

Council Assembly

Wednesday 9 July 2025

7.00 pm

Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Tabled Items

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Date: 9 July 2025

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY****(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2025****PROGRAMME MOTION**

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

Time	Business
19:00 – 19:05	1. Preliminary business and announcements
19:05 – 19.15	2 Election of the Leader Cllr Kieron Williams – short announcement
19:15 – 19:25	3.2 Public questions Two public questions
19:25 – 20:25 (20 minutes – 5 minutes' speech) (7 minutes) (5 minutes) (25 minutes) (3 minutes)	Themed debate 4.1 Community Evidence - Quince Garcia, Roadworks Media - Nancy Trullo, United Hearts - Lucia Adams 4.2 Motion on the Theme - Cllr Natasha Ennin - Councillor Victor Chamberlain, opposition spokesperson - Themed debate open to all other councillors - Cabinet member's right of reply to the debate
20:25 – 20:30	Recess
20:30 – 20:45 (5 minutes speech each)	5. Deputations - Bells Garden TRA - Manor Estate TRA
20:45 – 21:20 (5 minutes) (15 minutes) (15 minutes)	6.1 Members' Question Time - Late question - Members' questions to the leader - Members' questions to the cabinet
21:20 – 22:00	6.2 Motions
	Motion 1 – Southwark welcomes 400th refugee family
	Motion 2 – Southwark Stands Against Welfare Cuts
	Motion 3 – Making Space for Girls in Parks and Open Spaces
	Motion 4 – Implementation of a Tourist Tax
	Motion 5 – Limiting the spread of damaging gambling premises in the Blue
22:00*	7. Reports
	7.1 Waiver of six-month councillor attendance rule: Section 85 of Local Government Act 1972
	7.2 Treasury Management – Outturn 2024-25

* 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 4 - Themed debate

Community Evidence Submissions

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

- Quince Garcia, Roadworks Media
- Nancy Trullo, United Hearts
- Lucia Adams

Format

A five minute presentation from the groups.

4.1 Motion on the theme

Themed debate

To run as listed in the timings above.

To have a single debate.

Item 5 Deputation requests:

To receive submissions from the groups listed in the deputation requests report in supplemental agenda no. 2:

- Bells Garden TRA
- Manor Estate TRA

(Five minutes to speak, question to relevant cabinet member)

Item 5.2 General motions:

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

Motion 2 – Southwark Stands Against Welfare Cuts

To change the seconder of Motion 2 from Councillor Rachel Bentley to Councillor Jane Salmon

Item 7.1 Waiver of six-month councillor attendance rule: Section 85 of Local Government Act 1972

Paragraph 9 of the report refers to Councillor Hicks; this should read as Councillor Browning.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY****(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2025****PUBLIC QUESTIONS WITH RESPONSES****1. QUESTION FROM NATHANIEL GREGORY TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN AIR, STREETS AND WASTE**

What is the plan for expanding bicycle access and safety in Southwark?

RESPONSE

We are supporting the strategic cycling network by ensuring that every address is within 400m of a cycling route. On top of this we are assessing cycle routes based on the amount of traffic present, whether surfaces are smooth and comfortable to ride on, assessing the safety of turns across the flow of traffic, and ensuring cyclists have enough protection.

One of the key barriers to cycling uptake is that most residents live in flats or maisonettes and might not have space to store a bike; 58% of respondents highlighted this issue. As a result, we are providing cycle hangars and stands, having delivered storage for over 5,000 bikes already. We are expanding this programme by increasing storage for accessible cycles and ensuring residents don't wait longer than 6 months for a space.

Finally, we are providing a wide variety of services to make cycling easier, including free cycle training and bike maintenance workshops. We aim to make cycling more affordable through 'try before you bike', second hand bike markets, and working with partners for cheaper affordable cargo-bike hire. We are also working with the Metropolitan Police Service for free bike security markings.

2. QUESTION FROM HELLEN CRISTINA BENAVIDES OROSZ TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

Phone snatching is getting worse across our borough, particularly around London Bridge, Blackfriars Road, and Bankside. What actions is the council taking to tackle this issue?

RESPONSE

Phone snatching across London causes distress and disruption to

residents, workers, and visitors alike. Tackling this issue is a top priority for the council and our partners. Working with those partners, we are taking a number of steps to address this problem. These include:

- highly visible patrols in hotspot areas supported by specialist police units
- enhanced community engagement to reduce opportunities for theft
- working intensively with young people identified as being at risk of offending
- monthly partnership meetings bring together the council, police, probation services, Transport for London and British Transport Police to coordinate responses to robbery and phone snatching and supporting victims to take steps that will help with the investigation and recovering their property.

Safety is fundamental to the wellbeing of our communities. The Council through its dedicated communication approach is encouraging those who have witnessed or experienced an incident to report it to the police and the council. This includes actively promoting the use of Crimestoppers, via 0800 555 111, which is 100% anonymous and helps us to target resources effectively.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY****(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2025****LATE QUESTION WITH RESPONSE****1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The welfare reforms that passed last week in the House of Commons will have substantial impacts on carers and disabled people here in Southwark - even after the major concessions the Government was forced to make.

Noting that at least one of our MPs vocally backed the even more damaging version of the reforms before they were watered down - will the leader join the Southwark Liberal Democrats in condemning the decision of our 5 Southwark Labour MPs to back the welfare reforms, and urge them to back the campaign to scrap the bill before it goes any further?

RESPONSE

Thank you for your question. I want to commend Labour MPs in Southwark for the work they have done over recent weeks to represent the needs of people with disabilities and to improve the welfare legislation that has been going through parliament such that it is now predicted to lift 50,000 people out of poverty.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2025

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS WITH RESPONSES

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN

We asked for an update on the delayed reviews into the Devon Mansions and Canada Estate major works scandals in March 2025 - we were assured that we would see those in April. Three months later, and we are still no closer to getting the answers and accountability that residents and leaseholders deserve. When will we get those reports?

RESPONSE

Reports were commissioned to review the Devon Mansions and Canada Estate Major Works projects. The Housing Scrutiny Commission has requested that both reports be published together and both will be published on 28 July. The first report, produced by the Task and Finish Team to review the internal procedures and processes, is complete. The second report, produced by an independent consultant looking into the cost, quality and timeliness of the works, has been slightly delayed with the external consultant.

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JASON OCHERE

What is the Leader's response to the government's £39 billion investment in social and affordable homes?

RESPONSE

I am delighted with the government's announcement. The new £39bn Affordable Homes Programme marks a transformative turning point for council housing. This announcement, alongside confirmation of a long-term rent settlement, is the biggest commitment to social housing in a generation. These measures are solutions that Southwark Council, alongside our coalition of 112 councils, called for through our Securing the Future of Council Housing campaign. We welcome the recognition of council housing's critical role in tackling the housing crisis and helping deliver the 1.5 million homes this government has committed to build by the end of this Parliament. The Spending Review announcement provides the certainty needed for Southwark to continue to lead by example and deliver more new council homes than any other council in England – 3000 completed or under construction today. Our campaign does not stop here, and we will continue to

draw attention to the investment needed in upgrading and modernising our existing council housing stock and securing a sustainable council housing financial model.

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RACHEL BENTLEY

In 2024, over 400 noise complaints about boats on the Thames were recorded by riverside residents, which has remained steady for the last few years. There is clearly a problem here - but due to these boats being licenced by other boroughs, the Port of London Authority and Port of London Health Authority, enforcement action is often lacklustre. What is the council doing to engage with other local authorities and agencies to ensure that appropriate action is taken against party boats breaching noise limits?

RESPONSE

We recognise that, as one of the custodians of the River Thames, we have a responsibility to encourage and enforce reasonable commercial use of the river. To this end, our officers maintain regular engagement with the Port of London Authority (PLA) and neighbouring boroughs to collaboratively address any concerns that may arise.

The PLA is leading further work to enhance communication with licensed operators. This includes the development of guidance on their responsibilities in managing noise levels and mitigating potential nuisance when operating on the Thames. We support this initiative and continue to work in partnership to promote responsible river use.

Residents who have concerns or complaints about operators on the river should contact Licensing@southwark.gov.uk.

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR EMILY HICKSON

Can the Leader provide me with detail of the recent announcement of £20 million of Neighbourhood community infrastructure levy (CIL) for our communities?

RESPONSE

Community organisations and council departments have worked hand in hand to develop the best possible ideas to deploy funds raised through the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy. To date over £10m has been allocated with a further £10m to be allocated in the next month. This demonstrates the tangible benefit to our communities resulting from the growth of the Borough.

In London Bridge and West Bermondsey alone, I am delighted that so far, we have been able to support the community led transformation of Alfred Salter

Playground, security doors on St Saviours Estate, installation of solar panels on Hamilton Square Estate and investment in Downside Fisher Youth Club.

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR EMILY TESTER

Recent data shows that despite the number of credit adjustments for major works bills halving over the last 10 years, the average time taken between payment and final accounts has almost doubled to close to 7 years. This is causing considerable anxiety to those facing major works projects on top of the existing concerns raised by recent scandals. Can the cabinet member explain the reason for these delays, and assure that leaseholders will receive any refunds due in a timely fashion?

RESPONSE

The Council is committed to making sure that billing for major works on leaseholders' homes is accurate from the start. However, there are times when bills can either rise or fall. We understand that this can cause stress or financial hardship for leaseholders.

Sometimes extra work is needed or bills are challenged, which can slow things down. While some projects wrap up in two years, others take longer, especially when we are working through the final account process to make sure everything is fair and accurate.

Bills are based on legally required estimates, which means payments are made before the final costs are known. Adjustments are only possible when the work is complete and the final bills are reviewed through an auditing process.

On average, applying credits takes just over four years, but we're working hard to reduce this. We are continuing to work on improving how we manage leaseholder accounts, while keeping the billing process clear, fair and accountable.

We are here to support leaseholders if costs become significant. This includes interest-free repayment plans of up to four years for resident leaseholders, as well as longer-term loans with interest.

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JON HARTLEY

Can the Leader update me on the Labour government's recent new investment in retrofitting council buildings across the borough?

RESPONSE

The Labour government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme has given Local Authorities the resources we need to tackle the significant challenge of decarbonising our estate. The largest part of this challenge for Southwark and

many other local authorities is the carbon cost of our leisure service. As a result, the £11m we have received has been focused on investment into our leisure centres, with £8.405m invested across the service since it was insourced. This includes £1.547m in lifecycle improvements to facilities, over £500,000 to install solar panels at Peckham & Dulwich, and £356,000 to installation of LEDs across the estate.

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

When I visited a council-managed care home earlier this year, we were shocked to learn that many residents there were ready to transition back into life at home, but were stuck in limbo due to housing issues. Sometimes these housing problems had been the cause of their health issue in the first place. What data does the council hold on the number of residents for whom poor housing conditions prevent returning to more independent living?

RESPONSE

When someone in a care home is getting ready to return home, our Adult Social Care team carries out a full assessment to understand all their needs. If we find that housing is either the cause of their situation or could make returning home difficult, we act quickly to help. The way we provide support depends on their housing situation: whether they're a council tenant, live in a housing association or private property, or own their own home. For example, sometimes significant work can be needed to make a home fit for return, and this can take longer in the private rented sector where we need to negotiate with a private landlord. In some cases, Adult Social Care can arrange temporary step-down accommodation in our Flexi-Care Housing to further promote independence. As each person's situation is unique, we keep data about these housing matters in their individual case files, rather than in one central place.

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ESME HICKS

Can the Leader outline how Southwark's community wardens are helping to tackle key issues facing residents raising around anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime in our estates and town centres, and in areas like Green Dale in Champion Hill?

RESPONSE

Community Wardens provide a uniformed presence in public spaces across the borough. Guided by local intelligence, they patrol crime and ASB hotspots, working with police on proactive weapon and drug sweeps. Southwark's Community Wardens have become the first in London to complete the Met's new ASB Early Intervention Scheme training, and have already joined a live street operation this month to put their skills into action.

Looking ahead, the service is set to expand. Wardens will soon be empowered to issue Community Protection Warnings to those involved in anti-social behaviour. We are also introducing a dedicated nighttime patrol service to work alongside them, launching this summer with uniformed teams patrolling priority areas every evening until 2am, seven days a week.

Community Wardens' actions in Greendale are an excellent example of the value of the service, as they engaged rough sleepers in an encampment along with substance misuse and homelessness services to get people the support they needed. From an enforcement perspective on the East Dulwich estate, community wardens have been proactively patrolling and have carried out joint weapon and drug sweeps.

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

Residents are rightly furious that trees that are subject to Tree Protection Orders in and around the Salt Quay pub area have been cut down - what enforcement action will the council take against those who have done this, and ensure that those trees that have been removed are replaced?

RESPONSE

Thanks to reports from diligent residents and prompt action by council officers, most of the trees in the Salt Quay pub area were saved from being cut down. Following this, the planning department issued a Tree Preservation Order to protect the remaining trees. These trees are Council property, and crucial to the local community. That's why we are working with legal and planning teams to the enforcement action options available to us. The trees were not covered by preservation orders when they were removed, so there is no legal way to require their replacement. However, we are now exploring the option of planting new trees in the area during the next planting season, which runs from November 2025 to March 2026.

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR BETHAN ROBERTS

Can the Leader update me on the council's new Good Landlord Plan?

RESPONSE

Southwark Council is entirely committed towards doing our part to secure decent homes for all. The Good Landlord Plan, passed by Cabinet on 7 July, is a crucial part of the council's approach, aligning our housing improvement work with wider goals around fairness, health, and opportunity, alongside outlining what has already been achieved. The plan focuses on six key themes: better homes, better estates, better repairs, better customer services, a stronger voice for tenants, and new council homes.

We have shaped this plan by learning from our ongoing conversations with the Social Housing Regulator and ensuring we have a comprehensive

response to their assessments of our work. Embedded in the plan is a determination to improve the way we manage homes, resolve repairs, communicate with residents, and meet regulatory requirements. To accomplish this, it sets out a clear route to service improvement, along with mechanisms for accountability allowing residents to see what to expect, and how performance is meeting those expectations.

Going forward there is an intention to further involve tenants and leaseholders in housing policy with the establishment of a new, resident-led, Housing Management Board, alongside engaging residents in every step of the way.

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR NICK JOHNSON

What data does the council hold on the current proportion of council homes with solar panels fitted?

RESPONSE

We have been able to identify 31 existing buildings with solar panels, however as the data is not collated in one area further time will need to be given to collate further information that will also include all new build properties.

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LEO POLLAK

Can the Leader update us on our activity to support our high streets and help them grow?

RESPONSE

The Thriving High Street Fund (THSF) is a grant funding programme that supports the revitalisation of Southwark's town centres and high streets. The THSF provides small grants to businesses, community groups and organisations to run projects to help high street businesses grow and thrive. Following two successful rounds, round 3 is now open for expressions of interest until 29th June and £100K confirmed funding is available. Awards will be made by September 2025 and projects will be delivered by March 2026.

Previous rounds of THSF funded projects such as events to attract visitors such as the Urban Elephant Festival, or built the capacity of businesses or business forums such as the Peckham Business Forum. The current round of funding will complement the Town Centre Action Plans recently agreed by cabinet and discussed at Council Assembly in March 2025.

13. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN AIR, STREETS, AND WASTE FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

The Kennington Triangle traffic management scheme, initiated by Lambeth Borough Council in January 2025, took 6 months to contact St George's Ward councillors, and it's understood that beyond a leaflet drop, no community

organisations on the Southwark side of the border were engaged with, despite Lambeth requesting a list of appropriate stakeholders. Will the cabinet member apologise to residents for failing to engage with them on this scheme?

RESPONSE

The current engagement phase is the second discussion with the community, with the first phase in March 2025. All addresses in the project area and for some distance beyond were leafletted in both engagement phases. There will also be further engagement as part of the project.

The proposals are still at formative stage and no decisions have yet been made.

The second phase of consultation closed on 7 July 2025 and council officers will need to consider the feedback received. How long this takes will depend on the amount of feedback received and the points raised, however we are likely to be in a position to make a decision on how the scheme might progress in September 2025.

14. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN AIR, STREETS, AND WASTE FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID WATSON

In June 2025, a child attending Charles Dickens Primary School was seriously injured whilst crossing Great Suffolk Street, requiring intensive care at hospital. The child was crossing safely, holding their parent's hand. Road safety around Borough High Street has been an issue worrying parents, carers, and teachers for a long time. Whilst local councillors have managed to secure some small improvements to crossings, it's clear much more action needs taken before another child gets injured. Can the cabinet member update us on investigations into this incident, and plans to improve road safety more generally in this area?

RESPONSE

All of our thoughts are with the family and child who has been injured in this dreadful incident. There are no words I can express which will dampen the hurt caused and I know we will all wish the best for the family and this child a complete recovery. Officers at the council are continuing their investigations and assessments and are still awaiting the formal details from the police concerning the incident. We are working with the school to assess safety measures and have also reviewed the need for a School Crossing Patrol to be introduced outside Charles Dickens Primary School. Officers are also looking to introduce safety measures for the Borough High Street and Great Suffolk Street to ensure we do everything we can so that incidents like this can never happen again.

15. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & REFUGEES FROM COUNCILLOR SABINA EMMANUEL

Can the cabinet member update me on future plans for investing in our school estates?

RESPONSE

We are investing heavily in securing the future of education and our school estate is central to that. We are announcing a £2m programme to provide improvement across our school estate ensuring our pupils have the best possible learning environment. This is part of an over £20m raft of investments in our school estates taking place over the coming years. Also included is £200,000 for increasing childcare places helping parents who need to work amid the cost-of-living crisis, £0.5m for decarbonisation supporting our net-zero ambitions, £16m for fully refurbishing two schools ensuring that pupils have the best possible learning environment and increasing special school places, and an additional £2m for school led projects to improve accessibility in our schools for disabled pupils.

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN AIR, STREETS AND WASTE FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM

Can the cabinet member update me on steps being taken to prevent fly-tipping in our borough?

RESPONSE

Tackling the scourge of fly-tipping is a key priority, and last February Cabinet committed to invest in a three-year transformational programme, focused on four borough-wide cleanliness issues, one of which is fly-tipping.

We're being tougher on enforcement, with the maximum fly-tipping fine level being increased from £400 to £1,000 from 1 April 2025. We also issued 265 fixed penalty notices between January and March 2025 for fly-tipping and Section 34 'Duty of Care' failings.

In the past year, we have recruited two additional 'round crews' to increase our fly-tip removal capacity, increased enforcement capacity with the recruitment of five fixed-term officers, doubled the mobile CCTV coverage, and launched a public awareness campaign.

We're focusing on 'hot spot' areas with tailor plans. These include seven key areas where fly-tipping is a significant issue, seven estates and seven locations where household waste sacks from flats above shops are left out. For example, on the Hawkstone and Canada Estates, officers will carry out walkabouts with councillors and residents to create a clear action plan that will be implemented in the coming months.

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN AIR, STREETS AND WASTE FROM COUNCILLOR ELLIE CUMBO

Can the cabinet member update me on what steps are being taken to ensure streets and town centres are clean in our borough?

RESPONSE

Last year, the council began a three-year funded programme to proactively tackle graffiti and fly-tipping. Four dedicated 'blitz' teams will be deployed to clean up our streets, focusing on 'hotspot' areas in Peckham, Camberwell, and Elephant and Castle.

Our new approach will transform how we keep our streets and town centres clean. We will work with the community to find out the root causes behind graffiti and fly-tipping and then agree a plan of collaborative action to address it. This includes engaging with residents and businesses through door-knocking and completing section 34 'Duty of Care' checks to ensure businesses have the necessary waste management arrangements. When needed, we will take necessary enforcement action, such as issuing fixed penalty notices, supported by the increased use of mobile CCTV cameras. Alongside this, residents will see warning signs, flyers and posters around the borough. Bright yellow 'crime scene' tape will be placed around large fly-tips a visible deterrent.

We're delighted to have kick-started this programme with a six-month trial in roads such as Camberwell Church Street and Vicarage Grove. In one month, we have seen 34 owners and businesses demonstrating their support for graffiti and fly posting removal work. We look forward to replicating the success of these trials across the borough and work with businesses and communities to help improve the look and feel of our town centres.

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN AIR, STREETS AND WASTE FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HOOD

In March, there was severe disruption to bus services as a result of emergency work from Thames Water. Residents were left stranded on the Rotherhithe peninsula in an area already severely underserved by public transport. The different agencies (the council, Transport for London (TfL), Thames Water) all place responsibility for poor communication with each other. Can the cabinet member take responsibility and apologise for this failure and the ongoing unbearable disruption residents are suffering through in the Rotherhithe peninsula?

RESPONSE

We recognise that there have been concerns raised regarding the provision of public transport within parts of Rotherhithe for some time now. We have worked with Transport for London and residents to try and address those issues and improve service in the area. In this instance, buses were diverted to allow Thames Water to repair a burst water main. TfL relies on the utility

company to give advance notice of needed works so they can provide additional options for residents. I regret that didn't happen on this occasion. We will continue to work with both TfL and other partners to minimise disruption for residents when urgent work is required.

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR IRINA VON WIESE

When the operation of Tower Bridge care home was transferred to Agincare, assurances were made that there would be no changes to staffing to ensure that residents would experience minimal disruption. However, since then we have learned that at least four posts have been cut. Is the council aware of this, and what action will the cabinet member take to ensure that Agincare fulfils the promise made to staff, residents, and their families about the continuity of care?

RESPONSE

At the point of transition and immediately after, there were no reductions or variations to staffing at Tower Bridge Care Home. However, after a reasonable period of time, a TUPE compliant small re-organisation was undertaken to re-deploy some staff into new and vacant roles. Staff and Trade Unions were consulted and the new arrangements are now in place. This did not involve any staff reductions or redundancies.

We were consulted on the changes and we support them, in the best interests of the residents. Tower Bridge Care Home was recently inspected by the Care Quality Commission and the outcome and report of that inspection is expected soon. We are confident that Tower Bridge Care Home is safely staffed and we continue to monitor it as per our safeguarding and commissioning responsibilities.

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY & NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

What work is being done to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) at Peckham Square?

RESPONSE

We have undertaken a large multi-agency operation in the area to address residents' growing concerns. This involved improved CCTV monitoring of the square, joint patrols with community wardens, police, ASB officers, and support workers. These agencies all engaged in intelligence sharing to oversee individual cases and agreed appropriate interventions or enforcement.

As a result, there were 38 street engagements, 15 people were offered addiction treatment, 8 community protection warnings were issued, 5 people were arrested and 1 tenancy was recovered. Since the operation, we have put a dispersal order in place. We have also taken steps to improve the visibility in

the area by initiating lighting audit and removing overgrown greenery around the square.

Going forward, Peckham Town Centre will be a priority area for the Community Safety Partnership, with the Violence Reduction team undertaking joint covert operations tackling drug dealing related to organised crime and the Metropolitan Police Service instituting a dedicated town centre policing team from the end of this month.

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, PARKS & YOUNG PEOPLE FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE

Can the cabinet member tell me how much the council has invested in the new sports centre at Burgess Park and what facilities are available for residents, including my constituents in Old Kent Road?

RESPONSE

The redeveloped Burgess Park Sports Centre project cost £8.3m – the council investing £5.74m, with external grants obtained from Football Foundation (£2.4m), Sport England (£151,000), Access Sport (£10,000). Internal grants included the Climate change team (£508,000), Active Southwark Legacy Fund (£250,000).

Facilities include a new pavilion with 6 changing rooms and a flexible community room space to serve local organisations / teams using the grass rugby and cricket pitches, two floodlit full-size 3G football / rugby pitches, and a floodlit full-size outdoor basketball court.

The improved site provides sporting opportunities to people from across the community, including new junior and adult female groups (including South London Lacers, Girls United) and LGBTQ+ football activities. The site continues to champion a popular local Latin American women's football league and now hosts a local Sunday grassroot girls football league which has several local teams competing.

The new expansion has also led to weekly activities for local refugees and a walking football programme for older adults. These opportunities bring like-minded people together to make friendships and contribute to mental health and stronger communities.

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, PARKS & YOUNG PEOPLE FROM COUNCILLOR MOHAMED DEEN

Can the cabinet member outline the range of services available for young people via the council's One Hub?

RESPONSE

One Hub is a council website that provides immediate information to on the daily events, services and support available for Southwark's young people, with quick links to external support services.

This includes information on youth centres, adventure playgrounds, jobs and opportunities, activities and ways that young people can have their say in their local community, such as Youth Parliament.

In May, we celebrated the re-launch of our brand-new website through our first One Hub Festival, designed especially for 12 to 19-year-olds. Held in the buzzing creative space of Peckham Levels, young people gathered to explore the different opportunities and activities based in their borough. The festival was packed with stalls from education providers, essential support services and a variety of activities that attendees loved. This includes hands-on workshops on social media, podcasting and music, exciting fitness challenges and testing ground-breaking robotics technology. The day was filled with live performances and local food, and attendees connected with the network of brilliant organisations featured on the One Hub site.

You can view the new website here: [The activity and information hub for young people in Southwark| OneHub Southwark](#)

23. **QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEW HOMES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH MCCALLUM**

Campaign groups such as the 35% Campaign have highlighted a number of developments where the actual number of social and affordable housing units fall far short of that agreed during the planning process - yet there appears to be no enforcement action taken against them, nor any apparent plans to. How many "missing" homes on how many sites has the council decided not to take enforcement action over where the actual number of affordable homes is below the agreed number?

RESPONSE

I am proud of Southwark's record on social rent homes. Last year we completed more social rent homes than any other borough in London and the number of social rent homes where construction has started made up 12% of the total started in the city as a whole – an incredible achievement.

But we will always push to improve. That is why the Council has ten open investigations concerning breaches of section 106 agreements. Nine of these cases relate to tenure but only one relates to a failure to provide affordable housing. Failure to deliver affordable housing units is very rare in Southwark.

The Council has investigated a further fifty cases that have been closed. In the majority of these cases upon further investigation no breach of control was found. There were a minority of cases in which the passage of time or the

wording of a section 106 agreement meant it was not practical to take further action. All enforcement cases concerning affordable housing are added to the public register, available online at <https://planning.southwark.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, PARKS & YOUNG PEOPLE FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PARTON

Can the cabinet member tell me what works have taken place to improve and expand Dr Harold Moody and Consort Parks?

RESPONSE

The first phase of transformative upgrades to Dr Harold Moody Park and Consort Park in Peckham was completed in May 2025. The two parks that were previously separated by Sturdy Road have been united to create an expanded community green space at the heart of Peckham.

Alongside planting 12 new trees and new sensory gardens and meadows, we have also installed new seating areas and tree-shaped climbing structures, bringing communities of all ages together in this beautiful new space.

Having well designed green spaces in a city environment is a high priority to our residents, and we are pleased to add to the impressive parks in our borough through this vital expansion and improvement work. Partly funded by a grant secured from the Mayor of London's Green and Resilience Spaces Fund, these changes are part of the bold vision to make Southwark and London's outdoor spaces more inclusive, accessible and climate resilient.

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES, DEMOCRACY & FINANCE FROM COUNCILLOR MAGGIE BROWNING

Can the cabinet member update me on the funding provided to local LGBTQ+ organisations from this year's Pride Fund?

RESPONSE

Southwark Council is proud to serve and celebrate a large population of LGBTQ+ residents, including the fifth largest trans and non-binary community in England. That diversity is an incredible strength, and it helps make Southwark the remarkable success it is. This year our Pride fund had 33 applicants, with projects totalling nearly £75,000 in value. The majority LGBTQ+ panel ended up recommending 17 of the applicants for total grant funding of £32,000. In the main, funded events will take place between 1 June and 31 August, with a particular focus on Pride Month events. Additional preference in funding was given to organisations who had not previously been funded in the 24 rounds, events delivered by organisations with a focus on intersectionality like Seemia Theatre & the Africa Centre, as well as events held in public spaces that are open to the broader public. All funded events will be on the Southwark Presents webpage and can be found by selecting the 'LGBTQ+ Event' Filter. These events provide an opportunity for the whole

community to come together and celebrate our borough's diversity and we are delighted to support them.

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, JOBS & BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLOR MARGY NEWENS

Can the cabinet member tell me what projects have received investment from the first two rounds of the Green Investment Fund?

RESPONSE

The council has raised £1.5m of funding across two rounds of Southwark Green Investment to date. The £1m raised in the first round has been spent on projects including new solar panels at Peckham Pulse leisure centre, greening its electricity supply and saving the centre £12,000 on its energy bills last month, the removal of the gas boiler at Crampton Primary School, and installation of a new low-carbon heat pump and accelerating the rollout of cycle hangars and energy-efficient LED lighting for our streets and parks. The council raised another £500,000 in our second-round last winter, which is being spent over the course of 2025. So far it has supported two new Library of Things sites, in Dulwich and Camberwell, and a new nature garden at Moreton Gate. Over the summer it will support projects to reduce carbon emissions from our cemeteries and crematorium, as well as more greening and flood reduction projects in our local schools, streets and estates.

We are now open for a third round of investment where we are aiming to raise another £1m, which will fund more projects supporting biodiversity, renewable energy, green schools and active travel.

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, JOBS & BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLOR YUCEF HASSAINE

Can the cabinet member update me on the council's work to expand the number of Living Wage employers in our borough?

RESPONSE

Southwark Council's Living Wage Unit conducts a direct, targeted programme of engagement with businesses to encourage them to become accredited London Living Wage employers. The programme uses the council's business newsletter, resident newsletter and social media channels to raise awareness of the London Living Wage and Living Wage Employer accreditation. We also facilitate a quarterly stakeholder working group meeting as part of our "Living Wage Place" accreditation. Press releases have been used to celebrate some of the success of the programme such as being shortlisted for awards or reaching 400 accredited employers.

There are currently 439 accredited London Living Wage employers in Southwark, including 105 who have started their accreditation over the last 12

months. We are also on track to meet our target of doubling the number of accredited London Living Wage Employers by 2026.

Southwark Council's exceptional work has been recognised at the Living Wage Foundation 2025 awards. Southwark Council won the "Industry Champion" award and Senior Programme Officer, James Reed won the "Advocate of the Year". Congratulations to James and the whole team on this incredible achievement

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

Can the cabinet member provide detail of the outcomes of the recent Health of the Borough Conference?

RESPONSE

On 8 May, the Health of the Borough event was held at Tooley Street, bringing together over 60 representatives, including councillors, residents, NHS colleagues, charities, and other partners.

Key issues discussed included:

- low levels of trust in the NHS
- digital exclusion
- the complexity of navigating local health services
- the impact of housing conditions on health and wellbeing
- the consequences of public funding cuts
- Opportunities to strengthen collaboration between the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and public sector partners.

The Health and Wellbeing Board have agreed to build on this work by integrating these discussion points with existing action plans, as well as support further events for statutory and VCS partners.

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, PARKS AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS

Can the cabinet member confirm when the rebuilt Peckham Rye Adventure Playground will be completed and how, in the intervening time, any play and youth offer from the Adventure Playground building will be as inclusive as possible and present good value for money?

RESPONSE

We know that play is critical for children's wellbeing and development so we are happy to share that construction work to install the new play structures at Peckham Rye Park Adventure Playground will begin in mid-September 2025 and be completed by November 2025.

We look forward to welcoming people back to the adventure playground. In the meantime, the after school and summer programmes will be available from Tuesdays to Saturdays during term-time and Monday to Fridays in the school holidays.

We are working closely with local schools to increase access and offer targeted sessions; and will provide a programme that addresses different play styles, social and emotional development, and meets children's needs. The new playground includes more accessible play equipment for users and will broaden inclusivity.