

Council Assembly (Ordinary meeting)

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

Supplemental Agenda No. 2

List of Contents

Item No	o. Title	Page No.
2.1.	Petitions	1 - 2
	A petition has been received from the following:	
	Save Southwark Woods	
2.2.	Public question time	3
	Three public questions have been received.	
3.1.	Community Evidence	4 - 5
	Community evidence has been received from the following:	
	SE1 parents	
4.	Other Deputations	6 - 8
	Deputation requests have been received from the following:	
	 Deputation on the council's future cemetery intentions Southwark Defend Council Housing Aylesbury Tenants and Leaseholders First 	
	 Camberwell Campus of Lewisham Southwark College, Southampton Way, Camberwell SE5 7EW 	
8.	Amendments	9 - 17

Contact

Lesley John or Andrew Weir on 020 7525 7228 or 020 7525 7222 or email: lesley.john@southwark.gov.uk; andrew.weir@southwark.gov.uk; constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk
Webpage: http://www.southwark.gov.uk

Date: 7 July 2015

Item No.	Classification:	Date:	Meeting Name:
2.1	Open	8 July 2015	Council Assembly
Report title:		Petition – Woods of Cemeteries	Camberwell Old and New
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly consider a petition from the Save Southwark Woods Campaign regarding the proposed felling of over 30 mature trees and other woodland to make way for more than 2,000 new burial plots.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2. A petition containing 1,500 signatures or more maybe presented to the Mayor at council assembly. A petition can be submitted by a person of any age who lives, works or studies in Southwark. Petitions must relate to matters which the council has powers or duties or which affects Southwark.
- At the meeting, the spokesperson for the petition will be invited to speak for up to five minutes on the subject matter. Council assembly will debate the petition for a period of up to 15 minutes and may decide how to respond to the petition at the meeting.
- 4. Council assembly should decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. A decision could be made to:
 - Take the action the petition requests
 - Not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or
 - To commission further investigation into the matter.
- 5. Any relevant resource or community impact issues will be contained in the comments of the strategic director.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. A petition containing over 4,500 signatures has been received from the Save Southwark Woods campaign, the petition states:

'Save the beautiful wild woods of Camberwell Old and New Cemeteries for people, for nature and for the future!

Southwark Council is planning to destroy the woods of Camberwell Old and New Cemeteries, including felling over 30 mature trees, to make way for more than 2,000 new burial plots. Woodlands are the lungs of London. We want the cemeteries turned into local Nature Reserves, as with Nunhead Cemetery. Both cemeteries are part of the London Green Chain Walk and Camberwell Old Cemetery is a Grade 1 Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. These wonderful woodlands are home to protected species, a wild tangle of

trees and undergrowth, a haven of habitats and they are valuable to nature, to people and to the future.

These woodlands provide many valuable benefits locally, cleaning the air, absorbing and filtering storm water, keeping the neighbourhood cool in summer, and providing beautiful, natural places for our mental and physical well-being.

Sign the petition and help Save Southwark Woods!'

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Petition Request File	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TZ	Lesley John 020 7525 7228
Council Assembly Procedure Rule 2.4, Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TZ	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager		
Report Author	Lesley John, Const	itutional Officer	
Version	Final		
Dated	7 July 2015		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION	WITH OTHER OFF	ICERS / DIRECTORAT	ES / CABINET
MEMBER			
Officer Title	Officer Title Comments sought Comments included		
Strategic Director of Environment and		No	No
Leisure			
Strategic Director of Finance and			
Strategic Director of	f Finance and	No	No
Strategic Director of Corporate Services		No	No
		No Yes	No No

Item No. 2.2	Classification: Open	Date: 8 July 2015	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Public Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

1. QUESTION FROM MR KELLAND TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE

How many cases are outstanding on refunding a deceased estate's claim for a refund of overpaid council tax?

2. QUESTION FROM MR BLAMEY TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM

As the proposed £5.1 million to develop the cemeteries is effectively a subsidy from Southwark tax payers to a burial service which could be provided more cheaply to be eaved families and Southwark tax payers only a few miles away, does the councillor believe he has fulfilled Promise 1 "Value for Money" of "Fairer Future Promises"?

3. QUESTION FROM MR SCARLETT TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM

In regards to the development of the cemeteries in Southwark, why has the council not commissioned an i-tree survey or even a Capital Assets Valuation of Amenity Trees (CAVAT) survey to ascertain project parameters?

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	6 July 2015	

Item No. 3.1	Classification: Open	Date: 8 July 2015	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Community Evidence on the Themed Debate	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Introduction

1. On 24 March 2015 the council assembly business panel met to agree the themes for 2015/16 meetings of council assembly. The panel agreed that the theme for July council assembly should be 'schools, standards and places'.

Community evidence on the theme

- 2. The deadline for community evidence was midnight, Thursday, 2 July 2015.
- 3. The following requests have been received by the deadline for consideration by this meeting and they are listed in the order received below:
- 4. Which community evidence shall be considered and the length of each submission will be established by way of a programme motion at the start of council assembly. Community evidence shall be conducted under the existing rules for public participation.

Submissions

SE1 Parents

To provide a presentation on their campaign for a new secondary school, in the north of the borough, requesting that councillors support the planning process to ensure a new school can be built and run.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Constitution	160 Tooley Street	Constitutional Team
	London	constitutional.team@southwark.
	SE1 2QH	gov.uk
		020 7525 7228

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

Lead Officer	ad Officer Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager				
Report Author	Andrew Weir, Cons	titutional Officer			
Version	Final				
Dated	6 July 2015				
Key decision?	No				
CONSULTATION	CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET				
	MEN	IBER			
Officer title	Officer title Comments sought Comments included				
Director of Legal Services No			No		
Strategic Director of	of Finance and	No	No		
Corporate Services					
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member No No				
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team 6 July 2015					

Item No.	Classification:	Date:	Meeting Name:
4.	Open	8 July 2015	Council Assembly
Report title:		Deputation Requests	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly considers whether or not to hear a deputation from the groups listed in paragraph 5 of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2. The full list of public requests to be heard at this meeting is set out in item 3 elsewhere on the agenda. Council assembly procedure rule 2.6 (11) states that no more than three deputations shall be considered at any one meeting. However the meeting can decide to suspend this rule in order to hear more or vary the order.
- 3. When considering whether to hear the deputation request, council assembly can decide:
 - to receive the deputation at this meeting or a future meeting; or
 - that the deputation not be received; or
 - to refer the deputation to the most appropriate committee/sub-committee.
- 4. A deputation shall consist of no more than six people, including its spokesperson. One member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the meeting for no longer than 5 minutes. The deputation spokesperson or any member of the deputation nominated by him or her shall be invited to ask a question of the leader or relevant cabinet member. After this time councillors may ask questions of the deputation for up to 5 minutes. At the conclusion of the questions, members of the deputation will be shown to the public seating area where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Deputation requests

- 5. The following deputation request has been received:
 - 1. Deputation on the council's future cemetery intentions

The deputation request states:

I have been a Funeral Director in Southwark for a decade and would very much like to give a deputation in defence of the council's future cemetery intentions.

Being able to bury your loved one in the area you live and love is extremely important.

I have lived and worked in Southwark my whole life; I have served the bereaved people of Southwark for a decade and know the compulsory need for bereaved families to have the option of laying their loved ones to rest in the land they lived and loved. I wish to also discuss the various financial repercussions Southwark residents would have if they had to bury loved ones out of the borough and in private cemeteries. I will ensure that all is covered whilst taking the environmental consequences into consideration.

2. Southwark Defend Council Housing

The deputation request states:

We would like to address the council assembly to ask them to rethink the programme of demolitions on the Aylesbury Estate and urge them to ensure that the building of new homes is not dependent on the demolition of council homes on other estates.

3. Aylesbury Tenants and Leaseholders First

Many Southwark councillors seem not to be aware of the past and continuing strength of opposition on the Aylesbury Estate by residents who wish to save their council homes, the Aylesbury Estate, from demolition, nor of the quality of these light, spacious, solid, decent homes.

Our petition provides evidence of the number of Aylesbury residents demanding:

- Refurbishment not demolition don't destroy our council homes
- Respect for the ballot held in 2001 when tenants voted overwhelmingly to remain in council ownership, or conduct another ballot and respect the result

Our deputation complements that from Southwark Defend Council Housing.

4. Camberwell Campus of Lewisham Southwark College, Southampton Way, Camberwell SE5 7EW

We, the staff of the Camberwell Campus of Lewisham Southwark College request to send a deputation to address the Council on 8 July 2015. The current management of Lewisham Southwark College propose to close the Camberwell Campus in order to sell it off. This proposal has been put to the Board of Governors, who will meet on 14 July 2015, and the final decision will be made by them then.

We oppose the proposed closure of the Camberwell Campus on the following grounds:

 We believe that the Camberwell campus is a vital educational asset for the borough. Its closure, following the sale of the Bermondsey Campus in 2013, will leave the Waterloo Campus as the only remaining FE campus in Southwark, and as you may be aware, the Waterloo Campus is practically in Lambeth. Whole areas of Southwark (eg Camberwell, Peckham) will be denied viable access to FE provision.

- Once the Camberwell Campus has been sold it cannot be recovered. This will
 be a permanent loss to the borough, which cannot be replaced. There is no
 possibility that Lewisham Southwark College can find alternative
 accommodation for FE provision elsewhere in Southwark to the same extent.
- It is our understanding that the rationale for the sale of the Camberwell campus is to cover an anticipated shortfall in the college budget for 2015/16.
 We believe that it is no part of any reasonable business plan to sell off key capital assets to cover loss of funding, especially when there has been no attempt to explore alternative income streams.

We would like to address the council to ask for support against the closure of the Camberwell Campus, and to request that the council fill the 'empty seat' that they have vacated on the Board of Governors of Lewisham Southwark College. We feel that one of the main problems that the college has had in recent years is through inadequate oversight of management, and that the council's involvement on the Board would help to rectify this.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Deputation Request File	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Lesley John 020 7525 7228
Council Assembly Procedure Rule 2.6, Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager				
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Constitutional Officer				
Version	Final				
Dated	6 July 2015				
Key Decision?	No				
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET					
MEMBER					
Title		Comments sought	Comments included		
Director of Legal Services		No	No		
Strategic Director Finance & Corporate		No	No		
Services					
Cabinet Member		No	No		
Date final report sent to Co	nstitutiona	I Team	6 July 2015		

AMENDMENTS

ITEM 3.2 - MEMBERS MOTION ON THE THEME: SCHOOLS, STANDARDS AND PLACES (see pages 1 - 2 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT A

Moved: Councillor James Barber

Delete all and **insert**:

- 1. Council assembly welcomes the progress being made by the council, school providers and teachers in increasing supply for primary and secondary school places and in driving up standards for educational achievement, but recognises that the council needs to develop a clear long-term strategy for school places.
- Council assembly recognises the incredible work of Southwark schools, where
 results and performance are rising and scores continue to be above the national
 average and contrasts this with the pre-2002 situation where standards in
 Southwark schools were so concerning that the then Labour government had
 taken control away from the council.
- 3. Council assembly notes the vital contribution that Pupil Premium payments make to schools to raise the attainment levels of disadvantaged pupils and help close the gap between them and their peers and thanks Liberal Democrats in the previous government for this policy.
- 4. Council assembly also welcomes the ongoing contribution of Pupil Premium payments to schools in the borough, which this year will total over £20 million
- 5. Council assembly recognises the need to work within the government's free schools programme and supports the work done by Liberal Democrat councillors to campaign for new schools across the borough, working with communities and providers to open schools that parents want in areas of high demand.

Standards

- 6. Council assembly welcomes the increase in the number of schools in the borough that are rated either Good or Outstanding, which has risen to 91%, from 64% in 2010, with no schools in Southwark rated inadequate.
- 7. Council assembly notes that:
 - Southwark's performance is higher than the national and London averages at foundation stage and is narrowing the gap with London average for Key Stage 1 performance
 - Southwark ranks in the top quartile nationally for Key Stage 2 results
 - Southwark is in the top quartile nationally for GCSE results and was ranked joint 20th in the country, an improvement of 43 places since 2013
 - Southwark is one of the most improved and high-performing London boroughs at secondary level, and continues to outperform other neighbouring boroughs in results at GCSE, English Baccalaureate and A Levels.

8. Council assembly applauds Southwark secondary schools for record levels of improvement achieved in GCSE results and calls on cabinet to continue supporting schools and protecting school improvement work in the face of vicious government cuts, to achieve even more and meet the council's ambitious target of 70% of our young people achieving five or more A* to C grades at GCSE or equivalent by 2016.

Places

- 9. Council assembly recognises that demand for school places in Southwark, particularly in the north of the borough, continues to rise.
- 10. Council assembly is concerned that the council has spent five years denying the problem and then only expanding existing, rather than helping to create new schools. Council welcomes the two recent new free school projects at Belham and Galleywall, following pressure from Liberal Democrats. However, council assembly remains concerned about the consultation on these plans and the piecemeal approach instead of clear strategic planning with the involvement of existing schools, parents and local residents.
- 11. Council assembly notes that from September 2016 two primary schools in the borough will enrol four forms of entry and calls on the cabinet to ensure that there is a clear policy in place limiting the size of primary schools to prevent 'Titan Schools' emerging in the borough.
- 12. Council assembly also recognises that half-forms are an inefficient use of resources and calls on cabinet to ensure that the number of half-form entries is minimised.
- 13. Council assembly recognises that outdoor play space is vital to children's health and educational attainment and therefore calls on the cabinet to pledge not to reduce open spaces when expanding existing schools.
- 14. Council assembly welcomes the work of Liberal Democrat councillors in East Dulwich to provide a new secondary school and is pleased that the Labour council eventually joined the campaign for a new school. However, council assembly notes the failure of the Labour council to obtain a complete guarantee of a new school from the developers of the former Southwark Fire Station site and therefore calls on cabinet to work with the community and providers to open a secondary school on the site, to meet growing demand for secondary school places in the north of the borough.
- 15. Council assembly notes with concern that the currently available forecasts for primary places in the borough do not reach beyond the academic year 2017/18. Council assembly therefore calls on the cabinet to urgently develop and adopt a more strategic, long-term approach to school place planning, potential sites and school providers to ensure that future need is met.
- 16. Council assembly notes that the schools places strategy update will be presented to cabinet in July 2015 and that it would be more beneficial to discuss the forecast for school places when the updated strategy is published.

ITEM 5.2 – MEMBERS MOTIONS: SAVE SOUTHWARK WOODS (see pages 9-10 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT B

Moved: Councillor Paul Fleming Seconded: Councillor Jasmine Ali

Delete all and **insert**:

- 1. Council assembly is proud of Southwark being one of the greenest boroughs in London and believes that woods in Southwark are a vital part of our borough. The council invests approximately £130,000 every year in valuable woodlands such as Dulwich Upper Wood, Sydenham Hill Wood and Russia Dock Woodland a combined 55 acres of woodland and also maintains many dedicated wildlife sites, nature gardens and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation around the borough, to provide a habitat for wildlife and open space for residents to enjoy.
- Council assembly notes that at no stage prior to the submission of this motion have Liberal Democrat councillors sought to comment on or engage with the council on its cemeteries strategy and condemns any party seeking to "play politics" with this important issue.
- 3. Council assembly regrets that inaccurate claims have been made about the council's cemeteries strategy and notes its concern that these claims have led to residents being misinformed about the council's plans to bring two pieces of designated burial ground, one of which is currently inaccessible, into use in Camberwell Old and New Cemeteries. The areas proposed for development measure less than one acre in total.
- 4. Council assembly recognises the challenge the council faces in securing sustainable burial space in the borough and notes that if the council takes no action, burial space in Southwark will run out in early 2017.
- 5. Council assembly believes that it is important to recognise the wishes of those residents who want to have the option to bury their loved ones locally and who for financial reasons would struggle to travel to visit a cemetery outside the borough.
- Council assembly notes that an extensive public consultation was undertaken in 2011 on the future of Southwark's cemeteries and that the local community has also been given the opportunity to review detailed plans for the next phase of the Cemetery Strategy and contribute feedback over the last seven months.
- 7. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:
 - Maintain the status of Camberwell Old and New Cemeteries as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
 - Continue to work with the London Wildlife Trust, the Forestry Commission and the local community to ensure that the plans for managing the cemeteries enhance the existing biodiversity and ecology of the area
 - Continue to engage with the local community on the council's plans for cemeteries throughout the process of implementing the cemeteries strategy

Continue to protect green spaces throughout the borough, as well as
providing burial space for the future, to create quality open space for local
people alongside a respectful place for the deceased.

ITEM 5.2 – MEMBERS MOTIONS: RIGHT TO BUY (see page 10 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT C

Moved: Councillor Ben Johnson Seconded: Councillor Adele Morris

Delete all and **insert**:

Council assembly:

- 1. Notes this administration's aspiration of building 11,000 new council homes to meet growing demand for affordable housing in the borough, building on the programme initiated by the previous Liberal Democrat administration.
- 2. Notes too that the first 75 of these new homes are currently being built at Willow Walk 54 of which (72%) are dedicated exclusively to temporary accommodation, not general needs housing.
- 3. Further notes that as of 31 March 2015 the number of new council homes built since 2010 is just 44 homes compared to the 1,721 homes sold or demolished.
- 4. Acknowledges that the administration's new council house-building programme will, in fact, take place over the next thirty years and that a consultation is only now underway on possible locations for these homes with no guarantee that the target will be met.
- 5. Is concerned that the outcome of the current consultation could lead to new homes being squeezed onto existing estates, while developers often get away with huge developments of luxury flats with no affordable homes whatsoever.
- 6. Recognises the disastrous impact of government proposals which could lead to up to 500 new council homes being sold as soon as they are built and the forced sale of existing high-value council housing.
- 7. Notes too, however, that the current Labour administration has embarked on its own programme of council home sell-offs over the last few years with the disposal of properties over the value of £300,000 until the decision last year to adopt the Liberal Democrat policy to raise this threshold.
- 8. Further notes that during thirteen years of a Labour government little was done to tackle the effects of the right-to-buy policy on boroughs such as Southwark.
- 9. Believes the government's intention to extend the right-to-buy to all housing association tenants will make the affordable housing situation in the borough even worse in Southwark, especially when a recent survey showed that just 16% of the public believe that this policy would be the most useful way of tackling the housing affordability crisis.
- 10. Urges the cabinet, given the thirty-year council house-building timescale, to adhere in the meantime to its own target of on-site affordable homes wherever possible to

- ensure Southwark residents have access to new housing in all parts of the borough.
- 11. Calls on the cabinet to work with other London boroughs to lobby the government to reconsider their right-to-buy plans and to push for an exemption to new build homes.
- 12. Further calls on the cabinet to oppose the extension of right-to-buy to housing association tenants which would force registered providers to simply play catch-up replacing sold homes, rather than building the additional affordable housing Southwark people need so desperately.

ITEM 5.2 – MEMBERS MOTIONS: CHILDREN MISSING FROM CARE (see pages 10-11 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT D

Moved: Councillor Evelyn Akoto **Seconded**: Councillor Kath Whittam

After paragraph 3 insert:

- 4. Welcomes the council's decision to commission the St Christopher's Charity to provide home visits for all young people reported missing, building trust and working with the young people to understand the reasons behind why they go missing, which is successfully reducing repeat missing episodes.
- 5. Welcomes the close analysis of the impact of this work by the Corporate Parenting Committee over the last year, by meeting with St Christopher's and considering the early data produced and the feedback from young people.
- 6. Welcomes the work being done by the council to respond to the reasons why children are going missing from care, and to find innovative ways to improve outcomes for children and young people at risk of family breakdown, to strengthen parenting and rebuild relationships between young people and their parents and to help keep more families together.
- 7. Welcomes the council's recruitment drive to increase the number of local foster carers through exempting them from council tax so that when children do need to be taken into care they are able to stay close to family and friends.
- 8. Also welcomes the work of the Safer London Project working with young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation, to build relationships with some of our most vulnerable young people and ensure that safety plans are put in place to reduce the risk of exploitation.

Delete paragraph 4.

After paragraph 5 insert:

10. Recognises that this is a problem that should be acknowledged and understood by all councillors in order to highlight the issue, work towards reducing the number of recorded incidents in future years and ensure there is no complacency whatsoever where the welfare of looked-after children is concerned.

Delete paragraphs 6 – 8 and **insert**:

- 11. Notes that the council has a weekly report on children missing from care and that all children are offered a missing from care interview undertaken by St Christopher's to find out if the young person is at risk, or if there are any problems with their placement.
- 12. Notes that corporate parenting has responsibility for monitoring data on children missing from care and has a membership of cabinet member, backbenchers and

independent members, is cross-party and has regular attendance not only from officers but also other agencies such as health as well as contributions from Speakerbox, our award-winning Children in Care Council.

- 13. Notes that corporate parenting committee is not only well placed to scrutinise the issue of children missing from care and the council's response but is actively doing so.
- 14. Also notes the on-going scrutiny of this issue by the multi-agency Children's Safeguarding Board.
- 15. Welcomes any request for further scrutiny by education and children's services scrutiny sub-committee.
- 16. Calls on the cabinet to continue to tackle the problem of children missing from care by:
 - Monitoring each of the recommendations included in the corporate parenting committee's statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care
 - Receiving a report on the work commissioned from St Christopher's and the council's response to the feedback captured from our young people
 - Working closely with the police and all other key partners from the Children's Safeguarding Board on missing children and those at risk of sexual exploitation.

Renumber paragraphs accordingly.

ITEM 5.2 – MEMBERS MOTIONS: REVITALISING THE BLUE (see pages 11-12 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT E

Moved: Councillor Eliza Mann
Seconded: Councillor Damian O'Brien

Insert new paragraph 3 and re-order the remaining paragraphs accordingly:

3. Further welcomes the council's decision to adopt the Liberal Democrat policy to introduce 1-hour free parking at all the borough's shopping parades to help boost the amount of trade locally for small businesses.

Insert new paragraph 7 and re-order the remaining paragraphs accordingly:

7. Calls on the cabinet to extend to fast-food and takeaway applications the council's recently announced policy of refusing planning permission for betting shops, pawnbrokers and payday lenders for units in its ownership in order to help tackle obesity levels and cap the number of this type of food outlet in The Blue.

Add new paragraph 9 at end:

9. Further calls on the cabinet to lobby for and support new transport links to increase the number of shoppers coming to The Blue, including the Bakerloo Line extension along the Old Kent Road, expansion of the London Cycle Hire Scheme to SE16 and improved or new bus services from the surrounding areas.



COUNCIL ASSEMBLY AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN) (SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA) **MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16**

Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to Lesley John Tel: 020 7525 7228/7236 NOTE:

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