and addressing domestic abuse in Southwark, it is actually because the council has gone through a huge length of effort to ensure that this reflects community view, that we listen as to what community members and our residents are telling us and survivors are telling us as to what works and what they are telling us is to focus more on early intervention and prevention and some of the recommendations that come out of the strategies they have talked about, how we can have better education within schools, how we can have better education within community group but how we can also train more residents, community leaders to become domestic abuse champions.

I am really, really grateful to the partnership work with the CGP they have been on board through out time and I am really glad that GPs in the future will be playing an instrumental role in ensuring that there is early identification of domestic abuse victims and they are offered support at the earliest, but also just to reassure my friend as well, the cabinet will be having a progress report in about a years time to monitor the progress of how we are getting on in implementing the recommendation itself , I can say you can be rest assured that this will meet the aim of the strategy itself.

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING) FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS

Can the cabinet member give an update on the council's plans to improve the noise service?

RESPONSE

This administration is committed to a zero tolerance approach to noise nuisance. The council handles on average 8,500 calls per annum. Around three quarters of these are rapid response calls where officers aim to attend all ongoing calls within an hour.

As part of the budget planning for 2015/16 the council is increasing investment in the noise service to increase the number of teams who can respond to service requests which require a rapid response.

I have asked officers to look at ways we can make the service to be more effective than present, and whether there is a new approach that we need to adopt to respond to complaints from residents and continue to enhance engagement.

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

Can the cabinet member state whether any Southwark residents with mental health issues have been held in a police cell while awaiting assessment/treatment and, if so, how many in each of the past five years?

RESPONSE

We recognise the importance of ensuring that residents with mental health are assessed and treated in an appropriate place of safety and preferably a mental health provision.

However, we have been unable to obtain the information as to the number of residents held in a police cell while awaiting assessment from the police. We will provide this as soon as it is available, whilst seeking assurances that residents with a diagnosed mental health condition are only assessed in a police cell as a last resort.

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM

Given that the borough now receives record numbers of homeless applications, what steps is the council taking to meet this exceptional demand?

RESPONSE

In 2014 Southwark Council intervened to prevent 1,900 households becoming homeless. However, we are having large numbers of people approaching the council as homeless: 1,511 over the year ending in January 2015 – a 63% increase on the previous year. By January, we had 910 households in temporary accommodation, 36% more than two years ago.

This situation is not only one of misery for those families and individuals, it is also a big drain on the council's budget: whilst we have to date ensured that no family remains in bed and breakfast accommodation for more than 6 weeks, the council's expenditure on temporary accommodation for 2014/15 exceeds the budget by £2.2m.

To address this shortfall, the council is taking several measures:

- New temporary accommodation is being built: a total of 133 units will be ready by July through the Willow Walk, Good Neighbours House (on D'Eynsford Estate) and Northcott House (Waterloo Road) developments.
- A further 50 homes are proposed through a joint procurement vehicle.
- We are now able to use homes as temporary on phase 2 of the Aylesbury Estate rehousing programme as tenants move out of those blocks.

- Longer term, we are developing an underused hostel site to triple the number of units and we are exploring whether to use modular housing options on other sites. These are not “sea containers” as described in the press but high specification modern demountable units that can be installed. Merton, Lewisham and Waltham Forest are already taking similar ideas forward.
- In addition, to ensure that cases are not left pending in temporary accommodation prior to joining the council housing list, we are now ensuring that 100% of homelessness applications are dealt with within 33 working days – this is the first time the council has ever achieved this.

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR JOHNSON SITU

Can the cabinet member give an update on the work being undertaken to resolve the unacceptable failures of heating and hot water supply on Gloucester Grove and North Peckham estates?

RESPONSE

The unfortunate issues that households encountered on the Gloucester Grove and North Peckham estates over the winter, through the failures of the district heating and hot water system was not good enough.

These failures led to an intermittent supply of heating and hot water over a twelve week period, with residents experiencing no heating or hot water or low temperatures over this time.

The council apologised to residents and agreed to compensate them for the inconvenience and any additional costs incurred. Because of our concerns at the performance of T Brown Group in addressing the faults, we transferred the repair work for this system to OCO in early February. OCO currently have the best performance indicators of any of the council’s main repairs contractors.

The council also commissioned an independent consultants’ report from Phoenix Compliancy Management to investigate the reasons behind the failures and review the longer term issues with the system and they have made a number of recommendations for the council to implement in the short and medium term. The report identified some issues with the planned preventative maintenance of the boilers and plant, but concluded that the main cause of the outages was bursts to the underground distribution pipework, and that the replacement of the remaining old sections of the pipework should be undertaken as soon as possible.

The report and recommendations were shared with residents of both estates so that they can give their views on how we could make improvements. Having taken on board residents’ feedback, officers are preparing options that include main pipework replacement, secondary pipework and radiator replacement and the decommissioning of the existing district system and replacement with individual systems. Options and timescales for this major work will be presented to both tenants and residents associations over the coming weeks.

Apart from some localised problems the district system had been in full working order since 29 January. However, there was a disruption to the whole estate on 13

March which was due to another burst on the underground distribution pipework that was traced and remedied on the day by OCO.

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR LUCAS GREEN

Can the cabinet member for housing tell me when tenants of Setchell Estate can expect to have new kitchens and bathrooms fitted?

RESPONSE

I am delighted to be able to report that last month cabinet agreed that the Warm, Dry and Safe programme work for Alscot Way, Curtis Way, Hazel Way and Setchell Way on the Setchell Estate that starts later this year will now include the provision of new kitchens and bathrooms.

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR BEN JOHNSON

Is the cabinet member satisfied with the outcome of the recent review of the council's evictions policy?

RESPONSE

The recent review, initiated after the outcome of the Mr AA case, looked at 66 evictions since April 2013, covering 20% of evictions in that period. All councillors were invited to submit cases that they thought warranted further investigation as part of this review: one was received, which was included in this work. Of the 66 cases, 65 were found to have been carried out in full compliance with council procedure. In the remaining case (an eviction due to illegal occupation) insufficient records were input into the iWorld system but further investigation demonstrated that the eviction had been carried out correctly and that there had been no items left requiring storage.

Since the events that led to the destruction of Mr AA's property, a number of steps have been taken and measuring their effectiveness formed part of the review. These included:

- Updating the Rent income and Arrears procedure to clarify roles
- Adding the requirement that the Resident Services Officer records whether or not storage was required for each eviction
- Also adding a procedural step so that the Income Officer attending the eviction must call the Income Team Leader to confirm their presence on site
- Improved training of staff on eviction and goods storage procedures.

Whilst the review concluded that in 65 of the 66 cases procedures had been fully complied with (including the case referred by a councillor), it also made further recommendations:

- Amendments to our information systems to record confirmation of attendance at evictions
- Amendments to the recording on information systems where a case is with Legal Services
- On-going quarterly reviews of evictions to ensure legal and procedural requirements have been complied with
- Regular reviews and updates of Rent Income and Arrears procedures

- On-going training of all officers on procedures and information system requirements.

All of these are now being implemented.

Given the scope of the review, the ability of members to put forward cases for consideration as part of this review, the fact that the review demonstrated that there has been a considerable improvement in our evictions procedures and processes since the Mr AA case and the helpful recommendations that have come forward as part of the review, I am satisfied with its outcome.

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR EVELYN AKOTO

Can the cabinet member for housing give an update on when Warm, Dry and Safe works will start at Caroline Gardens? Can he confirm that this work will now include fitting new kitchens and bathrooms?

RESPONSE

Caroline Gardens estate is a Grade 2 listed building. As a consequence, conservation protocols have delayed the start of the Warm, Dry and Safe programme scheduled for the estate.

These protocols require a conservation report to be written to support the work that is planned and to demonstrate to conservation officers that the work will not compromise the listed status of these homes. This report is now complete and is now being discussed with planners.

Subject to negotiations with Planning Conservation, we expect to be on site by this August.

I can confirm that the cabinet's February decision to include new kitchens and bathrooms as part of Warm, Dry and Safe work starting from this April onwards specifically included Caroline Gardens and so this work will now be included within the scope of the works on the estate.

The key criteria for the upgrade are the renewal of kitchens over 20 years old and of bathrooms over 30 years old. In addition, any kitchens failing our Housing Health & Safety Rating System test will be renewed.

I know residents of Caroline Gardens will welcome this news and I hope this is some compensation for the delay in starting the much needed improvements to their homes.

30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Why is the council not implementing its Warm, Dry and Safe policy of ensuring "windows in good condition or double glazed with secure locks" for acquired street properties and instead leaving tenants with cold, wet, dangerous ancient sash windows, well over 40 years old, which consist of more putty, filler and rot than wood and are often without window locks?

RESPONSE

The Warm, Dry and Safe standard ensures that all residents' windows will be wind and water tight.

The current Warm, Dry and Safe brief for street properties is to repair the existing windows and decorate as and where required to ensure that this standard is achieved and are in a secure state. The council will also renew sections of any such windows that are beyond reasonable repair on a like for like basis.

31. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR KIERON WILLIAMS

How is the council working with schools to improve safety on roads around schools?

RESPONSE

We want to ensure that schools, children and families are able to cycle safely in the borough and that there are many opportunities to encourage and support young people and schools that welcome sustainable transport options.

All schools and their wider communities are offered a comprehensive road safety education, training and publicity programme (please see figure 1 below which shows take up in 2014/15). This is complemented by the work officers do in assisting schools in developing their school travel plans which encourage staff and pupils to walk and cycle to and from school safely.

There are currently 43 schools in the borough which have an accredited travel plan and officers are working with approximately 20 more schools to achieve accredited status. School Travel Plans enable schools to raise any safety issues around schools which they may have such as illegal/inconsiderate parking, lack of signs, lines, guard-railing etc. In 2014/15 officers are progressing 12 such issues for individual schools with more planned for 15/16.

In addition, we run a school crossing patrol service, providing 47 school crossing patrols across the borough.

We are actively working with the Dulwich and Herne Hill Safe Routes to School group and have funded the provision of a 'Bike It' officer to work with this group for 2 years.

I am pleased that we have been successful in attracting over £200,000 of TfL capital funding under the Cycle to School partnership programme to make significant improvements to the East Dulwich Grove/Townley Road junction, which is heavily used by school children on foot and by bike due to the close proximity of 8 schools.

Complementing the wider offer and commitment to enhancing sustainable transport options within the borough, we are developing a new Cycle Strategy which is scheduled to be agreed by cabinet in June 2015. A central principle of this strategy is 'cycling for everyone' and it will prioritise improving cycle access to schools.

We have recently fully implemented the borough-wide 20mph limit and police enforcement of it has commenced although we continue to press the police to do more.

We will continue to actively enforce 'school keep clear' markings outside schools, including by CCTV, to reduce the danger to schoolchildren of illegal parking.

A number of other highway improvement schemes include significant benefits for schools – for example the road safety and access improvements project in Grove Hill Road, approved for implementation in summer 2015, will deliver substantial road safety improvements around Dog Kennel Hill School in Camberwell.

Figure 1 Snapshot

Road Safety Education	Pupils	Schools
Pedestrian Training	2878	34 schools
Independent Travel Training Bus	300	N/A
Theatre in Education	5766	40 schools
Road Safety Talks	1570	10 schools
Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTA)	36	9 schools
Road Safety Quiz	24	12 schools
Scooter Training	120	3 schools
Junior Citizen Scheme	1111	27 schools
Cyclist Training	1800	N/A

32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN

Can the cabinet member explain why car parking is being permitted for some larger, high value developments when we are supposed to be a borough that is promoting walking and cycling?

RESPONSE

Many larger developments are required to provide disabled parking spaces within the site. Any additional parking is considered on a case by case basis. Current policy does not prohibit such parking provision, but instead specifies maximum allowable levels of provision, with the ratio allowed dependent on location in the borough. On occasion discussion around parking is part of a wider analysis around viability which may be linked to key objectives such as securing affordable homes in the borough.

We currently have a 'car free' policy, but this relates to the non-provision of on-street parking permits rather than parking within the development. Consultation on options for the New Southwark Plan has been carried out recently, with further consultation planned in the current year. The council is proposing new parking standards as part of this process which would further restrict parking within new developments. The proposed standards are consistent with changes to the London Plan and in some cases more restrictive. In effect, the proposed standards would severely limit non-disabled parking in new developments in areas of very good public transport provision.

I am committed to facilitating a significant increase in levels of cycling in the borough. A new Cycling Strategy will be considered for adoption by cabinet in June. The Strategy sets out a range of measures to promote cycling to the whole community and complements existing policies such as overall traffic reduction, as well as the new standards proposed in the New Southwark Plan. The Cycling Strategy and the New Southwark Plan are closely linked with new developments required to deliver the objectives of the Strategy.

33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Now that the consultation on the New Southwark Plan has ended, what weight will be given to the comments made by local residents?

RESPONSE

We will listen to and consider all responses to the New Southwark Plan consultation.

The approach to the Issues and Options for the New Southwark Plan was to set out a clear vision with regeneration and protection strategies for the all areas within Southwark. A clear strategy and set of policies for areas and issues such as housing, offices, protected shopping frontages, the environment, conservation and community facilities provides information on how the policies will be framed. Other policy subjects such as preferred industrial locations and town centre boundaries have more open questions. This approach has enabled us to consult on all of the issues so that we can listen to responses in the preparation of the Preferred Option whilst focusing resources on the areas of significant change. We have received around 320 responses on the plan. These are being logged and put on the web.

This highlighting of specific areas where we need people to respond to the key questions such as building 11,000 council homes, building affordable and shared ownership homes and how to provide local jobs for local people will enable us to focus resources on listening and responding to where decisions need to be made.

We carried out community conversations, went to meetings and we have set up conversations about the major changes. A new Old Kent Road forum is now meeting where people are keen for community involvement in an ambitious plan for change.

The responses will be summarised in the consultation plan for the Preferred Option. This will also set out how policies and strategies have been changed to make changes based on the comments. This will be taken to cabinet in the autumn as part of agreeing the Preferred Option for consultation.

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES OKOSUN

Can the cabinet member provide a list of secondary school offers made this year by order of preference broken down by community council area?

RESPONSE

It would be a lengthy exercise for the schools team to pull together the detail on applications by family address by community council areas. I have asked that the schools team continue to prioritise their work on primary admissions and instead provide a breakdown of secondary school offers made this year by order of preference broken down by postcode.

“*Preference 21s*” are those allocated a place manually.

Percentages are a percentage of the applicants for that particular postcode – i.e. 61.7% of applicants from an address in SE1 received their 1st preference, 19.6% received their 2nd, 9.3% their 3rd, and so on. The summary statistics in the last 2 columns total those in a particular postcode getting one of their first three choices, and one of their 6 choices.

POSTCODE AREA	PREFERENCES							SUMMARY STATISTICS	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	21	1 to 3	1 to 6
SE1	61.7%	19.6%	9.3%	3.3%	1.0%	0.8%	4.3%	90.7%	95.7%
SE11	63.6%	22.7%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%	86.4%	95.5%
SE14	25.0%	37.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	37.5%	62.5%	62.5%
SE15	57.5%	20.3%	10.5%	4.2%	2.3%	0.7%	4.6%	88.2%	95.4%
SE16	59.0%	17.9%	11.9%	2.6%	0.8%	0.3%	7.5%	88.8%	92.5%
SE17	69.4%	14.7%	7.1%	1.7%	0.8%	0.6%	5.7%	91.2%	94.3%
SE19	25.0%	25.0%	16.7%	25.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	66.7%	100.0%
SE21	56.7%	16.4%	9.0%	9.0%	1.5%	0.0%	7.5%	82.1%	92.5%
SE22	46.9%	15.9%	10.6%	9.0%	4.1%	2.9%	10.6%	73.5%	89.4%
SE23	61.5%	0.0%	7.7%	15.4%	7.7%	0.0%	7.7%	69.2%	92.3%
SE24	92.3%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	1.9%	96.2%	98.1%
SE26	40.0%	20.0%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	60.0%	80.0%
SE4	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
SE5	64.1%	16.4%	8.1%	4.7%	0.8%	0.8%	5.2%	88.5%	94.8%
SE8	70.0%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	90.0%	90.0%
Grand Total	60.5%	17.6%	9.4%	4.2%	1.6%	0.8%	6.0%	87.4%	94.0%

Raw figures

POSTCODE_AREA	1	2	3	4	5	6	21	Grand Total
SE1	245	78	37	13	4	3	17	397
SE11	14	5		2			1	22
SE14	2	3					3	8
SE15	352	124	64	26	14	4	28	612
SE16	227	69	46	10	3	1	29	385
SE17	245	52	25	6	3	2	20	353
SE19	3	3	2	3	1			12
SE21	38	11	6	6	1		5	67
SE22	115	39	26	22	10	7	26	245
SE23	8		1	2	1		1	13
SE24	48	2			1		1	52
SE26	2	1		1			1	5

SE4		1						1
SE5	246	63	31	18	3	3	20	384
SE8	7		2				1	10
Grand Total	1552	451	240	109	41	20	153	2566

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Can the cabinet member update us on the council's work so far to ensure vocational education is provided for local young people at the former Southwark College site in Drummond Road and whether the s106 funding allocated from The Shard development has been used to support it?

RESPONSE

The former Southwark College site at Drummond Road was sold by the Lewisham and Southwark College Corporation to the developers Grosvenor about three years ago. Included in the sale was the requirement to provide a new school on the site. The Compass Secondary school opened on the site in September 2013.

The sale of the site has been used to fund the development of the college site at Waterloo. Phase one of this development is nearly complete and the second phase is well under way. When complete, Southwark residents will have access to some of the best vocational facilities in London. £0.5m of Section 106 funding from The Shard has also been invested in work-related learning facilities at the Waterloo site.

Whilst no Section 106 funding is being used to directly support learning at Drummond Road, it is specifically linked to a number of projects that support the Council's aim of building a strong local economy and providing the best start in life. Funding from The Shard s106 supports a range of projects geared towards getting local residents into training and employment across the borough. For example, through the innovative partnership project with Good People, we are on track to get 300 unemployed residents and school/college leavers into work by January 2016.



Council Assembly (Annual Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Annual Meeting) held on Saturday 16 May 2015
at 12.45 pm at Southwark Cathedral, Montague Close, London Bridge SE1 9DA

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2014/15, Councillor Sunil Chopra
The Worshipful the Mayor for 2015/16, Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE

Councillor Evelyn Akoto	Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Jasmine Ali	Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Maisie Anderson	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Radha Burgess	Councillor Jane Lyons
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Stephanie Cryan	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Catherine Dale	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Helen Dennis	Councillor Jamille Mohammed
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Karl Eastham	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Paul Fleming	Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Tom Flynn	Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Chris Gonde	Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Lucas Green	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Jon Hartley	Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Ben Johnson	Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Eleanor Kerlake	Councillor Bill Williams
Councillor Sarah King	Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Anne Kirby	Councillor Mark Williams
	Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor Sunil Chopra, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Thereafter he welcomed Councillor Helen Dennis to the council following her election as councillor for Chaucer ward. He went on to announce that two local councillors, Councillor Neil Coyle and Councillor Helen Hayes had been elected to take seats in Parliament, and he wished them well in their new role.

The outgoing Mayor announced that the leaders of each political group wished to make a statement.

Thereafter, Councillors Peter John, Anood Al-Samerai and Michael Mitchell paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor.

The outgoing Mayor asked for nominations for Mayor for the ensuing municipal year 2015/16.

Councillor Peter John, seconded by Councillor Ian Wingfield, moved that Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Southwark for the municipal year 2015/16.

The nomination was put to the vote and it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle be elected Mayor for the 2015/16 municipal year.

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle accepted the office of Mayor. The outgoing Mayor declared that Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle was duly elected Mayor of Southwark for 2015/16.

The retiring Mayor, Councillor Sunil Chopra invested the Mayor-elect, Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, with the badge of office. The new Mayor signed the declaration of acceptance of office and took the chair.

Thereafter, the retiring Mayor and his consort were presented with a replica of the Mayoral badge of the London Borough of Southwark.

The new Mayor stated that her consort would be her brother, Samuel Dixon-Fyle, and that family and friends would accompany her to some events.

The new Mayor appointed Councillor Kath Whittam as Deputy Mayor. Her consort will be her husband, Dr Julian Holmes. The Deputy Mayor was invested with the badge of office.

The retiring Mayor, Sunil Chopra, gave his outgoing speech.

The new Mayor gave her incoming speech and announced that her chosen charities would be Guy's Hospital new cancer treatment centre appeal and The British Red Cross. The Mayor also stated that she would be supporting the work of local emerging charity, The Mummum Foundation, which seeks to give mothers suffering with cancer days away at spas or other places of their choice to make them feel special and loved.

2. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

2.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There were no announcements.

2.2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

There were no late items of business.

2.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest.

2.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Vijay Luthra and Hamish McCallum.

3. OTHER REPORTS

3.1 EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS 2015/16

(See pages 1 – 4 of the main agenda and pages 1 – 11 of the leader's report)

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 4.4. the leader of the council, Councillor Peter John, reported on the appointment of members of the cabinet and the determination and allocation of their functions (see below for full list of the cabinet and deputy cabinet members).

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly noted the leader's report on changes to the delegation of executive functions.
2. That council assembly noted that as a consequence of the above the proper constitutional officer will update Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the leader's report on the delegation of executive functions.

Cabinet

Councillor Peter John – Leader of the Council

Councillor Ian Wingfield - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Business, Employment and Culture

Councillor Fiona Colley - Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation and Performance

Councillor Richard Livingstone - Cabinet Member for Housing

Councillor Mark Williams - Cabinet Member for Regeneration and New Homes

Councillor Darren Merril - Cabinet Member for Environment and the Public Realm

Councillor Barrie Hargrove - Cabinet Member for Public Health, Parks and Leisure

Councillor Stephanie Cryan - Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Financial Inclusion

Councillor Victoria Mills - Cabinet Member for Children and Schools

Councillor Michael Situ - Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety

Deputy Cabinet Members

The Leader appointed four deputy cabinet members to serve for the year:

Councillor Radha Burgess - Deputy Cabinet Member for Digital Strategy

Councillor Leo Pollak - Deputy Cabinet Member for Excellence in Design

Councillor Karl Eastham - Deputy Cabinet Member for Careers and Employability

Councillor Evelyn Akoto - Deputy Cabinet Member for Young People.

3.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES, COMMUNITY COUNCILS, PANELS AND RELATED MATTERS 2015/16

(See pages 5 – 17 of the main agenda)

The Mayor stated that in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11(2), this being an officer report, the recommendations set out in the report were deemed to have been moved, and were subject to amendment only. She announced that she intended to consider each recommendation where a decision was needed separately.

The Mayor stated that two nominations had been received for the position of chair of the overview and scrutiny committee, Councillors Gavin Edwards and Rosie Shimell. No further nominations were forthcoming, therefore the nominations were put to the vote and council assembly appointed Councillor Gavin Edwards as chair of the overview and scrutiny committee for the municipal year 2015/16.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the appointment of political group leaders, deputies and whips be noted as follows:

LABOUR GROUP

Leader	Councillor Peter John
Deputy Leader	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Chief Whip	Councillor Dan Garfield

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP

Leader	Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
Deputy Leader	Councillor David Noakes
Chief Whip	Councillor David Hubber

CONSERVATIVE GROUP

Leader	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Deputy Leader	Councillor Jane Lyons
Chief Whip	Councillor Michael Mitchell

2. That the division of seats and percentage allocation of each political group on the council be noted as follows:

Table 1: Division of seats

Group	Total	%
Labour	48	76.19
Liberal Democrat	13	20.64
Conservative	2	3.17
Total	63	100.00

3. That the following committees and community councils be established for the coming municipal year 2015/16:

Table 2: Ordinary Committees - Total number of seats 35

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem	Con
Committee 1 Appointments Committee	7	6	1	0
Committee 2 Planning Committee	8	5	2	1
Committee 3 Standards Committee	7	5	2	0
Committee 4	6	5	1	0

Audit and Governance Committee				
Committee 5 Corporate Parenting Committee	7	6	1	0
Total	35	27	7	1

Table 3: Other committees - Total number of seats 26

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem	Con
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11	8	3	0
Licensing Committee	15	11	3	1

Table 4: Community councils

1.	Bermondsey and Rotherhithe
2.	Borough, Bankside and Walworth
3.	Camberwell
4.	Dulwich
5.	Peckham and Nunhead

Note: The membership of community councils is set out in Article 8 of the constitution (see paragraph 46 of the report).

Health and wellbeing board

4. That the health and wellbeing board be established as a committee of the council under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 with the membership set out in paragraph 42 of the report.
5. That it be noted that the local authority membership is nominated by the leader of the council. In accordance with committee procedure rules, the board is chaired by the leader.

Appointment of chairs and vice chairs

6. That the following be appointed as chairs and vice chairs for the committees and community councils outlined below:

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Chair - Councillor Peter John

Vice chair – Councillor Ian Wingfield

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Chair - Councillor Paul Fleming
 Vice chair - Councillor James Barber

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE

Chair - Councillor Victoria Mills (Appointment of cabinet member for children and schools formally noted)
 Vice chair - Councillor Eliza Mann

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Chair - Councillor Renata Hamvas
 Vice chair - Councillor Adele Morris

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Chair - Councillor Gavin Edwards
 Vice chair - Councillor Rosie Shimell

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chair - Councillor Nick Dolezal
 Vice Chair - Councillor Sarah King

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Chair - Councillor Chris Gonde
 Vice chair - Councillor David Hubber

COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Bermondsey and Rotherhithe

Chair - Councillor Bill Williams
 Vice chair - Councillor Sunny Lambe

Borough, Bankside and Walworth

Chair - Councillor Martin Seaton
 Vice chair - Councillor Eleanor Kerlake

Camberwell

Chair - Councillor Kieron Williams
 Vice chair - Councillor Chris Gonde

Dulwich

Chair - Councillor Jon Hartley
 Vice chair - Councillor Charlie Smith

Peckham and Nunhead

Chair - Councillor Johnson Situ
Vice chair - Councillor Cleo Soanes.

Establishment of the council's panels

7. That the following council panels be established (see paragraph 57 of the report):

Table 5: Panels - Total number of seats 18

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem	Con
Council assembly business panel	5	3	1	1
Constitutional steering panel	5	3	1	1
Pensions advisory panel	3	2	1	0
Voluntary bodies appointment panel	5	4	1	0

8. That Councillor Dan Garfield be appointed chair of the Constitutional Steering Panel and Councillor Ian Wingfield be appointed chair of the Voluntary Bodies Appointment Panel.

Urgency committee

9. That the role of the urgency committee between a municipal election and the annual meeting of council assembly, as agreed by council assembly on 26 March 2014, be noted as set out in paragraphs 59 – 60 of the report.

Appointments to Local Government Association General Assembly

10. That the three councillors listed below be appointed as the representatives to attend the LGA General Assembly (see paragraph 61 of the report), with the following votes:

Representative	No. of votes	Group
Councillor Peter John	3	Labour
Councillor Ian Wingfield	1	Labour
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	1	Liberal Democrat

3.3 NOMINATIONS TO LONDON COUNCILS COMMITTEES, GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM, BOROUGH LEAD MEMBERS AND LONDON COUNCILS LIMITED

(see pages 18 – 23 of the main agenda)

The Mayor stated that, in accordance with council assembly procedure 2.11(2), this being an officer report, the recommendations set out in the report were deemed to have been moved, and were subject to amendment only.

The nominations were circulated on green paper. The Mayor stated that none of the nominations were contested, therefore the nominations outlined on the green paper were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. LONDON COUNCILS LEADERS' COMMITTEE (S101 JOINT COMMITTEE)

Councillor Peter John

Deputies - Councillors Fiona Colley and Ian Wingfield

2. LONDON COUNCILS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (S101 ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE)

Councillor Darren Merrill

Deputy - Councillor Barrie Hargrove

3. LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE (ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE)

Councillor Michael Situ

Deputies - Councillors Fiona Colley, Barrie Hargrove, Ian Wingfield and Darren Merrill

4. PENSIONS COMMON INVESTMENT VEHICLE (CIV) SECTORAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Councillor Fiona Colley

Deputy - vacant

5. GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM

Councillor Fiona Colley

Deputy - Councillor Ian Wingfield

6. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Councillor Victoria Mills

7. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CRIME AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

Councillor Michael Situ

8. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CULTURE AND TOURISM

Councillor Ian Wingfield

9. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/REGENERATION

Councillor Mark Williams

10. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

Councillor Ian Wingfield

11. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES

Councillor Stephanie Cryan

12. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HOUSING

Councillor Richard Livingstone

13. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – PLANNING/ INFRASTRUCTURE

Councillor Mark Williams

14. LONDON COUNCILS LIMITED

Councillor Peter John.

7. AMENDMENTS

There were no amendments.

The meeting closed at 2.00 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN) (MINUTES)
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16**

NOTE: Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to
Lesley John Tel: 020 7525 7228

ONE COPY TO ALL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	Copies	To	Copies
Councillors (1 copy each)	55	Others	1
Electronic Versions (No hard copy)		Elizabeth Olive, Audit Commission Ground Floor, Tooley Street	1
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai			
Councillor Maisie Anderson			
Councillor Fiona Colley			
Councillor Karl Eastham			
Councillor Gavin Edwards			
Councillor Jon Hartley			
Councillor Sarah King			
Councillor Michael Situ			
Group Offices	2		
Aine Gallagher, Labour Group Office	1		
Niko Baar, Liberal Democrat Group Office	1		
Libraries	2		
Albion / Newington	1 each		
Officers	5		
Eleanor Kelly	1		
Duncan Whitfield	1		
Doreen Forrester-Brown	1		
Ian Millichap	1		
Constitutional Team (Copies to Lesley John, 2 nd Floor, Hub 4, Tooley Street)	15		
		Total:	90
		Last Updated: June 2015	