

# Council Assembly

Wednesday 20 November 2024

7.00 pm

Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

## Supplemental Agenda No.1

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Item No.	Title	Page No.
2.2.	<b>Public question time</b> One in order public question has been received.	1
3.1.	<b>COMMUNITY EVIDENCE</b> Five requests to present community evidence have been made by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SE1 Solar</li><li>• JoyRiders</li><li>• Southwark Climate Collective</li><li>• Ryan Matthews-Robinson</li><li>• Community Cycleworks</li></ul>	2 - 4
7.	<b>Amendments</b> Four amendments have been received.	5 - 13

### Contact

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Date: 18 November 2024

<b>Item No.</b> 2.2	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 20 November 2024	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Public Question Time	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Proper Constitutional Officer	

**1. QUESTION FROM LALEH MOHABBAT TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

Considering the climate crises caused by meat and dairy industries, councils including Lambeth, Edinburgh, have already taken steps to adopt sustainable plant based food system. Will Southwark commit to endorse the plant based treaty alongside its sustainable food strategy 2023-2026 to promote a healthier, more resilient future for its residents?

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services
<b>Report Author</b>	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer
<b>Version</b>	Final
<b>Dated</b>	15 November 2024

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	Council Assembly
<b>Date:</b>	20 November 2024
<b>Report title:</b>	Community Evidence on the Themed Debate
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>	All
<b>Classification:</b>	Open
<b>Reason for lateness (if applicable):</b>	Not applicable
<b>From:</b>	Proper Constitutional Officer

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Introduction

1. The council assembly business panel agreed that the theme for council assembly in November 2024 should be “The climate emergency in Southwark: a fair transition to net zero.”

### Community evidence on the theme

2. The deadline for community evidence was 11.59pm, 14 November 2024.
3. The following requests have been received by the deadline for consideration by this meeting and they are listed in the order received below.
4. Which community evidence shall be considered and the length of each submission will be established by way of a programme motion at the start of council assembly. Community evidence shall be conducted under the existing rules for public participation.
5. If the community evidence is not dealt with by council assembly, the matter shall be referred without debate to the relevant cabinet member who shall, after consideration, respond with an open reply to the sender.

### Submissions

#### 1. SE1 Solar

The community evidence requests states:

“Liam will explain the history and purpose of SE1 Solar (which emerged from Tenant Management Organisation Leathermarket JMB following a presentation by Cllr Dennis at the end of COVID). SE1 Solar aims to use revenues from rooftop solar on council estates to fit fuel poverty on the estates.

He will explain where we are now (just starting work with nearly £200,000 of seed funding from LB Southwark, Mayor of London, Greater South East Net Zero Hub, Centrica Energy for Tomorrow and UK Power Networks/Community Energy South).

He will explain the principal barriers to success that we are trying to overcome - the viability of rooftop solar on central London blocks of flats (solar PV is only usually viable when a single user in the building uses most of the electricity generated - we have to sell to multiple users or single large users not in the building via the grid) combined with the cost of a licence to sell to residents (around £1million).

Our feasibility work has identified several potential business models for rooftop solar on estates including Virtual Power Purchase Agreements, microgrids, and direct wire to large consumers. We are investigating the longer term challenges of energy storage and distribution network capability. At the same time, we are already supporting residents in fuel poverty with energy efficiency advice and products. We are working in partnership with community groups across London to gather best practice.

We will discuss our productive relationship with the council to jointly bid for funds e.g. the Mayor's Zero Carbon Accelerator and to solve the challenges of grid connection, rooftop leases and planning permission."

## **2. JoyRiders**

The community evidence requests states:

"JoyRiders are nominated for two London Cycling Campaigns (LCC) awards. I would like to give a short summary of our project in Burgess Park and its outcomes, and share a case study or two."

## **3. Southwark Climate Collective**

The community evidence requests states:

"In 2024, Southwark Climate Collective has supported over 140 SMEs in the borough to decarbonise their business. The project gives bespoke, one-to-one support for businesses across four programme streams: energy, waste, freight and supply chains. The project is funded by UKSPF working in partnership with Southwark Council, local BIDs and business forums."

## **4. Ryan Matthews-Robinson**

The community evidence requests states:

"I will be talking about how Black people in Southwark are disproportionately affected by air pollution and how our Clean Air For The Ends campaign is engaging young Black people to fight for climate justice."

## **5. Community Cycleworks**

The community evidence requests states:

“Community Cycleworks would like to address the council to share a short presentation on our partnership work with Southwark Council's 'Streets for People' Project, and some of our impact and participant data with the audience.

Our projects are teaching, supporting and empowering local people to repair their own bikes, with many participants from marginalised backgrounds who would typically not be able to access mainstream bike shops.

These projects have been recognised favourably by Will Norman, London's Walking and Cycling Commissioner and the honourable Mayor of Southwark Cllr Naima Ali.”

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Constitution	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team <a href="mailto:constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk">constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk</a> 020 7525 7228

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
<b>Report Author</b>	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	15 November 2024	
<b>Key decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer title</b>	<b>Comments sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director of Resources	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	15 November 2024	

## AMENDMENTS

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### ITEM 3.2: THEMED DEBATE – THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN SOUTHWARK: A FAIR TRANSITION TO NET ZERO

(see pages 40-44 of the main agenda)

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#### AMENDMENT A

**Proposed by:** Councillor Graham Neale

#### Insert after 3.a

- b. That despite promising change, the new Labour government has continued with previously approved oil and gas licenses, and are pushing for carbon capture technology rather than focusing on reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

#### Insert after 3.d.vi

- vii. But that the Green Buildings Fund failed to deliver projects at pace, until the recent release of the full amount of money – following Liberal Democrat calls to do so in last year’s alternative budget – which Labour voted down.
- viii. Well documented issues with district heating systems, leading to energy use three times expected compared to traditional gas boilers, at both an environmental and financial cost.
- ix. It took three years to ban the approval of fossil fuel reliant homes since declaring a climate emergency, approving 5000 of those homes in that time

#### Insert after 3.e.iii

- iii. But the Labour administration refused Liberal Democrat proposals to extend Santander cycle hires south into the Borough

#### Insert after 3.e.iv

- v. But the Labour government chose not to take the opportunity to make the investment needed in the Bakerloo Line extension in their first budget

#### Insert after 3.e.iv

- v. Despite this, air pollution in Southwark exceeds WHO guidelines 316 days a year. 6.1% of deaths in Southwark are attributed to human-

made air pollution. In December 2020, the first person to have air pollution listed as a cause of death was confirmed by a decision made by London Inner (South) Coroner's Court.

**Delete in 3.g “leading the way in this area” and replace with**

Taking the necessary, but so far insufficient steps to that end

**Insert after 3.g.i:**

- ii. But the Green Finance Initiative, whilst welcome (and was agreed to in a Liberal Democrat motion in 2023), is not ambitious enough, and the speed at which the target was met demonstrates that the appetite is there to go far further.
- iii. More transparency and detail is needed on exactly how the money raised through the GFI is spent, to ensure that maximum value is gained

**Insert after 3.g.v**

- vi. Southwark has consistently failed to increase its recycling rate, dropping by 3.4% in 2022/2023, and the only reason food waste recycling is being rolled out is due to national legislative change, despite previous suggestions from the Liberal Democrats. Some residents are already reporting problems with the implementation of the food waste recycling points.
- vii. Action on flytipping and litter – which has an ecological impact – is not enforced enough in Southwark, with the council managing to fine less than 3% of cases

**Insert after 3:**

**4. Noting the above, Council Assembly recognises with concern**

- a. That this Labour council has dragged its feet to act with the urgency necessary. It has taken Liberal Democrat pressure to get progress on major milestones, and the administration still refuse to take on constructive suggestions from the Liberal Democrats.
- b. That the Climate Emergency should demand the full attention of every part of the council, but it's clear to both climate experts and residents that the council just doesn't take the Climate Emergency seriously enough – Southwark XR have said that since 2019, “their response has been very un-emergency-like, and more a case of business as usual”

**Insert at end of 5.c:**

The updated action plan should also incorporate and embed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

**Insert after 5.j**

- k. Appoint “climate champions” in each scrutiny (sub) committee to ensure that the climate crisis is at the forefront of all matters of policy, recommendations, and decisions.
- l. Take action to Clean Up The Thames by:
  - i. Writing to the Government to demand action to end the sewage scandal, by transforming water companies like Thames Water into public benefit companies, abolishing the water regulator, and creating a new regulator with teeth.
  - ii. Playing its part in Cleaning Up The Thames, by investing in more litter bins along the foreshore, as pioneered by Cllr Rachel Bentley, and lobbying the London Mayor and Government for more litter barges on the river.
- m. Sign the Plant Based Council declaration, and become the first plant based council in London, making a simple change that would cut the councils carbon footprint
- n. Introduce an additional advertising policy prohibiting high carbon use products, as Hackney has done
- o. Be far more ambitious on Green Finance, so that a genuinely transformative amount of money can be raised
- p. Introduce more transparency and scrutiny of how Green Finance is spent so that both residents and investors can have confidence that the money is spent in a way that is genuinely good value
- q. Mandate that public buildings publicly display energy usage and EPC ratings
- r. Tackle the blight of flytipping by introducing community skips
- s. Set an ambition to become not just carbon neutral, but net positive by investing in solar panels, heat pumps, and other sources of renewable energy that we can sell to the grid, with residents taking a cut. Specifically, the council should work with TfL to explore using heat pumps to extract heat from the tube tunnels running under our borough – cooling the overheating tube network and providing efficient heat to homes and commercial units.
- t. Welcome Max Wilkinson MPs "Sunshine Bill" that would legally mandate solar panels as standard on all new homes – but lead the



way in Southwark by ensuring all new homes, especially its own Council homes, have photovoltaic generation.

- u. Set the highest standards for green homes, such that every new home in Southwark is built to at least Grade Four of the Sustainable Homes Code.
- v. Convene a standing Citizens Assembly to oversee and scrutinise Southwark's climate policy
- w. Explicitly commit not to use gas in any new council buildings

Renumber all paragraphs accordingly.

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**ITEM 5.2.1: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Supporting older people this winter** (see pages 30-31 of the main agenda)

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**AMENDMENT B**

**Moved:** Councillor Victor Chamberlain

**Seconded:** Councillor Rachel Bentley

1.b: **Delete** from “Since” to “Liberal Democrat” and **Insert**

“The previous Conservative Governments”

2: **Insert**

2.a. Condemns the change in eligibility for Winter Fuel Payments by the Labour government, and calls on the Government to immediately reverse the policy

2.b: **Insert** after “Acknowledges”

“following Liberal Democrat calls to do so”

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**ITEM 5.2.2: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Rethinking winter fuel payment cuts**  
(see pages 32-33 of the main agenda)

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**AMENDMENT C**

**Moved:** Councillor Sabina Emmanuel

**Seconded:** Councillor Charlie Smith

**Delete 1.a-c, replace with:**

- a. The £22bn black hole in the UK's finances caused by reckless decisions of previous Governments.
- b. That Winter Fuel Payments should be means tested, to ensure that those most in need are supported.

**Delete 1.f-i, replace with:**

- f. Existing work the council is doing to encourage uptake of pension credit for those who are eligible, but have not claimed it.
- g. That the Household Support Fund (HSF), which funds Southwark's Cost of Living Fund, has been extended by the Chancellor in her Autumn Budget.
- h. That the council fund an energy support scheme to help residents impacted by the rise in energy costs.
- i. The support being provided by the council to pensioners this winter including:
  - i. A one-off payment of £150 to low income pensioners not eligible for pension credit.
  - ii. A one-off payment of £100 to residents receiving domiciliary care.
  - iii. A one-off payment of £150 to residents living in a property rated EPC D or lower.

**Delete 2.a, replace with:**

2. Council Assembly believes that:
  - a. The Labour Government's commitment to protect the State Pension Triple Lock, increasing the State Pension by an above inflation rate of 4.1% will benefit low income pensioners across

Southwark by an additional £470 a year.

- b. The Labour Government's commitment to increase the Pension Credit Standard minimum guarantee by 4.1% will support many low income pensioners in Southwark.

**Delete 3.a-c, replace with:**

3. Council Assembly resolves to:
  - a. Ask Cabinet to look at how the extension of the Household Support Fund can be used to continue to support pensioners on low income.
  - b. Continue to work with our voluntary and community sector partners to sign up those who are eligible for pension credit to claim their Winter Fuel Payment before 21 December 2024 deadline.

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**ITEM 5.2.4: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Supporting the Climate and Nature Bill**  
(see pages 35-38 of the main agenda)

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**AMENDMENT D**

**Moved:** Councillor Richard Leeming

**Seconded:** Councillor Emily Hickson

**Delete** 1.b, and **replace** with:

- b. Alongside this, there is the looming danger of the cost of living crisis due to fuel price shocks following the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which could be mitigated in the long-term by increases in zero-carbon energy sources.

**Delete** 2.a-c, and **replace** with:

2. Council assembly further notes

- a. That the Climate and Nature Bill brings forward the development of an integrated strategy to ensure that the UK's climate and environmental response is in line with the latest science.
- b. The Bill was proposed in previous forms across Parliament which received support from a cross-party coalition of politicians and organisations, including the London Assembly, London Councils and Mayor Sadiq Khan.
- c. That Private Member's Bills are the prerogative of Members of Parliament to debate in the House of Commons.

2.d: **Delete** "It would ensure that" and **replace** with "The Bill aims to ensure that"

**Delete** 2.e-f

**Delete** 3.a-b, and **replace** with:

3. Council Assembly further recognises:

- a. Existing work Southwark Council has embarked on to play its role in tackling the climate and nature crises since declaring a climate emergency in 2019 – reducing emissions year on year.
- b. This administration's success in restoring nature by expanding the borough's green spaces, including 30 parks which have been awarded Green Flag status for the 5th year running, planting thousands of trees to reach 100,000 trees on council land, and encouraging greater biodiversity through initiatives such as the

biodiversity fund.

**Delete** 4.a-d, and **replace** with:

4. Therefore, Council Assembly asks Cabinet to:
  - a. Continue the hard work in combatting the climate emergency in Southwark and reversing the depletion of the natural environment, including reducing emissions year on year and expanding the borough's green spaces – plantings tens of thousands of new trees and increasing biodiversity across Southwark.
  - b. Support the new Labour government in its record-breaking ambitions to tackle the climate and nature crisis, reducing the country's carbon emissions by 81% by 2035 based on 1990 levels, and working with our communities to restore the natural world.

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MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/25**

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

<b>ONE COPY TO ALL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED</b>	Copies	To	Copies
<p><b>Councillors</b> (1 each) Councillor Jasmine Ali Councillor Naima Ali Councillor Sunil Chopra Councillor Renata Hamvas Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall Councillor Darren Merrill Councillor Leo Pollak Councillor Sandra Rhule Councillor Martin Seaton Councillor Andy Simmons Councillor Cleo Soanes Councillor Kath Whittam Councillor Kieron Williams</p> <p><b>Electronic Versions (No hard copy)</b> All other councillors</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>Press</b></p> <p>Southwark News South London Press</p> <p><b>Group Offices</b></p> <p>Arthur Holmes, Labour Group Office Oliver Bradfield, Liberal Democrat Group Office</p> <p><b>Officers</b></p> <p>Althea Loderick Clive Palfreyman Doreen Forrester-Brown Rhona Cadenhead Chidilim Agada Toni Ainge David Quirke-Thornton Hakeem Osinaike Sangeeta Leahy</p> <p><b>Constitutional Team</b></p> <p>(Copies to Virginia Wynn-Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hub 2, Tooley Street)</p> <p><b>Others</b></p> <p>Matt Dean, Grant Thornton Ground floor audit office, Tooley Street</p> <p><b>Total:</b></p> <p><b>Last updated:</b> November 2024</p>	<p>by email by email</p> <p>by email by email</p> <p>by email by email by email by email by email by email by email</p> <p>6</p> <p>by email</p> <p><b>20</b></p>