

Council Assembly

Wednesday 27 February 2019

7.00 pm

Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Supplemental Agenda No. 1

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	There have been seven questions received on the report.	
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	Any member of the council may submit an amendment to a report or motion on the agenda.	
	There are three amendments to Item 2.1, Policy and resources strategy 2019-20 - revenue budget.	

Contact

Virginia Wynn-Jones, Andrew Weir on 020 7525 7055 or 020 7525 7222 or email:
virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk; andrew.weir@southwark.gov.uk;
constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk
Webpage: <http://www.southwark.gov.uk>

Date: 25 February 2019

Item No. 2.1	Classification: Open	Date: 27 February 2019	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Questions on Reports - Policy and Resources Strategy 2019-20: Revenue Budget	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Responses to questions on reports will be circulated around the council chamber on the evening of the meeting.

1. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND BREXIT FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

What proportion of income in the council's budget is due to regeneration and new homes, and what additional resources would the council need to find in its budget if such regeneration had not taken place?

2. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND BREXIT FROM COUNCILLOR ALICE MACDONALD

Why is the cabinet member only presenting a one year budget?

3. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND BREXIT FROM COUNCILLOR VICTORIA OLISA

How does the rate of council tax in Southwark compare to other boroughs in i) inner London ii) all of London?

4. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND BREXIT FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS

What proportion of the council's budget does the council need to meet through local funding? How has this changed since 2010?

5. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND BREXIT FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES

How do Southwark's level of balances compare to other London boroughs? Is the cabinet member confident that these are adequate for this borough?

6. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND BREXIT FROM COUNCILLOR TOM FLYNN

What has been the change in the government grant for Southwark each year since 2010?

7. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND BREXIT FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

Could the cabinet member please provide graphs/bar/pie charts showing the following on an annual basis in actual figures and percentages:

1. The council's total budget since 2010.
2. The constituent income parts (ie government, council tax, business rates, etc) of the council's budget since 2010.
3. The amount of expenditure in total spent on employees since 2010.

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	22 February 2019

AMENDMENTS

ITEM 2.1: POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2019-20 - REVENUE BUDGET (see pages 22 - 142 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT A

Moved: Councillor William Hougbo

Seconded: Councillor David Noakes

Police officers not press officers

Council assembly notes that:

- a. It is a tragedy that Southwark has the highest rate of knife crime in London and the council should take the lead in tackling this issue;¹
- b. In the past two years, more than 100 police officers have disappeared from Southwark's streets;²
- c. A key part of the council's response to knife crime must be to increase the number of police officers working on our streets.

Council assembly believes that:

- a. Southwark taxpayers want us to spend money on their priorities rather than on spin doctors, waste and councillor perks which do nothing to improve front-line services;
- b. We should be funding police officers not press officers.

Insert after paragraph 2:

1. Council assembly amends the budget as follows:

Insert the following budget line into Appendix 1C (Efficiencies and Improved Use of Resources):	Insert the following budget line into Appendix 1F (Commitments)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce communications budget (reduce press officers and cut Southwark Life) £309,000 • Cut waste and perks (including golden goodbyes and deputy cabinet members) £299,000 • Make more efficient use of council buildings £392,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund extra Police Officers - £1 million

Chief Finance Officer assurance on robustness of budget estimates

Insert after paragraph 19:

20. The strategic director of finance and governance, as the statutory section 151 officer, has confirmed that these proposals are legal, implementable and overall do not impact on the total budget requirement for 2019/20

¹ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/justice_matters_knife_crime_-_23_march_2018_-_presentation.pdf

² Police Officers in Southwark, Dec 16 – Dec 18: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/policing/workforce-dashboard>

21. The strategic director of finance and governance has confirmed that subject to the agreement to this amendment by council assembly, plans will need to be put in place to review further the communications, back office and staff accommodation budgets across all council departments. It is assumed that other changes would be implemented with effect from April 2019. In the event of any slippage on savings identified to achieve these plans in 2019/20, contingency included within the base budget would need to be set aside allowing for the plans to be fully implemented in the following year.

Renumber all other points accordingly.

AMENDMENT B

Moved: Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Seconded: Councillor Hamish McCallum

A roof over every head

Council assembly notes that:

- a. The number of people sleeping rough on Southwark's streets has more than doubled since 2014;³
- b. Because of the complexity of their personal circumstances, a significant proportion of people who are living on the streets are either not eligible or not able to access the support currently available for rough sleepers in Southwark.

Council assembly also notes that:

- a. Many private sector rental properties in Southwark do not meet basic standards of habitation;
- b. Other local authorities have introduced a voluntary scheme enabling hotel guests to pay £1 on top of their bill as a contribution to the area which they are visiting.

Council assembly therefore resolves to:

- a. Introduce a borough-wide licensing scheme to ensure a minimum standard of decent homes is guaranteed to our residents;
- b. Introduce a voluntary scheme enabling hotel visitors to contribute £1 per night they stay in Southwark.

Council assembly further resolves that the additional funding raised by these two measures be allocated to eliminate rough sleeping in Southwark by:

- a. Working with the voluntary sector to establish a permanent hub which is free at the point of access for people sleeping rough in Southwark who are not eligible or able to access existing support;
- b. Ensuring that this hub offers both immediate respite from rough sleeping as well as access to multidisciplinary, wrap-around support to help people move away from life on the streets on a more permanent basis.

Insert after paragraph 2:

1. Council assembly amends the budget as follows:

Insert the following budget line into Appendix 1D (Income)	Insert the following budget line into Appendix 1F (Commitments)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand property licensing scheme to the entire borough - £415,000 • Voluntary visitor contribution scheme - £85,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with voluntary sector partners to establish a permanent hub for people sleeping rough in Southwark - £500,000

Chief Finance Officer assurance on robustness of budget estimates

Insert after paragraph 19:

20. The strategic director of finance and governance, as the statutory section 151 officer, has confirmed that these proposals are legal, implementable and overall do not impact on the total budget requirement for 2019/20

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-in-england-autumn-2018>

21. The strategic director of finance and governance has confirmed that subject to the agreement to this amendment by council assembly, plans will need to be put in place to review the current licensing scheme and to implement the voluntary visitor contribution scheme as soon as is practically possible. In the event of any slippage on savings identified to achieve these plans in 2019/20, contingency included within the base budget would need to be set aside allowing for the plans to be fully implemented in the following year.

Renumber all other points accordingly.

AMENDMENT C

Moved: Councillor Andy Simmons

Seconded: Councillor Kath Whittam

Following recommendation 2 insert new recommendations:

Police and the Night Time Economy

3. Council assembly notes the crucial role that police officers across the borough play in preventing, detecting and responding to crime.
4. Council assembly notes the Night Time Economy team's contribution to this work, and the benefits for local residents of having police officers visibly patrolling, supporting council enforcement, assisting local businesses with issues including rough sleeping and illegal trading, and providing counter terrorism advice.
5. Council assembly notes the Night Time Economy team is currently made up of one Sergeant and five PCs, and that at present this team is part funded by the council, part funded by the police through the Met Patrol Plus scheme and part funded by the Team London Bridge Business Improvement District (BID).
6. Council assembly notes that the Met Patrol Plus scheme will not be continuing in its present form, and is likely to cease altogether. Without the contribution of the Met Patrol Plus scheme, there is a funding shortfall of £205,000 in the Night Time Economy team.
7. Council assembly believes that if the number of police officers working in the Night Time Economy team were to decrease this would have a significant negative impact on local residents and businesses.
8. Council assembly therefore resolves to commit £205,000 to the Night Time Economy team in order to maintain the current levels of policing.

Local intelligence analyst

9. Council assembly notes that despite the work of the council, the police and local organisations and communities, crime and youth violence continue to be serious issues in Southwark.
10. Council assembly notes that these issues are not unique to Southwark and that youth violence and crime are issues across the whole of London.
11. Council assembly believes that a local intelligence analyst would add to the council's and police's work to tackle crime and youth violence. A local intelligence analyst would add vital capacity to the identification of trends and key areas of concern, look at comparisons with other similar areas and neighbouring boroughs, and provide victim and suspect profiles to identify both those who may be at risk of being a victim of crime and those who may be at risk of being drawn into criminal activities.
12. Council assembly therefore resolves to invest £55,000 in a local intelligence analyst to support the work of the council in preventing and tackling crime.

Fees and Charges

13. Council assembly notes that updated fees and charges schedules for 2019-20 were agreed by cabinet on 5 February 2019, bringing Southwark's fees and charges in line with London averages.
14. Council assembly resolves to make rigorous efforts to collect fees and charges notices in full, to make a saving of £260,000.
15. Council assembly therefore amends the budget as follows:

Implications for the 2019/20 budget

Item	Budget Impact (£)
Police officers	205,000
Local intelligence analyst	55,000
Fees and charges collection	-260,000
Balance	0

Insert after old paragraph 19 of the report:

Chief Finance Officer assurance on robustness of budget estimates

20. The strategic director of finance and governance has confirmed that subject to the agreement to this amendment by council assembly, a further and full review will be conducted of the collection arrangements for fees and charges at the updated rates across all the council with a view to achieving the revised target. This represents an increase in collection of approximately 0.6%.
21. The strategic director of finance and governance has confirmed that these proposals are legal, implementable and overall do not impact on the total budget requirement for 2019/20.

Renumber all other points accordingly.

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN) (FULL LIST)
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018/19**

NOTE: Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to
Virginia Wynn-Jones Tel: 020 7525 7055

ONE COPY TO ALL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	Copies	To	Copies
<p>Councillors (1 each) Councillor Jasmine Ali Councillor Radha Burgess Councillor Sunil Chopra Councillor Nick Dolezal Councillor Tom Flynn Councillor Renata Hamvas Councillor Peter John Councillor Lorraine Lauder Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall Councillor Eliza Mann Councillor Darren Merrill Councillor David Noakes Councillor Damian O'Brien Councillor Leo Pollak Councillor Sandra Rhule Councillor Martin Seaton Councillor Andy Simmons Councillor Cleo Soanes Councillor Kath Whittam</p> <p>Electronic Versions (No hard copy) All other councillors</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>Press</p> <p>Southwark News 1 South London Press 1</p> <p>Group Offices</p> <p>Eleanor Law, Labour Group Office 1 Steffan John, Liberal Democrat Group Office 1</p> <p>Officers</p> <p>Eleanor Kelly 1 Duncan Whitfield 1 Doreen Forrester-Brown 1 Chidilim Agada 1 Ian Smith by email David Quirke-Thornton by email Michael Scorer by email Kevin Fenton by email</p> <p>Constitutional Team 12</p> <p>(Copies to Virginia Wynn-Jones, 2nd Floor, Hub 2, Tooley Street)</p> <p>Others</p> <p>Matt Dean, Grant Thornton 1 Ground floor audit office, Tooley Street</p> <p>Total: 40</p> <p>Last updated: 15 February 2019</p>	