Open Agenda

Council Assembly

Wednesday 23 September 2026
7.00 pm
Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Supplemental Agenda

List of Contents

Item No.	Title	Page No.
1.3.	**Notification of any items of business which the mayor deems urgent** Programme motion	1 - 2
2.2.	**Public question time** Responses to public questions	3 - 8
5.1.	**Members' question time** Responses to members' questions	9 - 35

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Date: 23 September 2026

Agenda Item 1.3

S O U T H W A R K C O U N C I L

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

PROGRAMME MOTION

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

Time	Business
19:00 – 19:10	**1. Preliminary business and announcements**
19:10 – 19:30	**2.2 Public questions** Eight public questions
19:30 – 20:30 (20 minutes – 5 minutes' speech) (7 minutes) (30 minutes) (3 minutes)	**Themed debate** **3.1 Community Evidence** • Southwark Living Streets • Southwark Pensioners Action Group • Neighbourhood Watch Southwark • AtaLoss **3.2 Motion on the Theme** 1. Councillor James McAsh, Councillor Victor Chamberlain 2. Themed debate open to all other councillors 3. Executive member's right of reply to the debate
20:30 – 20:35	**Recess**
20:35 – 20:50 (3 minutes' speech and a question to executive member)	**4. Deputations** • Baitul Aziz Mosque • St James' Tenants • Copleston Centre • London LGBTQ+ Community Centre
20:50 – 21:25 (5 minutes) (15 minutes) (15 minutes)	**5.1 Members' Question Time** • Late question • Members' questions to the leader • Members' questions to the executive
21:25 – 22:00	**5.2 Motions**
	Motion 1 – Support Southwark residents, support Southwark staff
	Motion 2 – Southwark's commitment to trans, non-binary and intersex inclusion
	Motion 3 – Southwark's place in Europe
	Motion 4 – National Year of Reading – making Southwark a borough of readers
	Motion 5 – Defending sanctuary in Southwark
	Motion 6 – Standing up for Southwark
	Motion 7 – Building a care system that works: Southwark and the national conversation on care
	Motion 8 – A clean energy future for Southwark

Time	Business
22:00*	**6. Reports**
	6.1 – Treasury management – Outturn 2025-26

* 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 2.2 – public question time
To suspend CAPR 2.5.10 to allow 20 minutes for public question time

Item 3 – Themed debate

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

- Southwark Living Streets
- Southwark Pensioners Action Group
- Neighbourhood Watch Southwark
- AtaLoss

Format
A five minute presentation from the groups.

Item 3.1 – Motion on the theme

Themed debate
To run as listed in the timings above.
To have a single debate.

Item 4 – Deputation requests
To receive submissions from the groups listed in the deputation requests report in supplemental agenda no. 1:

- Baitul Aziz Mosque
- St James' Tenants
- Copleston Centre
- London LGBTQ+ Community Centre

(Three minutes to speak, question to relevant executive member)

Item 5.2 – General motions
Each motion to have a single debate, subject to the guillotine.

S O U T H W A R K C O U N C I L

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

PUBLIC QUESTIONS WITH RESPONSE

1. QUESTION FROM IAN WINGFIELD TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Deputy Leader of the Green Party was recently revealed to be a landlord, despite the Green Party's agreed position on abolishing private landlordism. Is it the policy of the council under the leadership of this Green-Liberal Democrat coalition that private landlords should be abolished in Southwark?

RESPONSE

No.

2. QUESTION FROM MICK BARNARD TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Can the leader give an update regarding the adoption by this council of the "right to challenge parking policy by Southwark Council," and the likely date of its implementation, and if not why not?

RESPONSE

The "right to challenge" arrangements are already in place via the council's published petition scheme.

Residents can petition the council to review policies, including Parking Policies, by reaching certain signature thresholds:

- 250 signatures forneighbourhood forums (for local issues),
- 500 signatures for Executive consideration, and
- 1,500 signatures for debate at Council Assembly.

3. QUESTION FROM TARA HUDSON TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COUNCIL COORDINATION & CLIMATE

What immediate action will Southwark Council take to address the lack of general waste management on Rouel Road Estate? Residents have no way to get front-garden bins, communal bins or bin chutes, resulting in widespread fly-tipping, black bin bags, rats and waste, creating a serious and worsening public health concern.

RESPONSE

Refuse collections on Rouel Road Estate remain unchanged from the arrangements that have been in place for many years. We recognise the need to upgrade our ways of working on the estate and our work is gathering pace.

Currently, bagged waste is collected from individual properties on a twice weekly schedule for refuse, with collections taking place on Tuesdays and Fridays, with bags of recyclable waste collected on Wednesdays. Properties above ground level generally have a designated storage space in their yard areas for bags to be presented for collection, and ground floor properties have previously been issued with non-wheeled bin for storing bags of waste between collections.

A project is in progress to upgrade waste storage on the estate, and this will include the following key elements:

1. Bin stores have already been installed for recycling bins so that residents can put bagged waste into them between collections - this is expected to reduce the accumulations of bags of recyclable waste that currently take place, particularly on collection days. Some changes will shortly be undertaken by the council's contractors following feedback from residents, these units are expected to be brought into use in the next few weeks.

2. Bin chutes are to be installed and others brought back into use so that residents have access to the current communal refuse containers for disposal of bagged waste between scheduled collection dates. This will ultimately replace the door to door bagged waste collections and improve the standard of the facilities significantly.

3. Some refuse bins will be installed shortly, and a continuing conversation with the TRA will identify if there are any other locations where bins are needed for ground floor residents. There will need to be a balance between providing capacity for residents' convenience, with avoiding creating new fly tipping hotspots on the estate.

4. Communications to residents after these installations will provide greater clarity and information on how each waste type should be managed.
In the meantime, we will continue to work with residents to mitigate any problems they experience while the works are ongoing. Both council officers and elected members have engaged with the TRA on these changes and will continue to do so, planning to attend their next meeting in October to ensure that local residents are happy with the proposed changes.

We have already agreed that some installation for recycling bins will be modified. This includes:

- The unit alongside the proposed play area will be moved to align with the fence and we will screen it to clearly separate it from the

forthcoming play area. The design is expected to be finalised this week.

- One unit will be removed from the pathway and placed on the other side of the wall next to the car park, where the longstanding recycling collection point has been retained.
- We are still awaiting feedback on a suggested location near the site cabin, as an alternative to the Amina Road location. A decision will be taken on the Amina Road location when we have received feedback on the removal, of the site cabin and can establish if the location will be available.

The recycling units that are not subject to any resident concerns will be brought into use as soon as possible – this is expected to be done towards the end of September 2026, although additional work to drop some kerbs will be needed.

4. QUESTION FROM OLA ZAJAC TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, EQUALITIES & DEMOCRACY

Rye Lane traders have faced years of lost trade from reduced parking and rising charges. Now a council owned structure, left without safe maintenance, forced a sudden road closure, costing businesses thousands in lost sales and stock. What practical and financial support will the Council provide to help traders recover?

RESPONSE

The closure of Rye Lane was a decision that the Council did not take lightly, given its status at the heart of our borough but our first duty is the safety of the public. The Council and its Executive recognises the disruption this caused to local businesses and traders whose hard work and entrepreneurialism is integral to what makes Peckham special. The road was reopened as soon as the Council was confident that public safety could be assured. Enquiries are underway as to how long this building had been unsafe and to make sure the risk of this situation repeating is actively managed.

In terms of practical next steps, a dedicated officer within the Town Centres Team has been working closely with the traders. This includes speaking with affected businesses, engaging in regular walkabouts, meetings and leading on ongoing communication with partners such as the Peckham Business Forum.

There was a meeting with local businesses chaired by a representative of the new administration on Tuesday, 8 September 2026, and a letter from the Leader to the traders was circulated on Wednesday 9 September. A letter has also been sent to the local MP from the Executive Member for Inclusive Economy in response to her concerns and a joint walkabout has been arranged.

The Council is actively exploring further support to help businesses

manage the immediate impact of the road closure. The Council recognises the urgency and is working on a comprehensive response. In the meantime, eligible businesses will receive business rates relief for the disruption period through a direct hardship reduction, without the need to apply. This will be proportionate to the rateable value (chargeable amount) for the businesses impacted. Businesses have also been advised to apply for a temporary reduction in rateable value to the Government's Valuation Office Agency.

In terms of the broader issues affecting the businesses around Rye Lane, the new administration is firmly committed to ensuring that our high streets, town centres and markets thrive and encourage footfall. This includes looking at transportation, loading, parking and wider issues such as safety, cleanliness and charges. Some matters such as reform to business rates and employment taxes is firmly within the gift of the Labour Government in Westminster. Rest assured that both the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party wish to see small and medium sized businesses succeed.

It is a challenging wider economic environment with inflation still too high, but this joint administration will do all in its power to create an environment where entrepreneurs and local businesses can thrive. This starts with listening to businesses and engaging in a constructive and open manner, not just in Rye Lane but across Southwark.

5. QUESTION FROM DAVID PARTON TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENGAGEMENT

What support is the council giving to the SET Social community organisation given the possible redevelopment of its community space and the mixed messages coming from the Executive Member for Council Homes, who is offering conflicting support to both the developer and the campaigners who want to stop the development?

RESPONSE FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND NEW HOMES

SET are a valuable and valued community organisation. Their work over the last few years in supporting artists and bringing their work to the wider public contributes massively to Peckham and we are very grateful for their work. From the outset, officers and the executive member for council homes have raised the importance of their retention on site with the developer.

Officers have met with SET and the developer who is at a pre-planning application stage. Further meetings will take place with both organisations to finalise the heads of terms and creating a robust business relocation plan which could be included in a future planning application and, if approved, a future Section 106 agreement.

6. QUESTION FROM CAROLINE CARR TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

If the council believes that trans men are men, can you us know where a trans man is expected to get changed in a Southwark Leisure Centre, the male changing room or the female changing room?

RESPONSE

The Council's approach is to consider each individual's circumstances on a case-by-case basis. If a person informs us that they are transgender, we will have a discussion with them to understand their needs, the activities they wish to attend, and any adjustments that may be required.

The facilities available vary between leisure centres, and decisions regarding changing arrangements are made with consideration for the individual, the layout of the site, available changing provision, and the needs of all service users.

Where potential issues are flagged to staff, this will be escalated to management who will respectfully engage with the individual to understand their circumstances and discuss suitable alternative changing arrangements where appropriate. This conversation will always be conducted sensitively and respectfully, and with due regard to the privacy and dignity of all customers.

Alternative changing spaces may include, Group Changing area, individual changing spaces or accessible changing areas.

Our aim is to ensure that all customers are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness, while providing access to suitable facilities in a safe, practical and inclusive manner, consistent with our legal obligations as a public service provider.

7. QUESTION FROM DAVID STOJANOVSKI TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COUNCIL HOMES

Given reports of OCO Ltd closing heating and hot-water jobs without resolving faults, what safeguards will Southwark put into the new £256M service contracts to prevent contractors from manipulating service level agreements through repeated closure and reopening of unresolved jobs, and ensure the council only pays for work actually delivered?

RESPONSE

A warm, dry home is the basic minimum that any person deserves, and this administration is working to make sure that our engineering repairs service is responsive and effective.

When OCO raises their own jobs with us, our quantitative surveyors and communal heating team looks at this list of jobs and investigates anything

suspicious.

We don't have any reason to believe that there are major issues with this contract. While some jobs may occasionally be raised several times, this is natural for complex engineering works that sometimes require several interventions to find a solution that works.

We are always working with our contractors to improve accountability. With OCO, this includes a new operating system which will be more closely linked with our own Northgate system. The new contracts, which are due to start in 2027, will require greater integration between our IT systems and our contractors, which will also improve visibility on both sides.

If there are any specific cases that residents are worried about, we encourage them to report this to our engineering department through our website so that we can investigate.

8. QUESTION FROM LINDON RANKIN TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, EQUALITIES AND DEMOCRACY

Following unanimous agreement from North Walworth Councillors, the Cabinet approved the CIL-resourced East Street Market community solar project in April 2026.

Could the relevant executive member explain the delay, confirm its current status and delivery timetable, and explain why repeated correspondence to the current ward councillors remains unanswered?

RESPONSE

The CIL funding allowed the progression of a feasibility study for the installation of solar panels at East Street Market. This work has now been completed.

The next step will be to brief ward councillors and local stakeholders on the project’s feasibility and projected outcomes. The briefing is being arranged for October 2026, at which stage a timetable for next steps will be discussed.

The new Joint Administration is committed to improved communication and transparency. The council apologises for any delay in communicating the progress of the innovative project to date and will ensure everyone is kept better informed going forward.

Climate action is a shared endeavour. Alongside this project, the new joint administration is working with council officers to develop a council-wide approach to community energy opportunities which will seek to enhance and build on the success of the Southwark Community Energy Fund.

S O U T H W A R K C O U N C I L

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

LATE QUESTION WITH RESPONSE

1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH KING TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

As the chaotic start to this administration continues, no Borough Plan has been brought forward to this meeting meaning residents, community groups, businesses and other organisations have no certainty nor specificity about the direction the Green-led administration is taking our borough.

Can the Leader guarantee that a fit and proper Borough Plan will be brought to this meeting in November, to give certainty to residents and local organisations that the Green-led coalition still prioritises the services they are delivering?

RESPONSE

Yes.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS WITH RESPONSE

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH KING

When Community Councils were scrapped, a Southwark Council report stated that they were costing the council around £2 million per year. Can the Leader outline the estimated initial cost of reestablishing Community Councils, and the subsequent ongoing cost to the council?

RESPONSE

Creating new Community Councils is a central part of the council's ambition to become a council that listens and, more importantly, one that residents can shape and use to build the Southwark they want to see. Community councils will give people a real say over where they live and we're looking forward to launching them in Southwark.

They will be funded from the council's existing resources, with budget from the current neighbourhoods team which was set up in 2025. We have been delighted by the positive response from residents so far and are looking forward to working with residents and councillors throughout the autumn to design Southwark's new community councils.

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM

How will this administration be different to the last?

RESPONSE

We will govern with integrity and be accountable to the residents of Southwark not the politicians of Westminster. That means being straight about what we can deliver and never making a promise we have no plan to fund. Where the previous administration made cynical unfunded political commitments and left services to lapse, we will be honest with you about the challenges we face and tackle them together.

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD MACMILLAN

With the council's budget gap now an estimated £102m, what is the council doing to ensure that our next medium term financial strategy (MTFS) works for residents?

RESPONSE

The £102 million funding gap is driven by an unfair national Government funding system, rising costs and growing demand for services. Despite these challenges, we remain committed to delivering an affordable, safe and green Southwark. This autumn, we will launch a budget engagement campaign so residents can help shape our next Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and tell us what matters most to them. Their views will help inform the difficult decisions ahead.

The council is already taking action to improve services and make better use of public money. We are doing everything we can to take money out of out back-office services including making better use of council buildings, improving how we buy goods and services, investing in technology, redesigning support services and increasing income. Together with other savings and efficiency measures, these changes are expected to make a significant contribution to our medium-term financial strategy.

We will continue to make future budget decisions openly and with residents at the heart of the process.

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR NATASHA ENNIN

Women from Black ethnic backgrounds are four times more likely to die during pregnancy, or up to six weeks after childbirth or the end of pregnancy, in comparison to White women. The Southwark Maternity Commission investigated the causes of this trend in Southwark, in order to end this disparity in maternal care outcomes.

What progress has this coalition made so far in implementing the recommendations of the Southwark Maternity Commission? Please include details of who the Leader or his executive has met with, and what action they are taking to close the gap in Black maternal health outcomes in Southwark.

RESPONSE

Since becoming Executive Member for Wellbeing, Councillor Chamberlain has been unequivocally clear that we value and respect the work of the Maternity Commission and want to see that important work continue in Southwark.

As soon as the Ockenden report was published, Councillor Chamberlain commissioned a report looking at its implications for Southwark and how we can build on the Commission's work to improve maternity outcomes and tackle inequalities. That report was then put on the agenda of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

He has raised this consistently in his meetings with health partners and made clear the Council's support for continuing this work. Councillor Chamberlain also ensured maternity was on the agenda at his first Health and Wellbeing Board as Chair last week, and has raised it through the wider health partnership.

Councillor Chamberlain has also discussed how we can build on the Commission's work in meetings with Guy's and St Thomas' Foundation, the ICB, community partners and with the opposition spokesperson for Health.

This remains an important priority for Councillor Chamberlain and the Joint Administration. We want us not simply to preserve the work of the Maternity Commission, but to ensure its findings and recommendations lead to lasting improvements for mothers, babies and families across Southwark

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RACHAEL PENNY

Can the Leader update Council Assembly on how this administration ensures its values are reflected in the Council's own decisions and spending?

RESPONSE

This is the first progressive Joint Administration in Southwark's history; we are united by a shared commitment to economic and environmental justice, equality, human rights and internationalism, and these values will underpin our decision-making over the next four years. We set out our priorities for an affordable, safe and green borough at July Executive which will underpin our Borough Action Plan to be published in November. Our values and ambitions are not just limited to the residents of this borough, and we will use our collective power to advance progressive causes across the country and around the world.

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HOOD

Can the Leader update us on the progress made towards making journeys and active travel easier across Southwark?

RESPONSE

The ambitious Streets for People programme, along with our cycling plan, and walking plan remains key priorities for the joint administration. We are making

it easier, safer and more attractive for people to choose walking, wheeling and cycling for everyday journeys across Southwark.

In this administration we delivered the 1,000th cycle hangar in Southwark making cycling more accessible for people who may otherwise have difficulty storing a bike. Combined with the work we are doing to improve the C35 cycleway along Peckham Rye, including the Bus Gyratory scheme, this will greatly improve cycling safety and the overall cycling experience across the borough.

More widely this administration has progressed the first two zones of the Streets for People programme, with public consultation now underway. We are also pushing forward with investment from the council and TfL in the form of the Better Bus Southwark partnership**.**

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LEEMING

Does the Leader agree with me that Dolly Parton's legacy in Southwark should be memorialised, and would he consider naming a library after her, given her inspirational Imagination Library in our borough?

RESPONSE

I would like to begin by taking a moment to remember the achievements of the late great Dolly Parton. Whilst some may have used the spoils of an unparalleled career to sit back and live the good life Dolly Parton used her riches to increase literacy around the globe including here in Southwark. There is a complex process around the renaming of Libraries, and we will look at this and other ways to keep her memory alive in the borough.

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR COLIN BOYLE

Can the Leader update Council Assembly on how this administration works with other public sector partners across Southwark - such as the NHS, the police and the fire brigade - to keep residents safe and well served?

RESPONSE

In Southwark, we work in partnership through the local statutory Community Safety Partnership, which brings together the council, the Metropolitan Police, the London Fire Brigade, Integrated Care Board, Probation Services and voluntary sector partners to tackle the issues that matter most to residents. Rather than organisations working in isolation, enforcement, prevention and support services work together on complex issues such as violence against women and girls, antisocial behaviour, youth violence, drug-related harm and support for vulnerable residents.

The Community Safety Partnership has currently refreshed its governance arrangements and priorities in order to continue to work in partnership to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour across the borough. Most importantly, our partnerships are focused on making sure residents can trust their public services to keep them safe, supported and able to thrive.

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR FRANCESCO GUERRIERI

What is the Joint Administration doing to tackle the scourge of fly-tipping across Southwark?

RESPONSE

The Council is working hard to tackle fly-tipping on our streets. It is not only an eye-sore, but it also has a substantial negative impact on our environment, wildlife, soil quality, and public health. Fly-tipping is a complex issue and cannot be tackled via a single intervention, this is why this administration's approach is multi-faceted. We are already taking action through our 12-month Borough-Wide pilot of a community skip programme. This will be launched in early 2027, with a ‘road test’ event planned for 10 October 2026 in the Surrey Quays area. This programme will reduce the barriers, economic or otherwise to the disposal of bulky waste, and move towards a cleaner, greener, and safer borough.

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARGY NEWENS

What measures will the Leader take to ensure the Community Councils model is reflective of the political makeup of the borough, given the Liberal Democrat 6% drop in vote share from 2022 to 2026?

RESPONSE

Community Councils are being reintroduced to strengthen local democracy, bring decision-making closer to residents and give communities a greater say over the issues and resources that affect their neighbourhoods. The political representation on Community Councils will, of course, reflect the democratic choices made by residents through the election of their local ward councillors.

However, Community Councils themselves are not being designed around the electoral fortunes or vote share of any individual party. Our ambition is for them to be genuinely inclusive platforms that reach beyond elected representatives and enable residents, community organisations, young people, businesses and other local stakeholders to participate and influence decisions.

Ultimately, the strength and legitimacy of Community Councils will come from both democratic accountability and meaningful participation from the communities they serve.

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR FELIX HAMER

Can the Leader update Council Assembly on how this administration will work with our local MPs and the new government to advance shared priorities for residents?

RESPONSE

This administration will continue to engage constructively with government and local MPs to secure the best possible outcomes for the people of Southwark. Since taking office, both I and Executive Members have met with local MPs, with further meetings planned. Where we can work together in Southwark's interests, we will. At the same time, we will robustly challenge decisions that risk undermining the interests of our residents and our borough.

We will work constructively with government and elected representatives of all parties to ensure Southwark's priorities are heard and reflected in national policy and funding decisions. A key priority is addressing Southwark's £102 million funding gap. The scale of this gap underlines the urgent need for a fair and sustainable funding settlement that enables councils to protect essential services and deliver local priorities. We want to work with MPs and elected representatives from all parties to make the case for the funding Southwark needs and to ensure our residents get the fair deal they deserve.

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

In what ways will this administration put residents first?

RESPONSE

The Joint Administration was founded between two different political parties on a basis of putting party politics to one side to make Southwark a better place to live for our residents.

We are answerable only to Southwark's residents – not party leaders, and we will use that ethos to stand up against the £102 million funding gap the government has left us.

We are engaging in a budget process that will ensure that residents can tell us what matters most to them, so that residents are at the heart of all our financial decision making.

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SAM DALTON

In a since deleted social media post, Councillor Rachel Bentley, the executive member responsible for economy, spoke out against using billboards as a means for raising revenue for the council. Does the Leader agree with Councillor Bentley's position?

RESPONSE

Advertising is a reality in today's urban landscape and something both private and public operators are continuing to instate in the borough. Council owned advertising assets are unique in providing a vital source of income to support services for residents at a time of acute financial constraint. It is estimated that the Council will generate additional annual revenue of £3m from locations identified so far. All proposed sites will be subject to planning scrutiny which considers key criteria of visual amenity and safety. For sites approved, lease terms with media operators will include the Council's use of the screens, a great engagement tool with the public and support for key communication campaigns. The Council also ensures any operator adheres to its strict ethical policy on advertising.

14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SASJKIA OTTO

Following the Leader of the Council inviting me to an "Aylesbury Estate Renewal Summit", taking place on 29 October and 10 December 2026, advertised as "the start of a radical new approach to delivering renewal on our estates" and "a model for estate renewal across the country" - can he tell me when and how he engaged with tenants' and residents' associations (TRAs), community groups and other stakeholders in the Aylesbury project before announcing a summit signalling a change in policy?

RESPONSE

The previous administration's policy and work with their chosen developer entirely collapsed. This summit is not about a 'change in policy'; the purpose is to consult with key stakeholders, housing experts and local residents about what a new approach to their estate might look like as we move out of the previous failed arrangement. The TRA chairs have been briefed about the purpose of the summit, and we are also actively engaging with Mentivity, Pembroke House, and Our Aylesbury. We are consulting with local stakeholders on what they want out of the summit, the development of which is ongoing.

15. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS

Does the Leader agree with the statements made by his Liberal Democrat Executive colleagues, where Councillor Victor Chamberlain, on the cut to the Dementia Adviser service, said: "The cessation of funding was a political choice made by the Southwark Labour Party", and Councillor David Watson, on the cut to The Nest, said: "Council funding for The Nest was withdrawn in the budget passed by the previous Labour administration"?

RESPONSE

Thank you for your question. There has been much comment on these two hugely important services that the new Joint Administration inherited without long-term funding. The previous Southwark Labour Administration must take responsibility for their actions and omissions and stop trying to blame others. Our residents deserve better.

I am proud that in short time, the new Green-Liberal Democrat Executive have been able to re-commission the Dementia Adviser Service provided by the Alzheimer's Society and to protect The Nest, our open access mental health service for children and young people.

As Leader of the Council, what matters to me is what our residents say and I was moved by how grateful they were when we announced that both these services will be protected by this Joint Administration at our very first Executive meeting.

16. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SABINA EMMANUEL

After Baroness Casey's review found the Metropolitan Police Service ("the Met") to be institutionally racist, sexist and homophobic, and Southwark residents told us that they had lost trust in the police, Southwark Labour established the resident-led Policing Oversight Board so residents and our community could hold the police to account and rebuild that trust with the Met.

What are the next steps for this hugely successful project in holding the police to account following the Casey Review?

RESPONSE

The Southwark Policing Oversight Board (SPOB) created a valuable additional forum for the Council and residents to shape local policing priorities and discuss trust and confidence issues. The Board's programme of work culminated in an annual report containing a series of recommendations, which were accepted by the police and have informed the refresh of the local Trust & Confidence Plan.

Building on this strong foundation, we are now exploring how resident-led scrutiny and engagement can be embedded within the borough's wider Community Safety Partnership engagement plan. This work will ensure that the lessons, relationships and momentum created by the Board continue to influence policing accountability and trust-building in Southwark. Councillor Watson is meeting the Police Borough Commander shortly to discuss these issues, including next steps for the SPOB.

We are also aligning our approach with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime's new scrutiny panel framework. As Southwark is included in Phase 2 of the rollout later this year, this presents an opportunity to connect local resident voices with London-wide scrutiny arrangements, ensuring that communities remain at the heart of holding the Metropolitan Police to account and driving improvements in trust and confidence.

17. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY BATES

Messaging on the council's funding gap has shifted from £85 million up to £102 million - with comms repeatedly blaming the government for the entire £102 million gap. What is the breakdown of the £102 million and can you please include a breakdown of the additional £17 million?

RESPONSE

The main components of the £102m gap are:

Driver	£m
Inflation (pay, contracts etc.)	-97.5
Temporary accommodation demand growth	-15
Additional commitments *(of which £3m BAP)*	-6.5
Reduced use of reserves	-2.5
Council tax growth	38.7
Business rates growth	9.1
Reduction in government funding	-28.1
Net gap	**-101.9**

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CARE FROM COUNCILLOR JASMINE ALI

Can the Executive Member for Education and Care confirm whether any arrangement was agreed or discussed with Groundwork London on The Nest, before May 2026, beyond the original contract? I am specifically asking about

any interim invoice payment system put in place whilst the council negotiated with the NHS about how the continuation of The Nest would be funded and a new contract established.

And, should such an arrangement exist, would the executive member therefore please confirm beyond doubt that Southwark Labour had no intentions to cut The Nest and that the only conversation was the source of funding going forward?

RESPONSE

Thank you for your question. As you know, I wasn't a Councillor before May 2026 but what I have seen is that the contract for The Nest expired, that no funding to continue the service was secured or provided, and that no proper process was followed in line with the Council's Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) for the service to continue.

I cannot answer a hypothetical question on what Southwark Labour might have done had they been elected back into Administration but I can say what I have done, which is to protect The Nest and to secure its future in the best interests of children, young people and families across our borough. The new Executive honoured our commitment last week and this service has been saved by the Green-Liberal Democrat Joint Administration.

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ESME DOBSON

Can the Executive Member for Education and Care explain to me why the council's Greener, Safer, More Affordable document deprioritises older people?

RESPONSE

Thank you for your question and for the opportunity to clarify our position on older people living in our borough.

The new Joint Administration has not de-prioritised older people and has done nothing to suggest we have or would. Soon, our Borough Action Plan will be published and that will set out our commitments to older people, and others, as we work to make Southwark a great place to grow up and to grow old.

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COUNCIL HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR PASCALE MITCHELL

There are 23,000 households on Southwark's social housing waiting lists - can the Executive Member provide an update on the administrations work to address the housing crisis in the borough?

RESPONSE

This administration is committed to building the new council homes that our residents need. In the challenging development environment we are in, we are doing everything we can to lobby central government for the support we need to build new homes.

Empty homes, both council and private, are unacceptable. We are also making better use of existing homes either by bringing former right to buy homes back under council ownership or reducing the number of empty homes in the borough.

Our new empty homes task force is recruiting ten additional members of staff to reduce the empty homes backlog, and we are bringing former right to buy homes back under council ownership where possible.

For those at the acute end of the housing crisis, we continue to take a preventative approach to homelessness, helping people to remain in the existing housing, negotiating with private landlords, helping people find private rented accommodation, and, where necessary, providing temporary accommodation.

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD TAYLOR

Can the Executive Member update us on the fiscal position of the council?

RESPONSE

This Joint Administration inherited a General Fund currently forecasting an overspend of £40.8m in 2026/27, following an overspend of £25.3m in 2025/26 which required a substantial drawdown from reserves, and a further £5.3m reserve drawdown in 2024/25. The main pressures continue to be temporary accommodation, adult social care, children's services and No Recourse to Public Funds cases.

The council has a significant savings and transformation programme underway, but the outlook remains challenging. In particular, the effects of the Government's so-called Fair Funding Settlement are expected to be felt most acutely from April 2027 onwards, when reductions in grant funding begin to take effect in full. Southwark is therefore facing rising demand and inflationary pressures at the same time as core government funding is expected to fall, meaning the General Fund is likely to come under very severe strain over the medium term.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) remains extremely challenging and is currently forecasting an overspend of around £0.5m. This follows a £1.4m reserve drawdown in 2025/26 and beneath the headline position remain significant pressures, including £5.7m of overspends in tenant-facing services,

particularly repairs and maintenance, together with £2.7m of lost rental income from void properties. The current forecast is only being contained through favourable financing costs and continued delivery of savings and recovery measures.

22. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS, STRATEGIC PLANNING, AND WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

What progress has been made on the administration's commitment to bring back Community Councils?

RESPONSE

Bringing back Community Councils was a clear commitment in the Joint Administration's programme, and good progress is being made towards delivering that commitment. Recent workshops have brought together Members and officers to begin shaping a new vision for neighbourhood democracy in Southwark, focused on the future rather than recreating previous arrangements.

The work so far has helped identify the foundations of a future Community Council model, with growing consensus around key principles and a strong commitment to co-design. An important part of this work is ensuring that Community Councils have a meaningful role, providing residents with a stronger voice, bringing decision-making closer to communities, and creating greater opportunities to influence local priorities and resources.

Over the coming months, we will continue to engage councillors, residents and community stakeholders to help shape how Community Councils should operate and where they should have influence. This will support the development of a practical and deliverable model ahead of the first phase of implementation in 2027.

23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CARE FROM COUNCILLOR TORI GRIFFITHS

In Labour's 10-year health plan, the government set out its ambitions for more localised care and improvements to respite services. How does the Executive Member for Education and Care plan on integrating this in Southwark and improving existing respite care?

RESPONSE

Thank you for your question and for the opportunity to clarify our position on more localised care and improvements to respite care in response to the Government’s 10-year health plan.

Unfortunately, the Labour Government's 10-year health plan is rich in words but unmatched in resources or detail. The Labour Government's 10-year health plan falls short on many key challenges facing residents in Southwark, for example children and young people's mental health. Southwark residents know how difficult it is to get a GP appointment, to find an NHS dentist and how long NHS waiting lists are. All of this creates stress for people and Government should be reducing that unnecessary stress and hardship directly rather than spouting meaningless words that they have no intention of resourcing or holding the NHS to account for non-delivery.

The Labour Government have also announced that they will significantly reform Adult Social Care but haven't said how or when; and announced a new National Care Service but again haven't said what that means or when we will see it. So, everything is up in the air and we will see if anything comes of it.

In this sea of Government confusion, we will focus on the residents of Southwark and their needs and we will ensure we support people well. We will work with NHS partners in the borough to improve local care and support. We will lobby for culturally competent care and ensure that no-one is left behind as the equality gap is stark and unacceptable.

Scrutiny can play an important role in supporting us to make meaningful progress and I hope all Councillors will put the best interests of our residents before party politics in creating the transformation our residents deserve.

24. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CARE FROM COUNCILLOR RUTH BANNISTER

On 16 July 2026, Southwark News carried comment on the closure of the Dementia Adviser service which said that the Executive had "satisfied ourselves" that other services were available for residents and their families living with dementia in Southwark.

On 20 July 2026, in an official statement, you said that "it's vital people with dementia and their families get the support they need," and reversed the decision to let the service expire.

What changed your mind in those four days?

RESPONSE

Thank you for your question and for the opportunity to clarify what happened in relation to the Dementia Adviser Service. There has been much comment on this matter, but the facts speak for themselves.

Under the last Administration, the grant to the Alzheimer's Society to provide a Dementia Adviser Service expired and was not renewed. The service ceased.

Commissioners assured the Executive that other services were now available to meet local need, and indeed in recent years the NHS had started funding three Dementia Advisers; the previous Council grant having funded three Dementia Advisers. So, on the face of it this looked like a straight swap of funding for same level of provision.

However, sadly, growth in demand for this service means that more help and support will be needed going forward and the Alzheimer's Society bring a unique and person-centred ethos that we feel is even more valuable than the NHS medical model of support.

Additionally, we want to ensure that everyone in our community is able to benefit from this specialist support when facing living with dementia, and in particular we want to ensure the service is accessible and culturally competent for our Latin American residents who have been under-represented previously.

That is why I have approved a grant, to invest over and above the NHS funding, to ensure our residents can live with dignity and respect, and so that family carers are supported well.

25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR SUZANNE WISE

Can the Executive Member update Council Assembly on the financial pressures facing the Housing Revenue Account, and how this administration is working to make the most of every resource available to meet housing need in the borough?

RESPONSE

Like councils across the country, our Housing Revenue Account (HRA) faces significant financial pressures that have reduced the resources available to invest in both existing homes and the delivery of new council housing. Since taking office in May, this joint administration has taken a clear and responsible approach to safeguarding the long-term sustainability of the HRA.

We will continue to deliver the HRA Recovery Plan, strengthen financial governance, improve income collection, and reduce losses from empty properties, while making the most of every available resource by maximising grants, capital receipts and other external funding sources.

Our recent investment or Right to Buy receipts on the Ledbury Estate – unspent by the previous administration – shows what our administration is doing to maximise value for our residents**.**

26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENGAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR RYAN COX

There is a significant problem in the Peckham Square area related to the public sale and use of drugs, and associated problems of mental health issues, street homelessness, and antisocial behaviour. Could the executive member please update us on what is being done to address these issues, acknowledging both that we are dealing with a highly vulnerable population, and also that the crime and antisocial behaviour experienced by residents is completely unacceptable?

RESPONSE

The Joint Administration is committed to making Southwark safer. We recognise that the challenges in Peckham Square are complex and often stem from vulnerable people being failed by the systems that should support them.

That's why our approach combines support with enforcement. Through our Drug and Alcohol Action Teams and specialist services, we help people facing homelessness, poor mental health and exploitation, including dedicated support for vulnerable women.

At the same time, we are working closely with the Metropolitan Police, with uniformed patrols operating into the early hours, regular police presence, community engagement activity and intelligence-led enforcement.

Most importantly, this is a joint effort. The Council and Police are developing a refreshed partnership operation plan, shaped by councillor and police walkabouts and informed by local residents. Lasting change will only be achieved by working together with the community, and we will continue to report back on progress.

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENGAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PATRICKSON OBANYA

How is the Council going to make sure it is putting residents first and improving access to services?

RESPONSE

The Joint Administration is committed to making Southwark a council that listens and that residents can shape. We want to make it easier for residents to access the support they need and ensure that when residents ask us for help, they receive it in a prompt and convenient way.

This includes improving our online facilities to bring together resident services and enable people to track requests and receive clearer updates. On top of this our pop-up one stop shops, including the one hosted in Tooley Street, mean residents can access invaluable face-to-face support. These bring

together all our services in one place, allowing residents to access a wide range of support. They have been well received and improve accessibility, particularly for our more vulnerable residents.

Taking residents' concerns seriously also means using feedback and data to continually improve our services, to get things right first time and prevent residents from having to repeat themselves.

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CARE FROM COUNCILLOR EVELYN AKOTO

What plans does the Executive Member for Education and Care have for keeping telecare bills down for Southwark residents?

RESPONSE

Thank you for your question and for the opportunity to clarify our position on the cost of telecare for Southwark residents.

Despite inheriting an unsustainable telecare system due to lack of investment over the last decade, we have no plans to increase the cost of telecare for Southwark residents as part of our commitment to making Southwark an affordable borough.

We will review contemporary service options, with the transition to digital already underway, and determine the best service for our elderly residents to be safe and maintain their independence at home. Alongside this, our commitment to affordability is real and we know that our residents will appreciate that peace of mind.

29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CARE FROM COUNCILLOR SELENA GRAY

Can the Executive Member for Education and Care reassure me that she and her Executive colleagues have no plans to close any of our Best Start Family Hubs?

RESPONSE

Thank you for the question and for the opportunity to clarify our position on Best Start Family Hubs. I can understand Councillor Gray’s concern as closure of Best Start Family Hubs was on Southwark Labour’s proposed list of budget cuts had they returned to Administration. Thankfully, the people of Southwark are now served by a Green-Liberal Democrat Joint Administration who believe in supporting families.

The birth rate in Southwark has fallen to historic lows in recent years and as I have previously said, there is not a fertility problem in Southwark but rather an

affordability problem. We will work hard to address affordability for families in the borough and hope to see more families thrive in our community.

The long-term Government funding of Best Start Family Hubs is unclear and we will ask the Government to match our commitment to families, and to secure their future.

30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, EQUALITIES AND DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE DAWKINS

Can the executive member outline the scale of the challenge of young people not in employment education or training within the Borough?

RESPONSE

Too many young people in Southwark are not in employment, education or training, so-called NEETs. We regularly hear from young people who are eager to build successful futures but need additional support to do so in what is a challenging economic climate.

Recent survey-based unemployment statistics for our borough show that around 3,800 people aged 16 to 24 are unemployed, representing approximately 18% of that age group. This is significantly higher than the unemployment rate for the wider working-age population. Whist this is part of a national challenge and is influenced by wider economic pressures, we are determined to use every available local lever to help tackle it. We know that prolonged periods of economic inactivity can have a lasting impact on young people's life chances, reducing opportunities and limiting future prospects.

Addressing this issue requires coordinated action, with a strong focus on both early intervention and prevention. I can confirm that supporting young people into education, training and employment is a top priority for the new joint Green-Liberal Democrat administration.

The council is already investing in targeted support for young people who face the greatest barriers to employment, including care-experienced young people and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Through programmes such as Trailblazers and supported internships, we are helping young people develop the skills, confidence and experience they need to succeed. In addition, the Education Business Alliance and Southwark Works support many young people each year through work experience placements, careers guidance and one-to-one advice, helping them to access opportunities that are right for them.

However, this can’t be solved by the council alone. It requires strong and committed partnerships. That is why we have begun bringing together council services, schools, employers and community organisations to create more

opportunities for young people and ensure that every young person in Southwark has the best possible start to their adult life.

We also need national government to play its part though. We continue to urge the Labour Government to reconsider its increase in employer National Insurance Contributions, which many businesses see as a disincentive to hiring. Reducing this burden would help encourage employers to create more jobs and opportunities for young people entering the jobs market.

In the past few months, I have been contacted by many partners who are keen to contribute to this work and build a better future for our young people. This is clearly a shared mission, because we all want to ensure that the next generation enjoys a future that is brighter, fairer and full of opportunity.

31. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS, STRATEGIC PLANNING, AND WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR DEAN PETERS

How will we continue to make the borough a welcoming place for all of Southwark's LGBTQ+ community?

RESPONSE

Southwark is the proud home of a large, diverse and thriving LGBTQ+ community. Results of the 2021 Census show that Southwark has the fourth largest population of LGBT+ people and the fifth largest community of people identifying as trans or non-binary in England.

The Joint Administration has committed to developing a borough-wide action plan that will strengthen support for LGBTQ+ residents, promote LGBTQ+ led businesses, organisations and venues, improve access to services, and address inequalities experienced by LGBTQ+ communities.

Our planned approach is to deliver a co-produced action plan with residents, local businesses, community organisations, council services and wider public sector partners. The resulting plan will set out clear priorities, actions, success measures, and accountability arrangements.

32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENGAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR HELLEN BENAVIDES

What is the new joint administration doing to improve safety in Borough and Bankside and throughout Southwark?

RESPONSE

Making Southwark safer, including in Borough and Bankside, is a key priority for this Joint Administration.

We have committed £600,000 to extend the Night-Time Uniform Patrol Service for another year, providing a visible presence in our streets, estates and town centres when concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour are greatest.

We are also continuing to upgrade our CCTV network and progressing plans to reinstate Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), giving us stronger tools to tackle persistent anti-social behaviour.

The Council has partnered with Better Bankside, as the local BID, to deploy community wardens to further tackle crime and ASB. I also visited Borough Market recently with Police Borough Commander Emma Bond to show the challenges faced in Borough and Bankside and discussed how we work together to tackle community safety issues here.

Working closely with the police, local partners, businesses and residents, we will continue to take a coordinated approach to reducing crime, preventing violence and making communities across Southwark safer.

33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PUBLIC WORKS & NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN BATTESON

Prior to the election, Southwark Labour had met the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government as part of our national, cross-party campaign to Secure the Future of Council Housing. As a result of that conversation, we secured a meeting with the Treasury. Can the Lead Member update me on the outcome of her meeting with the Treasury and any progress with the campaign since the election?

RESPONSE

Council housing is a key priority for this administration. It has moved up the national political agenda in recent years, with real progress including the 10-year rent settlement and Right to Buy reforms. However, council housing finances remain under significant pressure, and the underlying funding model remains broken.

The Government says that it has made building new council homes a priority, but the new funding announced this summer is a drop in the ocean of what is needed.

We are determined to push government to go further, fixing the funding model, not just tinkering around the edges, so that councils like Southwark can keep existing stock safe, green and decent, and build the new council homes residents need.

To achieve this, we will work cross-party with councils around the country through the council housing coalition. Together with Sheffield and Leeds, we

have already secured a meeting with the Secretary of State at MHCLG and will now work to secure a similar meeting with the Treasury.

34. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COUNCIL HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR JEN THORNTON

Can the lead member explain what happens to the £100,000 Empty Homes plan after the first 3 months?

RESPONSE

Every empty council home is a home that someone desperately needs. With over 23,000 households on the waiting list and over 4,300 households in temporary accommodation, it was important for the Council to maximise the occupancy of our council homes. The joint administration inherited from the previous Labour Administration a housing department in which dealing with empty council homes was not a priority.

The new joint administration agreed to set up a new empty homes task force to help clear the backlog of empty homes and to reduce the timescale of bringing the empty council homes back into use. The task force will include existing staff working alongside 10 newly recruited people, who will initially be recruited for up to three months, to reduce the backlog, with an investment of approximately £105,000.

The task force, now known as the One Voids Team, will oversee the transition from dealing with the backlog crisis that the previous Labour administration failed to prioritise to transitioning to a well-managed business as usual approach beyond the initial three-month period. This will be closely monitored to ensure we make the best use of these homes in the longer term.

35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COUNCIL HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR CALLUM FOSTER

Can the executive member update us on the measures being taken to get on top of long-standing repair jobs and who is held accountable when delays arise?

RESPONSE

It is not acceptable for our residents to go without a resolution to disrepair in their home, and rectifying these cases is a top priority for this administration. The previous Labour administration oversaw a decline in repair standards, which is one of the reasons why the Housing Department was rated C3 by the Regulator of Social Housing.

As part of our wider Repairs Transformation Programme, we are undertaking a comprehensive review of the repairs operating model to ensure the service is fit for purpose and capable of meeting increasing demand. This includes

reviewing the current repairs workforce structure and management, a modernisation of our systems to ensure better scheduling and monitoring, and a refresh of our procurement systems to help access a wider supply-chain of approved contractors.

36. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS, STRATEGIC PLANNING, AND WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR LINA USMA

How is this new administration going to ensure that developers deliver the affordable homes they have promised?

RESPONSE

Where developers are seeking to reduce affordable housing levels from those for which they have been granted planning permission for, we will closely scrutinise their Financial Viability Assessments to ensure that the maximum levels of affordable housing continue to be provided.

The Mayor of London is proposing in his emergency housing measures to reduce the so-called “Fast Track” level of affordable housing to 20%. That’s the level at which a developer is not required to submit a Financial Viability Assessment. In addition, the government is proposing to reduce the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) by 50% for schemes that deliver 20% affordable housing. This administration is opposed to both measures and is supporting the current legal challenge against the Mayor’s proposed approach.

37. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COUNCIL HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR SEAN HANNIGAN

Council leaseholders on the Kingswood, Croxted Road, Lordship Lane and Sydenham Hill Estates, as well as at Countisbury House, are facing excessive leaseholder charges and low quality service.

The Green Party manifesto said that you would: “Stand up for leaseholders with full transparency, clear communication and rigorous scrutiny of service charges and major works, ensuring value for money.”

What has the Executive Member for Council Homes done so far to protect council leaseholders, including those in my ward, from excessive charges?

RESPONSE

Service charges across the borough have faced large increases over recent years as a reflection of the massive increase in costs faced by the council, across energy, repairs and maintenance, and leaseholder insurance premiums.

Across the four estates mentioned, our leaseholders are receiving individualised bills, improving the transparency and accountability on the charges incurred.

We take our responsibility to only charge those costs that are properly attributed to leaseholders very seriously. Before any billing, costs are reviewed, verified, and apportioned in accordance with the lease or transfer agreement.

38. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COUNCIL HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR FATMATA BAH

Will the Executive Member for Council Homes commit to an urgent audit of unresolved anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping hotspots around estates in South Bermondsey, and outline what enforcement resources are being diverted to support our ward?

RESPONSE

It's difficult to hear that there has been a spate of unresolved anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping hotspots for several years in your ward.

Dedicated work in South Bermondsey has helped us focus on fly-tipping hot spots across Rouel Road Estate, Setchell Estate, Lucey Way, and Dunton/Marcia Roads.

This work has included new bins, enforcement signage, resident workshops, taping of fly-tipping, and enforcement patrols.

Councillors and residents should continue to report issues so that our data helps us properly target hotspots. This can be done on our website by following links through to the anti-social behaviour page.

39. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COUNCIL HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Could the Executive Member confirm where flowcrete was installed on Southwark estates between 2016-2026?

RESPONSE

The Flowcrete system was used across 19 locations in Southwark over the past decade. The full list is:

- Arnold Estate Druid Street SE 1
- Harold Estate, Pages Walk SE1
- Risdon House Albion Street SE16
- Hawkslade Road SE15
- Four Squares Estate Drummond Road SE16

- 208A – 210A Jamaica Road SE16 4RT
- Purbrook Estate Purbrook Street SE1
- Lynton Estate Lynton Road SE1
- Swan Mead estate
- Creasy Estate
- Bradley House
- Alwyin Estate
- Brunel Road
- Stansfield House
- Lakanal House, Sceaux Gardens Estate SE5
- College Rd, Kingswood Estate SE21
- Countibury House SE26
- Longfield Estate Dunton Road SE1
- Albion Estate, Swan Road SE16

40. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COUNCIL COORDINATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE FROM COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS

Why did you use the council's official social media account to present a range of inherited climate resilience policies as actions being taken "under the new administration", when many - including Cool Spaces, cross-council heat action, Hot Homes, heat-risk mapping, sustainable urban draining systems (SuDS) and emergency accommodation for rough sleepers - were established, planned or already being delivered under the previous administration?

Does the Executive Member believe this was consistent with the requirement for council publicity to be objective, even-handed and factual?

Given the new administration's commitment to "rebuild trust in local democracy", do you agree that you should be transparent about what is genuinely new and what it has inherited?

RESPONSE

Work to tackle the climate crisis is, by its very nature, long term and I recognise the commitment and work by officers and the community over many years. But we've not gone far enough as a borough. Since the Joint Administration formed, we have committed to redoubling efforts and taking serious action on climate. Our communications reflect this.

Our work includes expanding our approach to helping residents mitigate the impact of climate change. We have sought to ensure the most vulnerable in our communities were aware of the range of support on offer during the recent summer's multiple heatwaves.

The administration has also undertaken recent work to establish the council's new cross-council heat working group, which first met in June. Southwark has a good record of work on the climate – we now need to go even further. Our

work should rightly include supporting the resilience of communities in the borough, highlighting the work the council is doing to support the most vulnerable and building greater trust as a result.

41. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES FROM COUNCILLOR MOHAMED DEEN

Given the Green Party's stance on refurbishment over regeneration of the Aylesbury Estate, can the Executive Member for Finance and General Purposes outline the new administration's plans for this key project, including ensuring sustainable funding arrangements are put in place, building safety is prioritised and residents' views are central?

RESPONSE

We will address the longstanding failures of the last administration in the regeneration of the Aylesbury Estate. Residents have suffered years of uncertainty and broken promises, as new homes have failed to materialise while emptied blocks have fallen into disrepair. The separation from Notting Hill Genesis (NHG) is a chance for us to build a new future for the estate, led by Councillor Austin as the Executive Member for Public Works and New Homes. These plans will be developed alongside residents and informed by expert opinion, through a new process of resident engagement including our forthcoming Aylesbury Estate Renewal Summit later this year. We remain committed to the safety of residents, and maintaining and improving conditions on the estate. We await NHG's programme for the delivery of 640 new homes on Phase 2B.

42. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES MOYSE

Last month Southwark once again saw a fantastic set of results for children right across our borough. Southwark Labour established the council's scholarship programme so that disadvantaged young people could afford to attend the best universities in the country. Can the Executive Member for Finance & General Purposes confirm he plans to continue this legacy?

RESPONSE

The short answer is yes. Southwark is one of the very few local authorities still providing scholarships in the country and it is our aspiration to continue to provide them. These scholarships were funded from what is called the "Youth Fund" but it is not a fund, it is just a budget pot that is running out. The last Administration should have secured this as an actual fund to ensure it is sustainable rather than just running the pot down and placing the future of the scheme at risk.

Everyone currently on the scholarship scheme is secure in their funding and we will continue to award new scholarships, within the available budget, whilst

we work with universities and partners to develop a sustainable scholarship scheme fund for the borough.

43. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHANIE CRYAN

Southwark Labour's Cost of Living Fund provided £53m of support to over 100,000 residents including Southwark Energy Support, Holiday Free School Meals, the Southwark Emergency Support Scheme and Discretionary Housing Payments.

Whilst residents are still able to access support for the priorities agreed by the previous Labour administration, it is disappointing that the Green led coalition have not yet published their plans for the new Crisis and Resilience Fund and that they had to agree an extension with the Department of Work and Pensions as they missed the deadline for submitting their plans.

When will the details of the Crisis and Resilience Fund be published, what support has the Executive Member for Finances and General Purposes agreed for the fund and when will residents be able to apply for support under the new scheme?

RESPONSE

The government's rollout of the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) gave local authorities little notice to implement the scheme, leaving question marks over existing provision, including the holiday free school meal voucher programme. The last administration took no steps to secure the future of that voucher programme. We have acted to ensure this much-needed support continues, while developing a plan for the CRF through extensive engagement with voluntary, community and other statutory partners.

The Council submitted its CRF Delivery Plan to the Department for Work and Pensions in July, in line with the requirement for councils to submit plans at least annually. Information on the use of CRF funding in 2026/27 is available on the Council's website. Further details will be reported to the Executive in December alongside any other Cost of Living measures. Residents can already apply for CRF-funded support. The Council is testing changes to the Crisis Payments application process, with implementation expected later this year.

44. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES FROM COUNCILLOR LEIGH RICHMAN

The Green manifesto said that you would expand Free School Meals to all children in Southwark. Can the Executive Member for Finance & General Purposes outline the council's plans for continuing the hugely impactful Free School Meal vouchers in the school holidays beyond Autumn 2026?

RESPONSE

The council expects to provide free school meal vouchers during school holidays for the remainder of this financial year, subject to Government guidance and the significant changes to statutory free school meal eligibility criteria taking effect from the start of the 2026/27 school year. When our administration was formed, this much-needed support was in question due to the rollout of the Crisis and Resilience Fund, and without any plan in place from the previous administration to secure the future of the voucher programme, our administration acted to ensure they would continue.

Schools are currently updating their records, and full details of which pupils are eligible for vouchers will be confirmed before the October half-term. Forthcoming rule changes mean some pupils who were previously eligible for free school meals will no longer qualify; some who were previously ineligible will become eligible; and others will remain eligible, but under different criteria. We expect the overall number of eligible pupils to reduce, rather than expand, but we do not yet know by how much. This uncertainty is significant as pupil numbers will directly affect the cost of the Holiday Free School Meals programme and, in turn, the extent to which the Crisis and Resilience Fund can support other priorities.

45. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PARKS AND RECREATION FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE

In June 2023 Cabinet agreed local community infrastructure levy (CIL) funding in Old Kent Road ward for a new building to bring back the youth provision at Leyton Square. Can the Executive Member update me on plans for implementing this investment and completing this much-needed project?

RESPONSE

The Joint Administration is committed to driving this essential site forward, with an advertisement seeking a suitable operator being published next month. Planning for the site was obtained in 2025. Once a suitable operator and sustainable plan have been identified, council officers will begin looking for a building contractor. We hope that construction can start as early as spring 2027.