

Council Assembly

Wednesday 27 March 2019

7.00 pm

Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Tabled Items

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Date: 27 March 2019

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 2019

PROGRAMME MOTION

The order of business and timings for the evening will be as follows:

Time	Business
19:00 - 19:10	1. Preliminary business and announcements
19:10 - 19:25	2.2 Public question time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Brearley • Andy Cawdell • Jo Ford
19:25 - 19:40	2.1 Petition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save our High Street
19:40 - 19:55	4. Deputation requests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents of East Dulwich
19:55 - 20:55 (20 minutes) (7 minutes) (5 minutes) (25 minutes) (3 minutes)	Themed debate 3.1 Community Evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local residents on climate change • Belham Parents Air Quality Group • Living Bankside • Late submission: Plastic Free East Dulwich 3.2 Motion on the Theme <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillor Richard Livingstone, cabinet member for environment, transport management and air quality 2. Councillor Graham Neale, opposition spokesperson, to speak on the motion and move Amendment A 3. Themed debate open to all other councillors 4. Cabinet member's right of reply to the debate
20:55 - 21:30 (5 minutes) (15 minutes) (15 minutes)	5.1 Members' Question Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late questions • Members' questions to the leader • Members' questions from community councils • Members' questions to the cabinet
21:30 - 22:00	5.2 Motions
	Motion 1 - Making Southwark a Living Wage place
	Motion 2 - NEXUS-Group GP Services
	Motion 3 - Crossrail and cuts to Transport for London
	Motion 4 - HIV in Southwark
	Motion 5 - Reform our Broken Housing Economy
	Motion 6 - End Violence at Work Charter
22:00*	6. Reports
	6.1 New Southwark Plan Proposed Submission Version: Amended Policies
	7.1 Pay Policy Statement

Time	Business
	7.2 Member Allowances Scheme 2019-20
	7.3 The Licensing Act 2005 - Statement of Licensing Policy 2019-21
	7.4 Changes to Community Council Boundaries March 2019
	7.5 Council Assembly Dates and Calendar of Meetings 2019-20
	7.6 Special Urgency and Urgent Implementation Decisions - Annual Report

* subject to the guillotine rule; maximum 15 minutes debate per item.

Note: Any time left remaining on any item will be rolled into the next items.

That the meeting be conducted as follows:

Item 3 - Themed debate

Community Evidence Submissions

To receive submissions from the groups listed in the themed section of the agenda:

- Local residents on climate change
- Belham Parents Air Quality Group
- Living Bankside

To receive the late submission from the group listed in the themed section of the agenda:

- Late submission: Plastic Free East Dulwich

Format

A five minute presentation from the group, followed by a question from the group to the relevant cabinet member.

Themed debate

To run as listed in the timings above.

Item 4 - Deputations

Meeting to agree to hear deputations from:

- Residents of East Dulwich

Item 5.2 General motions

Each motion to have a single debate, subject to the guillotine.

Item 7.5 Council assembly dates and calendar of meetings 2019-20

To accept the amended Appendix 2 circulated in supplemental agenda no. 1

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**(ORDINARY MEETING)****27 MARCH 2019****RESPONSES TO PUBLIC QUESTIONS****1. QUESTION FROM ANDY CAWDELL TO COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY**

Does the council agree that in light of the issues raised in the Climate Emergency motion, measures such as controlled parking zones (CPZs), which the council's own Transport Strategy recognises are effective in discouraging car use, must not be allowed to be blocked by minority interests?

RESPONSE

The council consults on each proposed CPZ both informally and in line with our statutory responsibilities.

We advertise the consultation widely to ensure we get as many views as possible.

Once those views are known, I receive a report from officers detailing objections and comments in support of a given scheme. I'm then able to consider the comments and decide accordingly if a scheme should proceed.

Clearly, if there is a majority of residents that will actually be affected in support of the scheme, it is highly likely I would approve its implementation. Consultations are not referenda though, and the feedback received also gives the council an opportunity to consider whether it should revise its proposals before presenting them at the next stage for statutory consultation.

2. QUESTION FROM JO FORD TO COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY

Please could you confirm that if a majority of residents on the streets around East Dulwich station respond to the controlled parking zone (CPZ) survey in favour of parking controls, that a CPZ will be granted for these streets irrespective of the decision for the wider consultation area?

RESPONSE

Yes I can. As explained in question 1 above, we consult widely to ensure we hear the views of as many people that a proposed scheme would affect to help make the right decision. If it was clear that different areas within the proposed CPZ had different views, we would then consider whether we should amend the proposals.

3. QUESTION FROM MARK BREARLEY TO COUNCILLOR JOHNSON SITU, CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

The Mayor of London requires Southwark to plan for no net loss of industrial floorspace, to meet evidenced need. In contempt of that policy, the New Southwark Plan proposed submission version (NSP PSV) allows loss of the majority of Southwark's quantum, a hefty threat to jobs and economic diversity. Why no amendments to correct this?

RESPONSE

The council is committed to supporting our diverse range of businesses across the borough, including providing additional light industrial workspace. The recent New Southwark Plan (NSP) amendments saw additional designation of strategic protected industrial land (SPIL) with the addition of Old Jamaica Road Industrial Estate and the introduction of an affordable workspace policy for the first time.

The NSP puts in place requirements for protection of jobs and business. In addition P28 has been updated to protect business space and assist businesses who need to move. Following discussions with the Greater London Authority (GLA) most of the site allocation changes in the NSP PSV have been strengthened to include locally significant industrial site (LSIS) with a requirement for business space.

Discussions with the GLA have also covered the council's approach to the Old Kent Road Area Action Plan (OKR AAP) which we have always said is a work in progress. To coincide with amendments to the NSP we have held regular forums on the AAP and will shortly start sub-area engagement with businesses along the Old Kent Road. The Forum and business engagement will play a key role to amendments to the OKR AAP, which will seek to retain a mix of employment uses whilst building the much needed new homes.

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**(ORDINARY MEETING)****27 MARCH 2019****RESPONSE TO LATE QUESTION****1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Will there be a public consultation about any proposed changes to community councils?

RESPONSE

We are working with opposition councillors at the moment to develop a set of proposals to review how community councils work and whether we can make changes to make them more effective. I welcome the positive and constructive way that the Opposition Chief Whip and other opposition members have worked with us on this and hope that we can continue to do so to ensure we develop a model that works for our whole borough.

These proposals draw on the Southwark Conversation which was the most wide reaching public consultation the council has ever carried out, reaching every part of the borough and every part of our community. At this stage we are not proposing a further consultation, instead we plan to bring forward proposals to Council Assembly to consider. If they are adopted we would then implement them for a year, during which time we would review their effectiveness, carry out further consultation with the public and consider whether there are further changes that need to be made to ensure that any new model is as effective as possible in engaging the public.

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**(ORDINARY MEETING)****27 MARCH 2019****MEMBERS' QUESTIONS****1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM HOUNGBO**

Given recent comments by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick calling for more police officers to deal with knife crime, and the fact that there are 100 fewer police officers in Southwark than there were two years ago¹, does the Leader believe that a specialist knife crime unit in Southwark would be an effective part of a broad strategy to tackle knife crime, which has been particularly acute in Southwark over recent years?

RESPONSE

Knife crime is an incredibly serious and complex issue, which has sadly devastated lives across our city and within our borough. This administration is absolutely committed to tackling this blight on our community and will do everything in our power to support the police and other partners in their work to prevent and end knife crime wherever it occurs.

Successive Liberal Democrat/Conservative coalition and Conservative government cuts have forced the Metropolitan Police Service to make £850 million budget cuts since 2010 with a further forecast of £325 million to be made by 2021. This does not take into account the increase in budget projected in the Government's financial settlement for policing for 2019/2020. This finance position has led to the number of police officers in London and in Southwark significantly falling. Following the merger of Police Command Units across Lambeth and Southwark into one South Central Borough Command Unit in early 2019 the current full time equivalent (FTE) of officers stands at 1331, a reduction from pre-merger figures of 1440.

Serious violence, specifically knife crime, is a key focus for the council and we all have a role in making young people feel safer. In Southwark over the last 12 months we have seen a decrease in the number of knife crime offences however the levels remain unacceptably high and have devastating effect on our communities. Southwark like other boroughs has had the benefit of the Mayor's funded Violent Crime Task Force which as an additional police asset on the borough has impacted on levels of knife crime and violent crime.

Our local Knife Crime and Serious Violence Action Plan sets out what all partners, council, police, health, schools and others are doing to tackle the immediate threat and divert young people away from a life impacted by crime. In addition to longer term work to tackle and address this complex issue we are also awaiting the findings of the cross political party panel on youth violence which will serve to recommend further ways in which we can improve our current approach.

¹ 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>

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MAGGIE BROWNING

Can the Leader update us on how the council's Fizz Free February campaign went this year?

RESPONSE

This year the council once again challenged children and adults in the borough to go Fizz Free by giving up sugary and fizzy drinks during the month of February. Building on the success of last year's campaign, this year Fizz Free February engaged more people in the borough than ever before to make healthier choices.

Fizz Free February is an opportunity for residents to start thinking about healthy choices and maybe make this single healthy change extend beyond the 28 days of February. 2018 was the first year Southwark Council ran the campaign, and in 2019 we saw it grow significantly in scale.

What started as primarily a social media campaign, this year reached far more people and attracted significant levels of engagement locally and nationally. Over 300 people pledged to go without fizzy drinks on our website and many engaged with the campaign online, with over 14,000 likes on social media and high levels of estimated reach.

Several local schools signed up and encouraged their pupils to drink water or milk instead of fizzy drinks. Local businesses and health organisations also joined the efforts to help Southwark residents make healthy choices, such as Everyone Active, Sustain, British Dental Association and Southwark CCG.

The campaign also reached national and international audiences. Over 25 UK councils participated in Fizz Free February alongside the American Borough of Staten Island. The campaign had cross-party support from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock MP, and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Tom Watson MP. Several regional mayors, including the Mayor of Bristol and the Mayor of London, and celebrity chefs Jamie Oliver and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall also joined calls to give up fizzy drinks.

While we hope to build on the successes of the campaign next year, Fizz Free February is only one part of a wider campaign to tackle childhood obesity and promote better health for Southwark residents. By tackling the causes of obesity in a holistic manner, we hope to make a significant impact on obesity levels in the borough. We will continue to encourage residents to sign up for Free Swim and Gym, provide free school meals to children in the borough, ensure there are high-quality services available, and create healthy, vibrant neighbourhoods.

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

Can the Leader please confirm how many children were permanently excluded from Southwark secondary schools in each of the last three years and how this figure compares to other London boroughs? Can he also outline what our education authority does to identify and support children at risk of permanent exclusion?

RESPONSE

Southwark is committed to ensuring that our young people have a great start in life and a stable and productive path through education is a key part of this.

Senior officers from the council's Education Standards Team provide advice and support to schools and school leaders. The council's Access and Inclusion Team also facilitates a Fair Access Panel and monitors Children Missing Education.

Permanent exclusions data is published by the Department of Education and full data for the 2017/18 academic year will not be available until April 2019. However, the number of children excluded from Southwark Secondary schools in the academic year 2016/17 was 35 (0.22% of pupils in the borough) and for the 2015/16 academic year the figure was 22 (0.15% of pupils in the borough). For both years, this was either at or below the statistical average with comparable London boroughs.

To identify and support children at risk of permanent exclusion, the council's Family Early Help (FEH) service provides a named FEH Practitioner single point of contact for each school in Southwark. It also provides family specific support for any child at risk of permanent exclusion and the offer of a family intervention, where helpful, and an experienced team of Senior Education Welfare Officers who provide advice and support to schools where children are at risk of exclusion. This team also support our Southwark Inclusive Learning Services (SILS) provision and the Managed Move Forum.

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PETER BABUDU

Sections of Rye Lane are due to be closed to traffic until January 2020. Can the Leader tell us what work the council is doing to minimise the impact of this closure on Rye Lane's small and independent businesses?

RESPONSE

Although the gas works taking place in Rye Lane are not being undertaken by the council, we have worked hard with Southern Gas Network (SGN) to ensure that disruption is kept to an absolute minimum. A package of works is underway to support the local economy through encouraging footfall and spend on Rye Lane and adjacent roads.

One aspect of this is the procurement of a Business Support Manager role with the primary function of supporting businesses making compensation claims to SGN. Other streams of work include supporting communication between stakeholders and businesses, signposting businesses to other support services the council provide as well as evaluating the long term options for developing a sustainable business network.

The council was also asked by local businesses to review parking charges in Choumert Grove Car Park. In light of this, we have already dropped the hourly rate by 44% (50p per hour from 90p per hour) if paid by the Pay-by-phone service.

We are also discussing with our parking contractor the possibility of offering a limited free parking period that would benefit shoppers. In regards to network management, we have inspectors there every day to ensure the traffic flow is functioning correctly and have regular progress meetings with SGN.

Alongside these measures, we are running our #PeckhamIsOpen campaign signalling that business are still open and showcasing the best of Peckham, including the diversity of its businesses and the strength of the community.

This is supported by a programme of events and activities on Rye Lane and adjacent streets, developed by local residents, community activists, organisations, businesses and cultural institutions. The local stakeholder group is shaping and supporting the delivery of this programme of events alongside the Regeneration Team and Events Team.

Using funding from SGN, the council in partnership with the local community and businesses, are working on a number of placemaking methods to improve the trading environment and promote the local economy both during and after the SGN works. The new Peckham Business Forum will meet regularly to discuss the impacts of SGN works, the local economy and their vision for it, develop ideas for the events programme and operational considerations.

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

The recent Care Quality Commission inspection into the NEXUS Health Group of GP surgeries found 1023 patient test results which had not been appropriately viewed or filed, including 442 which were abnormal. Can the Leader outline what contact he has had with the leadership of the NEXUS Health Group or Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group to seek assurances that affected patients have now been made aware of their test results and that any appropriate clinical follow-up actions have been taken?

RESPONSE

I and other members of the Health and Wellbeing Board have been working in close collaboration with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on this issue, to ensure that the necessary assurances are given to those that are potentially affected. The CCG have now advised that all patients requiring a review or treatment have been contacted and offered an appointment to ensure that they have been appropriately followed up.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) revisited Nexus on 13 February 2019, where the practice was able to demonstrate the improvements made so far. The CCG have said that they will continue to work with Nexus to complete regular update progress reports and will share this with stakeholders including the council. I and the Health and Wellbeing Board will continue to work with the CCG and Nexus on this issue.

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JACK BUCK

Can the Leader update us on what impact the additional social housing agreed for the Aylesbury Estate will be for local residents and the Aylesbury community?

RESPONSE

The regeneration of the Aylesbury Estate is an opportunity to transform an area of the borough creating new homes for local residents to live in and enjoy. Every step of the way we have worked with local residents and our development partners to get the most social and affordable housing out of the scheme and to ensure that local residents can stay on the estate in new and better homes.

Following our commitment to reaffirm residents' right to return and ensure no overall loss of social housing for the Aylesbury, plans for new social rent homes in the second phase of the Aylesbury Estate were approved on 13 March 2019.

The report to cabinet highlighted that we now anticipate that phase 2 of the regeneration will result in up to 1200 homes being built of which 50% will be affordable. The report also stated that it is anticipated that the consequent increase in social rented homes will enable all secure tenants in the future phases of the regeneration programme to make one move into a new home in the new development, securing their right to remain in the Aylesbury community they call home.

The increase in the number of homes anticipated to be built on the site is in accordance with the Draft New Southwark Plan and this increase in social rent homes enables the rehousing programme for Aylesbury residents to be accelerated.

The first phase of the project already has seen the number of planned affordable homes rise to 84 per cent, and I look forward to continuing our work with Notting Hill Genesis to ensure that each phase of the rebuilding of the estate delivers the best possible outcome for the Aylesbury community.

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HUMAIRA ALI

Can the Leader please confirm the average amount of time someone in Band 1 on the Housing Register with a 1 bed need has waited to be offered a suitable home over the past five years? Can he also confirm the average amount of time someone who is in Band 1 with a 1 bed need because their current accommodation is not appropriately adapted for their access needs has waited to be offered a suitable home over the last five years?

RESPONSE

Southwark, like all London Boroughs, is caught in the midst of a national housing crisis. Our council stock has been eroded over decades by Right-to-Buy which has restricted further our ability to meet local housing needs. The housing revenue account (HRA) cap, high land prices, buy-to-rent and unscrupulous land-banking have made it nearly impossible for local authorities to build enough new council homes to replace those taken out of circulation.

We are campaigning for reform to Right-to-Buy to ensure any council properties bought and then rented to private tenants are set at social rent levels. We are also seeking powers to enforce a 'one-in, one-out' policy to cap Right-to-Buy applications each year against the number of newly built social homes to ensure that, at a minimum, we don't see a net loss of council housing.

Moreover, the rollout of the bedroom tax has meant that more council tenants are looking to move into smaller properties and therefore have contributed to the waiting list.

There are significant challenges too in the Private Rented Sector (PRS) which could also contribute to pressures on our housing waiting lists. Given the government's cap on housing benefit and rollout of Universal Credit, alongside spiralling costs of deposits and basic levels of rent, many residents are finding their incomes in decline and the costs of renting on the increase – making it impossible to rent their own home.

As at 1 March 2019 there were 418 residents registered in band 1 requiring a 1 bedroom property (this includes both general needs applicants and those seeking an adapted property).

Over the past five years, applicants in band 1 who were re-housed into a 1 bed general needs home had to wait an average of 1 year and 72 days.

Within band 1 we have a group of residents who need adapted homes. There are six people currently in this category. Most of these people are not actively bidding – this means that the current average wait for an adapted property is 4 years and 98 days. We have a surplus of properties in this category (currently 11 empty properties) so when residents do bid they are very likely to receive a property.

It is Southwark Council policy that 10% of all new council properties are built to an adapted standard and so we have a greater supply of these properties than are in demand. Residents are not obliged to bid and so can choose to remain on the waiting list until a property becomes available that they wish to be prioritised for based on the length of time they have been on the waiting list. Therefore the waiting list for these properties is entirely dependent on the activity of the tenants.

We are committed to reducing the number of people on our housing waiting lists, and given the challenges we face there is still a considerable amount of work to be done.

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARGY NEWENS

Can the Leader tell us how the council is preparing for Brexit?

RESPONSE

The Government's shambolic handling of Brexit means hour by hour there is less and less certainty about what is happening and what the impact will be on local people and councils. At the time of writing, Parliament is about to embark on a series of votes which will hopefully bring greater clarity to the process going forward.

Despite this colossal failure of leadership in Government, the council have been taking steps to prepare for Brexit as yet again, it will be local councils who are left to support people in local communities when Government policy fails.

We have been doing everything we can, within the context of this uncertainty, to prepare for Brexit and to mitigate any potential negative impact on our residents and businesses, as well as the borough's public services. We are extremely proud of our diverse borough and workforce and we want every EU resident who has made Southwark their home to know that they are welcome and valued. As a council we are working to make sure that the rights of our residents are protected.

Following recommendations from the council's cross-party Brexit Panel, the council established a £2 million 'Brexit Reserve' and an immediate £300,000 funding package to prepare for the possible impacts on the borough. This funding will also be used to ensure that EU residents who are council employees are supported to gain 'settled status' and that outreach is undertaken with vulnerable EU residents living in Southwark.

Over the last few months a series of drop-in sessions have taken place across council office and depot sites, offering advice and assistance to council staff on how to apply to the EU settlement scheme and answering any questions or concerns. More than 50

employees have been supported to complete their settled status applications by our teams so far.

Work is also underway with our voluntary and community sector partners and local businesses, to identify vulnerable residents, groups and individuals who may be in particular need of targeted support.

A Brexit risk register has also been published incorporating additional risks such as that impact on social care, and risks associated with the limited time for Parliament to enact legislative changes that impact on local authority services resulting from UK withdrawal from the EU.

An area dedicated to information support and guidance pertaining to Brexit has been set up on the council's website, and a comprehensive communications plan is being developed looking at all avenues we have to engage with residents. This will set out our key messages, audiences and agreed actions to ensure we keep residents, staff and businesses up to date with relevant information.

At a strategic level, our Chief Officer team has met weekly to consider the local impacts of Brexit and ensure the necessary response and resources are deployed.

As Chair of London Councils, I have been attending regular monthly meetings chaired by the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government at which they have provided numerous ministerial briefings. The Chief Executive is also playing a key role in organising the London Resistance Forum.

Southwark's primary responsibility is continuing to provide local services and minimising the impact of disruption on services to residents, businesses and the borough as a whole. The council regularly reviews its emergency planning and business continuity arrangements, and such review takes account of possible Brexit impact. This includes contact and dialogue with contractors and other local service providers as appropriate in terms of their preparedness.

Southwark Council will continue to prepare for the impact of Brexit – both the potential challenges in the weeks and months ahead, but also the longer-term impacts to its local businesses and public services.

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

The policy and resources strategy documents for 2019-2020 that were considered by the overview and scrutiny committee on 28 January 2019 contained proposals to cut library opening hours, asserting that this would save £1 million. Following questions asked by Liberal Democrat Councillors, these proposals were abandoned. Can the Leader confirm how this additional money was identified, given that no further efficiency savings or increased revenues were subsequently introduced to balance this last-minute budgetary change?

RESPONSE

Our libraries are a vital public space for residents of all ages to learn, work and play, and we are committed to keeping our libraries open for all who need them. I am proud that Southwark now has the most libraries open over 60 hours per week of any inner London authority, with six in total.

With this in mind, opening hours are kept under review to ensure that libraries are open when people need them. As part of the Policy and Resources Strategy report 2019-20 to January 2019 cabinet, a range of savings were considered including £250,000 for a total review of the library service to streamline and modernise service provision without closing libraries. The £250,000 was to be found from a combination of efficiencies, additional income and changes to opening hours.

Following discussion at overview and scrutiny committee for the budget scrutiny on 28 January 2019, the February Policy and Resources Strategy report to cabinet incorporated their recommendations, particularly their concerns regarding equality of access to our libraries.

As noted in the February cabinet paper, the London Devolution Deal and business rate pooling arrangement means the additional income generated from business rates growth, notably within Southwark, will be retained within London, rather than being returned to Government. This has facilitated pan-London strategic investment schemes as well as a sum of £1m reserve, to cover the next four years and to support the implementation of the Libraries and Heritage Strategy.

The investment will help ensure that the council's ambitions for the service are aligned with strategic priorities and focused on maximising usage and reach, and equality of access for all. We recently increased the opening hours at the new Grove Vale Library from 27 to 39 hours per week following the successful launch in December 2018.

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL FLEMING

The March 2019 cabinet meeting agreed to develop a programme to deliver our manifesto pledge on ensuring every primary school child gets a free visit to the theatre every year. Can the Leader tell us what he thinks the benefits of this programme will be?

RESPONSE

I am delighted that this work is taking place to deliver on our commitment to ensure every primary school child in the borough gets a free visit to the theatre. This new programme will have huge benefits for our borough. It aims to inspire children from Southwark to develop a passion for theatre from an early age, and raise awareness of career opportunities in the theatre sector. It will give children the skills and the creativity necessary to face the world, to understand it and perhaps to change it too, discovering their own voice, growing in confidence and empathy.

We have pledged £500,000 to deliver this programme so that every primary child aged between five and eleven will get a free visit to the theatre every year.

20,000 tickets will be made available to primary schools and tickets will also be offered to children of primary age being home schooled, looked after children, and the small number of children schooled at Kings College Hospital.

All 19 theatres in Southwark will be invited to participate, along with some theatres outside the borough where there is demand from schools.

It will provide a simple and easy process for schools to get involved, giving schools choice over what sort of theatre experience they would like and support to enable them to take children on a visit to the theatre during school hours. Visits can be tailored for

different age groups, content themed to curriculum topics and production suitable for all children.

The programme will deliver the Council's fairer future commitment for a vibrant Southwark and it will also provide a lasting legacy to further support the delivery of Creative Southwark, the council's cultural strategy.

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NICK JOHNSON

Members of the public who attend council assembly have frequently found the process alien and intimidating, with little genuine debate allowed and with votes all too predictably breaking along party lines. Will the Leader commit himself and his cabinet to working with the opposition to find a better way to engage both the public and elected members in council decision-making?

RESPONSE

We believe that it is important for council assembly to be open, democratic and accessible for residents, which is why although there is no statutory requirement for public engagement at council assembly, we have a range of ways in which members of the public can make their voices heard and raise important issues.

The previous Liberal Democrat administration sadly did not agree which is why they removed public deputations and questions from council assembly. This was one of the first changes I was proud we made when regaining the council in 2010. Now members of the public can submit a petition, ask a public question, take a deputation or bring community evidence on the theme to council assembly. This broad range of options gives everyone from individuals to large groups a way of engaging with the whole council through the council assembly process.

Under Labour, the ways in which members of the public can engage with council assembly have grown thanks to the introduction of community evidence in June 2014, which gives local people and experts an opportunity to speak about topics related to the theme of the meeting.

Council assembly is not the only way in which members of the public can engage with decision making in the council. Members of the public are also able to attend and request to speak at cabinet and committee meetings such as planning and licencing if there are issues being discussed which could affect them or their local area. The council also holds public engagement on key decisions.

No complaints have been made to Constitutional Services that council assembly is an alien or undemocratic process, and members of the public do make use of the opportunity to engage with council assembly on a very regular basis. However, we do welcome any suggestions on ways to make council assembly even more welcoming and inclusive.

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JASON OCHERE

Can the Leader update us on the work of the Youth Violence Panel so far?

RESPONSE

Southwark's cross-party panel on youth violence was set up to improve our understanding of youth violence in the borough and explore what more we can all be

doing to combat this problem. We have witnessed too many tragic incidences of knife crime and sadly too many of them have taken place in Southwark.

The council established this panel to better understand the causes of youth violence and to develop recommendations to inform and improve the council's future work in this area. The eight-person panel is chaired by Councillor Evelyn Akoto, cabinet member for community safety and public health, and draws together a cross-section of political opinion as well as young people and the community.

Knife crime and youth violence are hugely complex and challenging issues and we know that one organisation cannot solve the problem alone. In order to properly understand and respond to these issues we must build on our strong partnership with the police, health, schools and our communities.

The panel first met in December 2018 and looked at an overview of current work being undertaken in Southwark to address youth violence. The panel has held three further evidence sessions focusing on early help and education; mental wellbeing and the public health approach to knife crime; and the roles of parents/carers and role models. A further evidence session focusing on police and criminal justice will take place next month.

The panel have been grateful for the diverse range of young people, community members, parents and carers and professionals who have given their time to give evidence about their lived experiences and potential solutions to tackle and address this extremely complex issue. A report outlining the work of the Youth Violence Panel along with recommendations to improve our current approach to youth violence in the borough will be presented to cabinet following the conclusion of the Panel's work.

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

Can the Leader please confirm how many council homes have been sold or demolished in each ward in Southwark since 2010?

RESPONSE

As referred to in answer to Question 7, Right-to-Buy has eroded our council housing stock over consecutive decades, and given current planning policy, and land values, we have not been able to keep pace and replace all homes lost to right-to-buy.

However, with wide scale regeneration projects across the borough, we have begun to replace and improve the number and quality of council homes across Southwark, to provide families with safe, warm and dry homes for years to come.

Ward	RTB Sales	Demolitions*
Borough & Bankside	19	0
Camberwell Green	106	144
Champion Hill	56	0
Chaucer	101	0
Dulwich Hill	5	0
Dulwich Village	4	0
Dulwich Wood	62	0
Faraday	54	490

Ward	RTB Sales	Demolitions*
Goose Green	10	0
London Bridge & West Bermondsey	77	0
Newington	102	0
North Bermondsey	88	0
North Walworth	67	1,212
Nunhead & Queen's Road	96	0
Old Kent Road	119	0
Peckham	100	0
Peckham Rye	29	0
Rotherhithe	79	0
Rye Lane	64	0
South Bermondsey	108	3
St George's	23	0
St Giles	89	0
Surrey Docks	3	0
Grand Total	1,461	1,849

* Demolitions will include council homes and homes which had been bought under the RTB scheme. The council will buy back those homes prior to demolition. Approximately 27% of the council's stock has been bought under the RTB scheme.

There have also been some sales of individual homes that have been long term-dwellings and are no longer deemed fit for council housing. The revenue from these sales is then reinvested in building new council homes and/or purchasing other properties fit for purpose. Each year these sales have amounted to the following:

Year	Count
2009/10	64
2010/11	67
2011/12	70
2012/13	28
2013/14	21
2014/15	3
2015/16	20
2016/17	10
2017/18	6
2018/19	8

14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Can the Leader of the Council indicate whether he supports Southwark residents being able to benefit from the additional rollout of HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) IMPACT trial places, and if so whether the council are prepared to find additional resources to ensure that the funding to pay for testing and research costs is found to protect men who have sex with men in Southwark, for whom all the PrEP trial places have been used up? Will he also use his position as Chair of London Councils to urge London Councils to find the money collectively to ensure that Londoners are not

denied the additional PrEP trial places being made available by the Government, while continuing to lobby the government to fully fund PrEP for all those who need it in England?

RESPONSE

Despite new diagnoses of HIV falling 17 per cent from 5,280 in 2016 to 4,363 in 2017 in the UK as a whole, the need in our borough is still high and we therefore need a comprehensive approach to eradicating HIV/AIDS for all. I welcome the HIV PrEP Impact trial, and the availability of PrEP is a major strand in our sexual health strategy 2019-24.

We are supporting a phased expansion of the trial in Southwark. Although the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England are funding the medication, there are significant associated clinical costs for monitoring and follow up appointments with patients, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment, and the agencies have declined to meet these costs as part of the trial expansion. These were unanticipated costs and therefore constitute a new burden on local authorities in every year that the trial runs, at the same time the public health grant is being reduced. This would mean cutting spending on other public health areas to cover this additional cost.

Our position is therefore to support a phased expansion of the trial in Southwark alongside rapid implementation of cost mitigation measures. However, this position must be agreed across London.

We are working with the London Sexual Health Programme to ensure a coordinated roll-out across the city. This will include exploring and developing digital solutions for follow up and management. We are also continuing to lobby the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England to ensure that they fully fund the PrEP trial to include the clinical costs, and working alongside them to develop a fully funded PrEP programme.

15. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAN WHITEHEAD

Can the leader state whether his administration have any plans to phase out car lease schemes for senior executives?

RESPONSE

Yes. The car lease scheme is being phased out from 1 June this year when the scheme will close to new applicants.

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL REGENERATION, GREAT ESTATES AND NEW COUNCIL HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM (BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

When will the council's Place and Wellbeing department be visiting the local communities including community councils to consult on social regeneration and the new Consultation Charter, and when will the Statement of Community Involvement be updated on the website?

RESPONSE

The draft Statement of Community Involvement sets out how we consult on planning issues both in regards to policy and applications. A draft will be going to cabinet in June for consultation until September 2019. This will include consultation with local communities and community councils, and it will be updated on the website for June cabinet as a draft. The final document will go to cabinet in November 2019.

On Monday 25 March, we held a community workshop to find out about the public's views on consultation in Southwark and to provide information on the Statement of Community Involvement and the Consultation Charter.

The Charter (and subsequent Place Plan) will be informed by the findings of the Southwark Conversation, place-based consultation events (including community councils), and socio-economic research commissioned to identify the range of community needs that could be met through regeneration activity.

The Social Regeneration (SR) Charters for St Thomas Street, Old Kent Road and Walworth are being prepared this year. We will be carrying out consultation on them during summer. We will be continuing to engage local residents, businesses and the wider community in discussions about the neighborhood and the SR charter. Southwark will be testing innovative approaches to engagement and consultation through the Greater London Authority's social integration design lab.

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE (CAMBERWELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Does the cabinet member support the following statement?

"In light of the recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, this Community Council asks Southwark Council to declare a Climate Emergency, to review the council's current carbon reduction to establish the actions needed to be compatible with targets to limit global warming to 1.5C, and to bring its current timescale forward from 2050 to 2030.

Further we ask the council to call on national government and the Mayor of London to give Southwark Council the powers and funding to enable Southwark Council to become carbon neutral by 2030."

RESPONSE

Yes, I do. This evening, council assembly will be debating a themed motion on the Climate Emergency to consider the way forward for Southwark in addressing this fundamental threat to the planet's future.

The council has two distinct roles to play in reducing CO2 emissions in the borough; to lead by example and reduce its own energy use; and to encourage others within Southwark to reduce their carbon emissions.

A review of the council's carbon and energy reduction strategy is underway and is currently targeting being carbon neutral as a borough by 2050. The actions required to achieve this by 2030 will largely be the same, but will require a significant change in

the pace of action, an increase in powers locally, and direction and legislation from central government.

It is currently estimated that around 86% of the borough's CO2 emissions are not within direct council control. Of the emissions that are within council control, the majority is produced from workplaces and home, with 12% of the borough emissions coming from our own housing.

Transport constitutes 16% of the total CO2 emissions produced in the borough.

That said, the council is taking significant actions in areas where it has the powers to do so. To date we have:

- Set a target in the Council Plan to reduce the emissions from our own operations by 50% by 2022, based on our existing Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) baselines.
- Achieved a 36.7% reduction against that baseline (a reduction of 15,345 tonnes). We have done this by reducing our operational buildings and improving the efficiency of existing buildings.
- Delivered a number of sustainable drainage (SUD) schemes as part of our climate change adaption programme.
- Changed all of our lighted street signs and furniture to LED.
- Carried out heat mapping exercises and delivered efficiency improvements to the district heating systems and housing stock.
- Continued to roll out LED lighting schemes for communal areas on our estates.
- Installed six photo-voltaic (PV) solar arrays on our housing estates to supply communal lighting areas.
- Created a £2.2m capital fund for rolling out carbon reduction improvements to the council's own operational estate.
- Set the highest carbon standards for new buildings and regeneration schemes within the borough.
- Started working the London Energy Partnership (LEP) to procure a new energy contract for 2020 to supply all our electricity from 100% renewables.
- Continued working in partnership with South East London Combined Heat and Power (SELCHP) to produce the heating and hot water that supplies approximately 2,600 properties of nearby Southwark housing estates.
- Upgraded our fleet vehicles to be the lowest emission levels available for these categories of vehicles and have been trailing electric vehicles.
- Introduced three Quietway routes, improved cycling and walking infrastructure and are developing a borough-wide movement strategy in order to encourage and facilitate sustainable travel within the borough.

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR SUNIL CHOPRA (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Will Southwark Council declare a Climate Emergency?

RESPONSE

See question 17.

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Can the cabinet member for environment, transport management and air quality, provide an update on the controlled parking zone consultation in West Peckham and East Dulwich?

RESPONSE

Following almost 150 requests from local residents for the introduction of parking controls in East Dulwich and South West Peckham, the council has been carrying out community engagement to understand the views of the wider community on this issue.

This engagement exercise closed on 7 February 2019 for Peckham West and 28 February 2019 for East Dulwich.

This community engagement exercise has been highly successful with a very high response rate for a controlled parking zone (CPZ) consultation exercise in both Peckham West and East Dulwich. The total number of responses for both areas, including visitors to the area, amounted to 3,492. In addition, there has been a formal petition submitted for the East Dulwich area against any parking controls.

Officers are now analysing the responses in detail and will prepare reports which will be presented to the next available relevant community councils for their feedback and comment.

Based on the consultation responses and feedback from those meetings, a report will be presented to the cabinet member in June 2019 with recommendations as to whether or not any parking scheme will progress to statutory consultation prior to implementation.

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH McCALLUM

Can the cabinet member please outline what preparations Southwark Council has made for any increase in homelessness as a result of Brexit?

RESPONSE

The impact of Brexit on homelessness is very difficult to predict. The council's Housing Solutions service has been attending a series of meetings with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to assess the possible impact of homelessness due to Brexit. The greatest potential impact may be an increase in rough sleeping due to the status in the country of residents from mainland Europe once the UK leaves the EU. This may have a greater impact on the No Recourse to Public Fund service. This is unlikely to happen immediately however, as applications for settled status need not be made until 30 June 2021.

The council has established a Brexit project board made up of officers in key service areas. It considers the possible impacts of Brexit on council services and the council's response. The board looks at the impact on homelessness as part of the work of this group.

The numbers of people from the European Union approaching the council as homeless or seeking accommodation through the housing register over the last five years has been low. At present we have 320 European applicants on the housing register out of a total of 10,911 households.

Homelessness charity Shelter and Homeless Link produced a report last summer titled "Homelessness and the Impact of Brexit". The report concluded that "trying to predict the precise impacts of Brexit on homelessness is impossible", but it does highlight the possible impacts on those EU nationals living in Britain. It identifies a number of possible opportunities and risks arising from Brexit. The major risks are the impacts on EU and UK citizens themselves. EU nationals may not make an application for settled status and have difficulty accessing housing support services. Similarly, there may be large numbers of UK nationals returning from Europe needing to access housing. There are also concerns about the impact on the construction industry workforce in the UK and the potential that has to slow down the building of new homes.

But the report also considers the impacts on the wider economy; the potential for growth and the possibility of decline. These may have an impact on the cost and provision of housing and the entitlement to access local authority housing services.

There are no reliable estimates of the impact on homelessness until the decision has been made on what type of Brexit will take place and there are many contradictory predictions on the wider impact of Brexit. Should a hard Brexit take place then the impact could be greatest on the council's homelessness and NRPf services.

The council will continue to monitor the possible impacts of Brexit including homelessness (taking advice from central government) and take steps to mitigate those threats where possible.

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN

Can the cabinet member please advise how tenants and leaseholders on Southwark estates have been made aware of the U-turn Southwark Labour have made away from a zero-tolerance policy on the keeping of items on balconies, to the more measured approach of assessing what is an actual safety hazard and what is not, as Southwark Liberal Democrats advocated from the very start?

RESPONSE

As a landlord, the safety of our tenants is our absolute priority. With the tragedy of Grenfell fresh in the minds of many of our residents and staff, the council has rightly sought to ensure that any items which pose a fire safety risk in our buildings are removed. Following a more intensive period of enforcement we have listened to feedback from residents who have asked us to adopt a more pragmatic approach, where small improvements to communal areas such as small plant pots and doormats will be left in situ, unless they are deemed to be blocking access.

While most residents will not notice a major change in approach, the council will of course share this update with them via our usual council channels including our e-newsletter, social and traditional media and through our network of Tenants and Residents Association (TRAs) and community groups. Where appropriate we will write to residents to let them know about any significant impact this new policy will have on them.

'Zero tolerance' will continue to be the approach to fire safety for some risks in some buildings. What has changed is the universal application of that policy regardless of the building type and the level of risk in it. This is a totally new approach and not a return to the previous managed policy.

Southwark now operates a policy, after consultation with residents and the London Fire Brigade, of managing fire safety in the common parts of buildings commensurate with the risks identified in the fire risk assessment. This assessment, normally carried out annually, is undertaken by qualified professionals and gives the best guidance for safety in the building. A 'zero tolerance' approach will continue to apply on all fire escape staircases and in any exit staircase leading directly to flat front doors.

A guide for staff based in estates is being written and they will receive training on how to deal with issues arising from the Fire Risk Assessment (FRA). We will be letting residents know the approach we are taking in their block as we roll-out this approach.

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS

Can the cabinet member provide an update on the Queens Road 4 site and proposals?

RESPONSE

Our housing solutions service and services for children and families are currently located in six old, out of date and unsuitable buildings across the borough that are no longer appropriate for service delivery. Building a dedicated customer facing space and associated staff offices at 133-137 Queens Road Peckham (QR4) allows the council to provide appropriate accommodation for these vital front-line services in a well-connected location at the heart of the community. QR4 is being custom-built and designed so that the space supports the vital work that the council delivers.

Services moving into the building are intrinsically linked, with users often accessing a number of different functions across both housing and children's services. Bringing together associated teams onto a single site offers the benefit of increased knowledge sharing and collaboration as well as providing staff with access to modern and more efficient ways of working.

The development will also reduce costs and free up the existing sites for important uses like new council homes.

The designs for QR4 have been progressing and this week we will be inviting residents to an engagement session on 4 April 2019. This session will provide residents with the opportunity to view and provide feedback on the revised design and include a presentation from the architects on the design development, followed by workshop discussion groups covering key considerations.

Date: Thursday 4 April 2019

Time: 6pm-8pm

- 6pm-6.50pm Introductions and presentations
- 6.50pm-8pm: Workshop discussions and feedback

Location: Queens Road 1, 132 Queens Road, London, SE15 2HP

We expect to carry out a further round of engagement with the public in the summer 2019 before the planning application is submitted. Dependant on gaining planning approval in winter 2019, the building is still on track to be completed for summer 2021.

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

Can the cabinet member report on the current progress being made to strengthen the Ledbury Estate tower blocks?

RESPONSE

Work is continuing with detailed investigation, design and pilot works at Bromyard House which is the first block in the current programme due for refurbishment. These are due to be completed at the end of May 2019.

From 2019: These works consist of soft stripping (i.e. removing plaster from walls and screed from floors) of the existing fabric to determine the exact components and materials that have been utilised on the original build and their long term suitability. Following on from this, more intrusive works continue in terms of determining the structural integrity of the 'as built' building and this looks at the strength and thickness of concrete, the presence and form of steel ties and joints together with the quality of installation .In combination these elements enable the structural engineers to accurately review the integrity of the building and what additional measures may be required for the future. They may, in certain situations, determine that the building would be uneconomical or impossible to repair to the safety standard now required

All the investigations and pilots are discussed in detail with the Ledbury Project Group. The Ledbury Resident Project Group meets on a monthly basis and comprises of both tenants and leaseholders from the Ledbury Towers and the low rise blocks on the Estate. The Group receive regular reports on the project and played a crucial role in working up the options that all residents and former residents voted on last summer to decide on the future of the Towers.

Updates from the meetings are reported on the weekly newsletters that go out to all residents on the Ledbury Estate as well as those residents who have moved from the Towers and have a right to return.

In addition, the minutes of the Ledbury Resident Project Group are available on the Ledbury webpage which is a dedicated part of the Southwark Council website.

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

Following the recent district heating outages across the Wyndham, Comber and Brandon Estates, what work is being done to upgrade the system and prevent further problems?

RESPONSE

We are sorry that residents served by the Wyndham boiler house this winter have had a poor service. The poor service is one of the reasons that we are undertaking approximately £2m of targeted investment works this year to make the network more robust and less susceptible to bursts in the pipework.

Works to be undertaken include:

- Renew the sections of underground heating mains where the condition is known to be poor.
- Install hydraulic separation for the 5 tower blocks (Kevan, Laird, Coniston, Crossmount & Otterburn Houses); this will enable the separation of the systems and reduce the pressure in the primary pipework, thus putting the existing mains and heating boilers under less stress.
- Boiler House Works: Replacement of main boiler and plant components (listed below if needed/necessary)
 - Re-tube all four boilers
 - Renew all four gas fired burners. This will include new burner controls.
 - Renew all four gas boosters and associated pipework and valves.
 - Install a new pressurisation unit in boiler house as the header tank at Coniston will be redundant.
 - Install new heating pumps to serve East zone, plus install inverter drives on previously renewed West and South zone pumps.

Because of the recent poor service issues with the boilers and plant, we have brought the boiler house works forward and will be commencing these works over the next few months. It will be managed by our engineering team.

The underground heating mains and hydraulic separation work that remains is currently being worked on by the council's investment team.

All of this work will require the Section 20 consultation with leaseholders, and we will be liaising with colleagues in our Home Ownership team to make sure we do this swiftly and correctly.

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Can the cabinet member please confirm how long Maydew House has now been empty? Can she also confirm the latest plans and timescales for the refurbishment of the block?

Note: This question is for the cabinet member for social regeneration, great estates and new council homes

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL REGENERATION, GREAT ESTATES AND NEW COUNCIL HOMES

A comprehensive scheme of refurbishment for the existing block had been designed and agreed which included fully refurbishing the existing homes as well as building 24 new units on top for sale to help fund the scheme. In addition, negotiations have taken place with the Bede Centre to relocate them in to the base of the block and use the land released from the existing Bede site to build new council homes. This overall scheme received planning approval in February of last year.

In the time since this permission, two factors have influenced how we proceed with the works. Firstly, market conditions for the sale units had deteriorated for high rise homes, affecting the likely size of the 'social profit' that could be generated from sale units to support maximising council homes in the development. Secondly, with the

lifting of the HRA borrowing cap the council's ability to borrow against its rents as well as claim a more generous level of GLA grant has improved the viability of building council rent homes.

Procurement of the scheme is now urgently underway with an Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) advertisement to contractors due in April 2019 and a new programme prepared accordingly.

In light of the significant change in the house building environment, the scheme is now proposed to proceed as 100% council homes. I recognise and share the frustration around the four years the building has been underutilised, but these plans, which are now under way in earnest, will make a significant and high quality contribution to the overall stock of council homes in the borough, including a net addition of 111 council homes across both Maydew and the Bede site.

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Can the cabinet member please outline what provision is being made for residents in council properties who are having their satellite dishes removed, but who do not have a communal aerial or broadband connection, to ensure that they can continue to access the television services for which they are paying, often on a minimum 1 year contract? Can she also confirm whether the council is prioritising those properties without satellite dishes, communal aerials or broadband connections for the rollout of the new broadband service? If not, could she please give details of the prioritisation process which has been used to choose which council blocks are due to receive this new service first?

RESPONSE

The council appreciate that some residents have installed satellite dishes to improve provision of their TV service. However when satellite dishes are erected on buildings they can cause damage to the integrity and structure of the blocks, therefore tenants and residents are not permitted to routinely install dishes without the council's agreement. If a resident has been given permission to install a dish, and can demonstrate this, then the council will reimburse them for the remainder of their contract.

The council is committed to providing a modern IT and TV service to as many residents as possible. The majority of blocks in the borough do have a communal or IRS system so that they can receive a television service. In addition there are two providers currently working in the borough to provide a digital broadband service to the majority of blocks through which they will be able to access TV services. In order to improve connectivity in the borough, Switham Council has been working with broadband providers to facilitate the roll out of their wireless broadband (Wi-Fi) aerials across the rooftops of a number of council-owned buildings.

Relish have currently got 4G enabled Wi-Fi aerials on 22 of our housing blocks, - Astley, Symington, Peveril, Pine, John Kennedy, Valois, Prospect, Rudge, Mendham, Fawkham Houses and part of Salter Road in the north of the borough; Crane & Heaton House; Brookstone, Strickland and Swinburne Court in the South and Harold Maddison, Newbolt and 35-58 Boundary House.

Now many of the residents of these housing blocks as well as those living in the vicinity of these buildings can sign up for superfast broadband. Tenants and residents'

association (TRA) halls and libraries are also being provided with these services at the time.

We are also linking the digital upgrade with the major works programme better, which we hope will include bringing forward installation of high speed optical fibre.

The council is working with two optical fibre providers to install superfast broadband connection through 'wayleave' agreements, and undertakes not to remove satellite dishes where this would leave residents without access to TV services.

The two providers have been installing fibre connections to estates since May 2018, and 18,517 premises across 40 different estates as part of this programme. Installations are currently being worked on a further 40 estates at this current time. This faster broadband connection will enable residents to access a wider range of online TV and film streaming services that are currently available on the market. The providers are also looking into TV packages to add to their service and will announce them shortly.

The broadband roll-out programme is due to finish at the end of 2020. However, the council do not manage the works itself, so it is dependent on both providers' resources. The intention is that the programme will eventually connect all estates to full-fibre to the premises.

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LEEMING

How have the changes to the management of the Shared ICT Service helped to create and maintain independence of the service and address the wider service capacity issues across the service?

RESPONSE

The new interim managing director (MD) of the shared ICT service (SICTS) was appointed in November 2018 and has rapidly put in place an improvement plan, strengthened the management team and undertaken a close review of major project already underway. As a precursor to recruiting a permanent SICTS managing director, accountable to the joint board which is represented from Southwark by me as the Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Modernisation, the interim MD is drawing up a new SICTS strategy with senior management input from all three councils (Southwark, Lewisham and Brent).

Once the strategy is complete, it will drive the development and implementation of a new operating model which will include the resourcing, processes, technology and governance to enable the SICTS to address the capacity issues across the service. The interim MD reports into the Strategic Director of Housing & Modernisation in Southwark whilst remaining employed by Brent. This provides a level of assurance and oversight critical to independence of the SICTS as it strives to support and enable all the boroughs it serves.

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

Can the cabinet member give an update on Capital Letters and the pan-London temporary accommodation procurement process?

RESPONSE

'Capital Letters' is the name of a new company established to procure and manage accommodation for homeless households on behalf of London boroughs. The company is supported by a grant of £38 million from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The company is currently scheduled to begin operations this summer, and this will include:

- Buying leases from private residential property owners in order to allocate them to households identified by Southwark for the prevention and relief of homelessness to be used as either temporary accommodation or to provide a settled home.
- Providing a range of tenant and property management functions
- Providing a tenancy sustainment function and a landlord support function

Capital Letters will also develop a range of service offers to private sector landlords as an alternative to the provision of incentive payments. These will include:

- Property Management Services
- Grant Payments to assist with bringing homes up to a better lettable standard
- Rent Guarantees and Insurance

The company held its first general meeting on 6 March 2019. 13 boroughs formally joined the company at this meeting:

- Barking & Dagenham
- Bexley
- Brent
- Croydon
- Ealing
- Hammersmith & Fulham
- Haringey
- Lewisham
- Redbridge
- Southwark
- Tower Hamlets
- Waltham Forest
- Westminster

The company's Articles of Association, Members Agreement and an appointment policy for the Board of Directors were also agreed on 6 March 2019. A 'Representative Board' was established to give participating boroughs a forum to scrutinise the company and hold it to account. I have been appointed as both Southwark's representative on the Board and as Chair of the Board.

Capital Letters has been established as a 'company limited by guarantee'. This is a common approach for not for profit organisations. There would be no shareholders or dividends and all surpluses would be reinvested in the company. Participating boroughs would be limited liability members.

As a Teckal company, Capital Letters can be awarded contracts by the participating boroughs without the need for a competitive tender process involving external service providers.

Southwark is transferring a relatively small percentage of its overall procurement to Capital Letters. The council will retain its own internal procurement team and this team will continue to procure the majority of the council's accommodation for the foreseeable future.

An evaluation report will be presented to cabinet within the first 12 months of operation, giving cabinet the opportunity to consider the council's continued level of involvement in Capital Letters.

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN

Could the cabinet member please confirm what steps he has taken to ensure that, as per the recommendation of the overview and scrutiny committee on 21 January 2019, the neighbourhood portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will be spent in the ward or locality in which it has been collected, to ensure that the effects of development are mitigated where development has taken place? Can he also confirm what effect the proposals for changes to community councils will have on the process for allocating neighbourhood CIL as well as outlining what conversations have taken place with the community on the proposal to introduce community infrastructure plans?

RESPONSE

Following a question at the July assembly, I asked officers to look at the process and the information publically available to create a more open and transparent local CIL system. They investigated best practice looking at how other boroughs are distributing the local CIL funding.

I confirmed in July that local agencies could deliver projects as this already successfully happens with the council's Cleaner Greener Safer programme.

The report outlining the proposal for Community Investment Plans (CIPs) was submitted to cabinet for approval in December 2018. This report was called-in by the overview and scrutiny committee in January 2019. The committee made a number of recommendations – specifically that the neighbourhood portion of the CIL will be spent in the ward or locality in which it has been collected, thereby ensuring that the effects of development are mitigated in the vicinity of the development.

Since January I have met and have continued to engage with the local community and ward members following the committee feedback in January. We are now in the process of drafting a cabinet report addressing the concerns raised to discuss with the overview and scrutiny committee on 8 April 2019. We will be embedding the views of our communities and the overview and scrutiny committee to ensure that local development works for local people.

It is envisaged that the CIPs will conform to Southwark local plans and would as a starting point adopt the themes of the Social Regeneration Charter for the area.

As part of the proposed CIP process, I am currently looking at a number of criteria that project proposals would need to comply with. These will be based around the proximity where development is taking place; facilitating growth in the area; and addressing a

specific need in the area. Other criteria could include, but are not limited to, compliance with the council's Fairer Future Promises; widespread support from local residents and stakeholders; and identification of any revenue implications.

As yet any changes to the community council set-up have not yet been finalised or agreed. Therefore proposals are being drawn up in relation to the current system. We will however ensure that the CIL process moving forward fits within any suggested changes.

30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR LEANNE WERNER

Could the cabinet member update us on the delivery of the Low Line?

RESPONSE

The Low Line is an organic public realm and planning project which was conceived by local resident David Stephens, and has now been adopted into the New Southwark Plan.

The planning policy seeks to encourage walking and cycling by delivering new landscaped walkways alongside the viaduct, with recent examples having been delivered at Spare Street, Flat Iron Square, Old Union Yard, Ewer Street, and Warden's Grove.

The initiative also seeks to support independent businesses, and increase employment and enterprise opportunities for local people. Examples of Low Line tenants who are providing employment and social regeneration benefits for residents include Hotel Elephant, the Africa Centre, Union Theatre, Spa Terminus, Cervantes Theatre and London City Runners.

A number of new walkways are currently being planned including sections linked to Manor Place, Newington Causeway, Borough Market, Blackfriars station, St Thomas Street and Holyrood Street. Community stakeholders at the Blue have recently been successful in securing a £2m grant from the Greater London Authority (GLA) to enhance the Low Line connection between the historic market place at the Blue and London Bridge.

Creating new Low Line routes can only be delivered by close partnership working and a Friends of the Low Line group is being established to help coordinate future projects, with a first meeting scheduled for May 2019. If you are interested in joining please contact Dan Taylor at Dan.Taylor@southwark.gov.uk

31. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR SIRAJUL ISLAM

Could the cabinet member update us on the ongoing campaign to ensure the Bakerloo Line is extended down the Old Kent Road?

RESPONSE

Southwark Council has been campaigning for the Bakerloo line to be extended down Old Kent Road both to improve transport for people living and working in the area, and to deliver much needed new homes. The Bakerloo line extension will enable the delivery of thousands of new homes, including social rented and intermediate homes.

We are continuing to push for three stations along the Old Kent Road, including one at Bricklayers Arms.

There are a numbers of strands of work to the promotion and delivery of the Bakerloo line extension.

Promotion to the local community

Last year we launched the Back the Bakerloo campaign, asking residents in Southwark and beyond to sign up to show their support for the extension. The campaign has been a huge success, with over 16,000 people already signed up. Last month Millwall football club announced their support for the campaign, with Southwark and Lewisham councillors running a Back the Bakerloo stand at a Millwall FC community day event promoting the campaign.

The Bakerloo line extension is a fundamental part of the Area Action Plan (AAP) for Old Kent Road. Members and officers have engaged in intensive local consultation on the Old Kent Road AAP, and have used these opportunities to further promote the scheme locally.

On 5 April 2019 we will be opening 231 Old Kent Road, a new community space on Old Kent Road which will give local people the opportunity to find out more about the project, as well as the wider plans for the area

The council has also been working with New London Architecture to present information about the extension at conferences and events, to help raise the profile of the scheme and build support for delivery with key stakeholders and decision takers.

Making a strategic case

We have worked jointly with Lewisham to promote the Bakerloo line extension, both in the campaign and in our message to regional and national government.

To make the case for funding the Bakerloo line extension, we have commissioned a joint funding study with TfL and Lewisham from KPMG and Savills that sets out a number of options to fund the BLE by capturing land value increase through CIL and from increases in local business rates. This will be particularly important in convincing HMT about the projects business case.

Creating certainty through the planning process

Finally we have a clear and comprehensive planning strategy in place, in the form of the Old Kent Road area action plan (AAP) which demonstrates the value in terms of the delivery of jobs, homes and a healthier Old Kent Road that the Bakerloo line extension would bring.

32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM

Could the cabinet member tell us how many social homes have been approved this year?

RESPONSE

Between 1 April 2018 and 31 January 2019, 659 social rented homes have been approved. These figures have been obtained from the London Development Database (LDD). There are also 10 schemes that are awaiting final S106 Agreement sign off, of which 691 units would be social rented, making a total of 1350.

It is important to note that planning approval data is only entered onto the LDD system once the final decision notice has been issued. Developments which are currently in the planning application process or those which have a resolution to grant permission but for which permission has not formally yet been granted (in most instances due to waiting on completion of S106 agreements), may be absent from extracted data. This means that although schemes have received a resolution to grant planning permission at planning committee subject to conditions, those which are still awaiting S106 completion will not be included within the figures until this is secured, as per GLA requirements.