

Council Assembly

Wednesday 18 March 2026

7.00 pm

Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Supplemental Agenda

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	One public question has been received before the deadline.	
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	• Spring Community Hub • Active Communities Network	
4. Deputations		4 - 6
	Four deputation requests were received, from:	
	• Sonay Ozkutayli and St Saviours Residents • Southwark and Peckham Citizens • King's Maternity Voices Partnership • Latin Elephant	
7. Amendments		7 - 16
	Four amendments have been received.	

Contact

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

Date: 16 March 2026

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	18 March 2026
Report title:	Public Question Time
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not applicable
From:	Proper Constitutional Officer

1. QUESTION FROM JK DORAN TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEW HOMES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

With the recent announcement that the number of 'affordable' homes to be delivered as part of the Canada Water Masterplan could be reduced to just 90 (or 3%) of the circa 3,000 new homes, can the council explain how the resulting situation aligns with its stated aims regarding 'affordable' housing?

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	6 March 2026

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	18 March 2026
Report title:	Community Evidence on the Themed Debate
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not applicable
From:	Proper Constitutional Officer

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Introduction

1. The council assembly business panel agreed that the theme for council assembly in March 2026 should be “A borough where everyone can succeed.”

Community evidence on the theme

2. The deadline for community evidence was 11.59pm, 12 March 2026.
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. Spring Community Hub

The community evidence requests states:

“Delivery over the last term.

Spring Community Hub is taking a collaborative, community-led approach to exploring the transition of Blue Youth and Community Centre. We are actively engaging local schools, youth groups and key local partners, including the TRAs, and we are being supported through this process by Community Southwark and Southwark Council officers Eva Gomez and Justine Wilson-Darke.”

6. The below request was received after the deadline, and it is for council assembly to consider whether to accept this late request to present community evidence.

Submission

2. Active Communities Network

The community evidence requests states:

“We will be discussing the MyEnds Programme and its impact in tackling youth violence across Southwark. A key focus will be the urgent need for increased funding for detached youth workers in hotspot areas within the programme’s three action zones: Peckham, Walworth, and Elephant & Castle/Old Kent Road.”

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Constitution	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk 020 7525 7228

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services		
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer		
Version	Draft		
Dated	13 March 2026		
Key decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer title		Comments sought	Comments included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance		No	No
Strategic Director of Resources		No	No
Cabinet Member		No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team			March 2026

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	18 March 2026
Report title:	Deputation Requests
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not applicable
From:	Proper Constitutional Officer

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly considers whether or not to hear deputations from the groups listed in paragraph 5 of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Council assembly procedure rule 2.6 (11) states that no more than three deputations shall be considered at any one meeting. However the meeting can decide to suspend this rule in order to hear more or vary the order.
3. When considering whether to hear the deputation request, council assembly can decide:
 - to receive the deputation at this meeting or a future meeting; *or*
 - that the deputation not be received (if the matter 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); *or*
 - to refer the deputation to the most appropriate committee/ sub-committee.
4. A deputation shall consist of no more than six people, including its spokesperson. One member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the meeting for no longer than 5 minutes. The deputation spokesperson or any member of the deputation nominated by him or her shall be invited to ask a question of the leader or relevant cabinet member. After this time councillors may ask questions of the deputation for up to 5 minutes. At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation will be shown to the public seating area where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Deputation requests

5. The following deputation requests have been received:

1. Sonay Ozkutayli and St Saviours Residents

The deputation request states:

“The deputation follows a recent resident-led initiative where they spoke directly with neighbours across St Saviours about their housing conditions and experiences with repairs and maintenance. During this engagement, 111 residents shared their experiences, highlighting a range of ongoing issues including damp and mould, security concerns, incomplete repairs and long repair resolution times.

The deputation will present a summary of the findings from this resident engagement and raise concerns about repair delays, unresolved maintenance issues and barriers residents experience when reporting problems. It will also outline constructive requests for improved transparency, clearer repair timelines and stronger engagement with residents to address these concerns.”

2. Southwark and Peckham Citizens

The deputation request states:

“We will share the main issues / priorities arising from our recent listening of nearly 600 community members, with special focus on the important of Living Wage and Hours for the communities we work with.”

3. King's Maternity Voices Partnership

The deputation request states:

“The Southwark Maternity Commission published ten recommendations in 2024 to reduce racial disparities in maternal outcomes. Can the Council tell us which of these recommendations have been implemented, what measurable targets have been set, and by what date does the Council expect to see a reduction in disparities for Black women in Southwark specifically?”

4. Latin Elephant

The deputation request states:

“16 long-standing migrant-owned micro-businesses relocated as part of the regeneration of the Elephant and Castle Town Centre have been forced out of the area in the last five years, whether through evictions, or

an inability to make a livelihood perpetuated by poorly managed sites, 7 of these in 2025 alone.

Many of these traders have been part of the local economy for decades and have lost businesses they built over many years. Despite trader groups' multiple attempts over 5 + years to work with the council and the developer to address limitations in the section 106 and worsening barriers to trade, these businesses have not been adequately supported to remain in the area nor restart elsewhere.

Displaced traders want to reopen their businesses but face: a lack of affordable retail space, a competitive market, high costs associated with reopening a business, and depleted resources. The development negatively impacted their hard-built / much-loved businesses and this needs to be recognised and appropriately addressed by Southwark Council and measures put in place to ensure their re-opening, including pathways back into affordable premises and financial support to restart their businesses."

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Deputation Request File	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055
Council Assembly Procedure Rule 2.6, Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services		
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer		
Version	Final		
Dated	11 March 2026		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Title		Comments sought	Comments included
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance		No	No
Strategic Director, Resources		No	No
Cabinet Member		No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team			16 March 2026

AMENDMENTS

ITEM 3.2: THEMED DEBATE – A BOROUGH WHERE EVERYONE CAN SUCCEED

(see pages 9-15 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT A

Proposed by: Councillor David Watson

Delete paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and **replace with:**

3. Council assembly recognises:
 - a. Labour have been in power in Southwark for 16 years, held the London Mayoralty for 10, and been in Government for almost 2 years.
 - b. That the Labour party have therefore run out of excuses for their poor record in Southwark, and have let down residents who may have voted for them expecting change.
4. Council Assembly notes with disappointment that this administration has failed to deliver most of its manifesto commitments, long-standing promises, and has a record that it cannot defend - most notably on:
 - a. Housing
 - i. Despite previous council leaders promising that its flagship council housing target would be genuinely additional, and not merely replacing homes that are being demolished, that commitment has been quietly dropped to inflate house-building figures
 - ii. This administration has fallen 200 short of its 2022 manifesto housebuilding target
 - iii. Pipeline projects that don't even have planning permission are being counted as "starts"
 - iv. Since Labour took control in 2010, there has been a net reduction in the council's dwelling stock of 1,913 - far from the promised increase of thousands by successive Labour administrations
 - v. In 15 of the 23 wards in Southwark, zero council home starts were recorded

- vi. The Labour Mayor conspired with the Labour Government and big developers to slash affordable housing quotas and community infrastructure funding
 - vii. In Southwark this Labour council has overseen multiple large developments with unacceptably low social housing provision – such as at the Aylesham, Borough Triangle, and Canada Water Masterplan, the latter of which likely to provide just 3% affordable housing
 - viii. That responsibility for this lies with this Labour administration, but also the Labour Mayor of London and Labour Government who have failed to deliver a council housebuilding revolution or ensure that developers contribute their fair share
 - ix. Despite promising a “zero tolerance approach” to rogue landlords – the Labour Party’s own Chancellor of the Exchequer and Southwark’s own past Cabinet Member for Council Homes failed to follow their own landlord licensing rules.
 - x. Labour’s housing department received the second-worst rating available from the Government’s social housing regulator – which found “serious failings” - including half of all homes not having working smoke alarms or up to date electrical installation certificates
 - xi. Multiple major works scandals came to light during this council term – where combined overspend on the projects amounted to more than £7 million, and left tenants and leaseholders with poor quality – or in some cases non-existent – works.
- b. Crime and anti-social behaviour
- i. Southwark now has the fourth highest number of crimes in London – the highest in South East London
 - ii. Phone snatching has reached all time highs under this administration – with areas like Borough and London Bridge seeing some of the highest levels of phone snatching in London
 - iii. This Labour Mayor has closed all 24/7 police front counters in Southwark – with Walworth Police Station’s front counter being the latest to now close its doors at night
 - iv. This council has failed to secure a new police hub in Rotherhithe after it was evicted from the Seven Islands Leisure Centre.

- v. Since Labour took control of the council in 2010, there is only a fraction of the number of community safety wardens active compared to the last Liberal Democrat administration
 - vi. Labour have repeatedly voted against our proposals to double community safety wardens
 - vii. Southwark Labour have not stood up to cuts to police staffing and facilities from their London Mayor or Government
- c. Council services and the cost of living:
- i. This Labour administration has not meaningfully progressed on its 2022 commitment to in-house more services beyond the leisure service – which itself was an outstanding commitment from 2021
 - ii. Questions remain surrounding its procurement practices, notably with regard to Plentific which Southwark's trade unions continue to raise issues around
 - iii. Residents report that it is difficult to get in touch with the council – with emails left unanswered, repairs appointments not being kept or followed up on, and many being left on hold for hours.
 - iv. Substantial amounts of waste remain despite raising council tax by the maximum amount over this council term – including frivolous back-office spend and bloated cabinet positions
 - v. The cost of housing – both renting and buying – has continued to climb under this Labour council, Mayor, and Government – with Southwark being one of the most expensive areas in London to live.
 - vi. This has forced families to move out of Southwark – and subsequently six schools have closed across Southwark during this council term alone.
 - vii. Wages have failed to increase in line with the cost of living due to this Government's failure to grow the economy, as well as higher employer NICs suppressing wage growth.
 - viii. Southwark Labour have consistently voted against Liberal Democrat proposals to address the cost of living crisis – like freezing council tax for the poorest and increasing the council's cost of living fund.
- d. The environment:

- i. This Labour administration has failed to meet its 2022 manifesto commitment to halve its emissions, and will not meet its 2030 net zero target.
 - ii. This Labour administration has failed to roll out enough EV chargers – meaning that the council has been forced to continue to procure internal combustion engine vehicles for its own fleet
 - iii. Recycling rates have plateaued, leaving Southwark’s among the worst in Southwark
 - iv. Green spaces like Nursery Row park have been made worse by stripping back Cleaner, Greener, Safer grants-funded flora
 - v. Play spaces have been nominated for “saddest playgrounds” - and others have been left locked for years or taken away by this Labour council.
- 5. Council Assembly also notes how Southwark Labour have failed to stand up to the Labour Government: most notably:
 - a. Failed to vocally condemn the fair funding settlement, instead quietly admitting that it wasn’t a “good deal”.
 - b. Voted against scrapping the two child benefit cap
 - c. Backed changes to disability welfare payments and winter fuel payments – which could have plunged hundreds in Southwark into poverty – until the Government eventually u-turned,
- 6. Council Assembly believes:
 - a. That after 16 years of Labour rule in Southwark, it is time for change
 - b. Only the Liberal Democrats can bring that change:
 - i. Polling reported by the Guardian as being circulated by senior Labour officials shows that Labour and Liberal Democrats could be neck-and-neck after May’s local elections in Southwark
 - ii. Southwark has only ever been led by Labour or Liberal Democrat-led administrations.
- 7. Council Assembly resolves to:
 - a. Endorse the Southwark Liberal Democrat manifesto further detailed in Motion 2 – and commit to its “Six to Fix”:

1. Freeze Council Tax for the poorest households
 2. Double the number of community safety officers
 3. Ensure half of all new homes are genuinely affordable
 4. Open one stop shops for council services in every neighbourhood
 5. Create eight new parks and green spaces
- b. Open five new youth centres

Renumber all paragraphs and sub-paragraphs accordingly.

ITEM 5.2.1: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Tackling antisocial behaviour on Southwark's estates (see pages 23-26 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT B

Moved: Councillor Jane Salmon

Seconded: Councillor Irina von Wiese

Delete all and replace with:

1. Council Assembly recognises:
 - a. Labour's appalling record on crime and anti-social behaviour in Southwark and London and a whole
 - b. That some of the phone-snatching hotspots in London are in Southwark – particularly London Bridge and West Bermondsey and Borough and Bankside, which collectively record thousands of phone snatchings
 - c. Southwark has the fourth highest number of crimes reported in London, and has the highest crime rate in South East London
 - d. Out of all 18,530 fly-tipping incidents in Southwark, only 1.8% resulted in a fixed penalty notice, and zero prosecutions
 - e. Labour's London Mayor has:
 - i. Slashed police services across London
 - ii. Broke a manifesto commitment for a 24/7 police front counter in every borough, leaving Southwark with zero 24/7 front counters, after closing the previous 2 completely and shutting Walworth's at night.
 - f. Southwark Labour have:
 - i. Left Rotherhithe without a police hub after evicting it from Seven Islands Leisure Centre, despite what residents were promised
 - ii. Cut the number of community safety wardens to a third of the levels seen under the previous Liberal Democrat administration
 - iii. Repeatedly voted against Liberal Democrat proposals to double community safety wardens, investment in community safety infrastructure,

- iv. Repeatedly voted against Liberal Democrat proposals to tackle flytipping by abolishing the bulky waste charge, introducing community skips, and stricter enforcement against flytippers.
- 2. Council Assembly resolves to implement the Liberal Democrat proposals, including those that Southwark Labour have repeatedly voted against:
 - a. Double community safety wardens
 - b. Invest in youth services and facilities to stop young people falling victim to crime and criminal gangs, and open five new youth centres across the borough
 - c. Invest in community safety infrastructure like CCTV and street lighting, especially on estates, to improve safety and aid enforcement and prosecution
 - d. Abolish the bulky waste charge
 - e. Guarantee that every estate that requests one can have security doors installed.

ITEM 5.2.3: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Protecting the Freedom Pass for Older Londoners (see pages 29-31 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT C

Moved: Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall

Seconded: Councillor Adam Hood

Delete in 1.d: “and Liberal Democrat”

Insert after 1.d:

- e. Sadiq Khan slashed support for the Freedom Pass when he was transport minister in 2010.

Delete 2 and 3 and **replace** with:

3. Council Assembly also notes:

- a. A Labour review of the freedom pass exposed the financial challenge that London Councils face without increased Government support.
- b. The Labour Government’s “Fair Funding” review has left London councils, especially those in inner-London, in extreme financial peril, and has left Southwark Council with an £80 million gap in funding over the next three years.

Delete 4 and replace with:

4. Council Assembly welcomes:

- a. The Liberal Democrats’ continued support of the freedom pass

Insert at the end of 5:

- d. Cabinet condemn the fair funding settlement in the strongest possible terms, and ensure that all Southwark Labour Members of Parliament are availed of the facts surrounding the council’s financial position as a consequence, so as to ensure they do not continue accidentally promoting falsely inflated figures.

Renumber all paragraphs accordingly

ITEM 6.4: Member Allowances Scheme 2026-2027 (see pages 141-182 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT D

Moved: Councillor Graham Neale

Seconded: Councillor Emily Tester

Insert after section 22:

23. It is recommended that the following changes are made to the current SRAs:
- Regrade the Neighbourhood champion role to 1a (currently 1b)
 - Cease provision of SRA for vice-chair of planning.
 - Cease provision of SRAs to deputy cabinet members.
 - Regrade chair of overview and scrutiny committee, and chair of planning committee, and chair of licensing committee to 1b (currently 2b in the proposals, up from 2a)
 - Regrade scrutiny commission and audit, governance and standards chair roles to 1a (currently 1c and 1b respectively)
 - Regrade planning committee chair (smaller applications) to 1b (currently 1c)
24. Introduce a new cap on total SRA budget paid for cabinet member positions of £167,444 – equivalent to 3 full-time cabinet position SRAs and one deputy leader SRA in 2026/27 scheme.
25. Changes outlined in sections 23 and 24 amount to a saving of £348,678 per year.
26. Require all members in receipt of an SRA to provide an annual report on their work relating to their role for which they receive an SRA in order to improve transparency and ensure Southwark residents are getting value for money.

Delete section 23 and **replace with:**

27. The revised member allowances payments for 2026-2027 (i.e. from 1 April 2026) are as follows:

Basic Allowance	
All councillors	£15,059

Licensing sub-committee	
Per meeting	£158.64

Independent persons and co-optees (i.e. statutory co-optees to the education committee)	
Annual allowance (paid monthly)	£1,439

Band 1a	SRA
Vice-chair overview and scrutiny	£3,453
Chair audit & governance committee	£3,453
Deputy leader majority opposition	£3,453
Leader minority opposition	£3,453
Opposition whip	£3,453
Scrutiny commission chair	£3,453
Neighbourhood champion	£3,453
Band 1b	SRA
Deputy Mayor	£6,933
Chair planning committee	£6,933
Chair licensing committee	£6,933
Chair overview and scrutiny	£6,933
Planning committee (smaller applications) chair	£6,933
Band 2a	SRA
Chief Whip	£18,003
Leader majority opposition	£18,003
Band 2b	SRA
Mayor	£25,644
Band 3	SRA
Cabinet member	£41,861
Deputy leader	£41,861
Band 4	SRA
Leader	£62,365

Renumber all paragraphs and sub-paragraphs accordingly.

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN) (FULL LIST) MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26	
NOTE:	Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to Virginia Wynn-Jones Tel: 020 7525 7055

ONE COPY TO ALL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	Copies	To	Copies
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Councillors (1 each) Councillor Jasmine Ali Councillor Renata Hamvas Councillor Sarah King Councillor Sunny Lambe 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 Electronic Versions (No hard copy) All other councillors	12	Press Southwark News South London Press Group Offices Arthur Holmes, Labour Group Office Oliver Bradfield, Liberal Democrat Group Office Officers Althea Loderick Clive Palfreyman Doreen Forrester-Brown Rhona Cadenhead Chidilim Agada Aled Richards David Quirke-Thornton Hakeem Osinaike Darren Summers Vishal Seegoolam Constitutional Team (Copies to Virginia Wynn-Jones, 2nd Floor, Hub 2, Tooley Street)	by email by email by email by email by email by email 1 by email by email by email by email by email by email
		Total: Last updated: October 2025	20