

Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

Thursday 26 February 2026

7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1
2QH

Supplementary Agenda No.1

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6.	DRAFT SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS - EDUCATION AND LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMISSION To discuss the draft recommendations to Cabinet from the commission for the 2025-26 year.	1 - 2

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Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission**Draft recommendations 2025-26****Education**

Recommendation 1: That the Cabinet instruct Children's Services to deliver an improved, data-driven pupil place planning model, which will incorporate updated demographic, cost-of-living, migration and London-wide falling roll factors impacting the drop in Year 7 applications and long-term secondary admissions.

Recommendation 2: That the Cabinet strengthen youth services by increasing awareness of youth clubs, expanding SEND-inclusive spaces and staff training, and ensuring Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) funding supports youth-led engagement, co-production and wider participation across Southwark.

Recommendation 3: That the Cabinet embed the "need-not-diagnosis" approach in all schools, and strengthen Family Hub early-help pathways, with measurable reductions in exclusions linked to unmet SEND, annual reporting on new SEND places created, and clear operational guidance published by December 2026.

Recommendation 4: That the Cabinet ask SSCP partners to improve monitoring and escalation of safeguarding risks linked to damp, mould, overcrowding and poor housing. Furthermore, establishing shared protocols and producing baseline reporting by December 2026, with clear multi-agency routes for responding to high-risk cases within 10 working days.

Recommendation 5: SEND home-to-school transport:

- That the Cabinet enhance the safety, reliability and oversight of SEND home-to-school transport by embedding the 3-day complaints KPI, expanding AI-enabled CCTV and Cordic usage for safeguarding and incident investigation, improving parent communication through the app and direct support.
- That the Cabinet ensures all external personnel involved in delivering the LBS' contracted services are paid at least the London Living Wage, reflecting both the complexity and responsibility of the role, and the Council's commitment to promoting fair pay and good work across the borough.
- That the Cabinet factor these recommendations into the public consultation LBS is running on SEND school transport, and ensure this

consultation is properly advertised to all stakeholders, especially SEND parents.

Recommendation 6: That the Cabinet implement a consistent borough-wide framework for managing school closures, ensuring early assignment of an admissions caseworker, timely SEND transition planning for EHCPs and vulnerable pupils, clear mapping of site ownership and legal constraints from the outset, and structured parental engagement to minimise disruption and maintain placement choice during closure processes.

Local Economy

Recommendation 1: That the Cabinet implement a targeted infrastructure and safety improvement programme for East Street Market, which will:

- Install general-use public bins, introduce a cleanliness standard, and commit to monitoring litter and waste management practices.
- Provide free Wi-Fi for the business hub/co-working space for traders, support modern signage and new product trials, and explore 2-hour free parking to increase footfall.
- Work with police and traders to deliver a security enhancement plan, aiming for measurable reductions in ASB, thefts and safety concerns.
- That the Cabinet reviews the recommendations for and learnings from East Street Market and apply them to other markets across the borough.

Recommendation 2: That the Cabinet improve commercial property management by establishing a single repairs-and-communications system, reducing overdue repairs through a coordinated Housing–Commercial pilot, and improving business navigation of council processes, supported by a tenant guidance pack and quarterly performance dashboards.

Recommendation 3: That the Cabinet expand the Connect to Work programme’s integrated employment-and-health model, publishing annual outcomes data, strengthening employer partnerships, and ensuring the new Peckham Hub operates as a single-front-door service to increase sustainable employment for priority groups by 2027.

Recommendation 4: That the Cabinet ensures targeted and borough-wide promotion of the Connect to Work Programme, with communications clearly positioning it as a pioneering, person-centred model of employment support grounded in mental health, wellbeing and sustainable life outcomes, rather than a traditional job-entry scheme.