

Council Assembly

Wednesday 10 July 2013

7.00 pm

Walworth Academy, 34 - 40 Shorncliffe Road, SE1 5UJ.

Supplemental Agenda No.2

List of Contents

Item No.	Title	Page No.
1.5.	Minutes	1 - 20
	To approve as a correct record the open minutes of the annual and extraordinary council assembly meetings held on 22 May 2013.	
5.1.	Members' question time	21 - 28
	To receive any questions from members of the council.	

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Date: 1 July 2013



Council Assembly (Annual Council)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Annual Council) held on Wednesday 22 May 2013 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2012/13, Councillor Althea Smith
The Worshipful the Mayor for 2013/14, Councillor Abdul Mohamed

Councillor Kevin Ahern	Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Chris Brown	Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Michael Bukola	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Poddy Clark	Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Rowenna Davis	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Patrick Diamond	Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor The Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Mark Gettleson	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Norma Gibbes	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Stephen Govier	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor Claire Hickson	Councillor Geoffrey Thornton
Councillor Jeff Hook	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Paul Kyriacou	

1. ELECTION OF MAYOR

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor Althea Smith, welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that the guillotine would fall at 8.35pm.

The outgoing Mayor informed the meeting of an incident that had occurred earlier in the day in which a soldier had been killed outside Woolwich barracks. The meeting sent the soldier's family and the local community its condolences.

The outgoing Mayor announced that the leaders of each political group wished to make a statement.

Thereafter, Councillors Peter John, Anood Al-Samerai and Michael Mitchell paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor.

The outgoing Mayor asked for nominations for Mayor for the ensuing municipal year 2013/14.

Councillor Peter John, seconded by Councillor Lorraine, moved that Councillor Abdul Mohamed be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Southwark for the municipal year 2013/14.

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, seconded by Councillor David Hubber, moved that Councillor Wilma Nelson be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Southwark for the municipal year 2013/14.

The nominations were put to the vote in alphabetical order and it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Abdul Mohamed be elected Mayor for the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

Councillor Abdul Mohamed accepted the office of Mayor. The outgoing Mayor declared that Councillor Abdul Mohamed was duly elected Mayor of Southwark for 2013/14. Thereafter the outgoing Mayor announced that the meeting would stand adjourned to allow the Mayor-elect to be robed. The outgoing Mayor, followed by the Mayor-elect, were escorted to the Mayoral robing room by the mace bearer.

Upon their return the retiring Mayor, Councillor Althea Smith, invested the Mayor-elect, Councillor Abdul Mohamed, with the badge of office. The new Mayor signed the declaration of acceptance of office and took the chair. The new Mayor stated that his Consort would be his wife, Caroline McDonald.

Thereafter the Mayor appointed Councillor Sunil Chopra Deputy Mayor and announced that his consort would be his wife, Varsha Chopra. The Deputy Mayor was invested with the badge of office.

The retiring Mayor, Councillor Althea Smith, gave her outgoing speech. Thereafter, the retiring Mayor and her consort, her daughter Serena Dyett, were presented with a replica of the Mayoral badge of the London Borough of Southwark.

The Mayor gave his incoming speech and announced that his chosen charity would be the

Evelina Children's Hospital.

2. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

2.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor reminded members of two up and coming civic ceremonies:

- The Civic Service at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 22 June at 11am.
- The Armed Forces Day which will be marked in Southwark on Sunday 30 June with a military parade to the Imperial War Museum, followed by a Ceremony of Remembrance and Recognition in The Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park at 12 noon.

2.2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

There were no late items of business.

The clerk stated that the following papers had been circulated:

- Nominations for chairs and vice chairs of committees and community councils (on white paper)
- nominations to LGA General Assembly (on yellow paper)
- nominations to London Council's Committees, Greater London Employment Forum and Borough Lead members 2013/14 (on yellow paper)
- nomination to Lee Valley Regional Park Authority 2013/14 (on yellow paper)
- the voting sheet (on green paper)
- Questions on reports (blue paper).

2.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

2.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Denise Capstick, Robin Crookshank Hilton, Toby Eckersley and Linda Manchester. Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillors Jeff Hook and Lewis Robinson.

2.5 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the ordinary meeting of council assembly held on 27 March 2013 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. OTHER REPORTS

3.1 EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS 2013/14

(See pages 1 – 4 of the main agenda and pages 1 – 4 of the leader's report on white papers circulated at the meeting)

The leader of the council, Councillor Peter John, reported on the following appointment of members of the cabinet and the determination and allocation of their functions:

Councillor Peter John – Leader of the council

Councillor Ian Wingfield - Deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management

Councillor Catherine McDonald – Health, Social Care and Equalities

Councillor Barrie Hargrove - Transport, environment and recycling

Councillor Richard Livingstone - Finance, resources and community safety

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle - Children's services

Councillor Victoria Mills - Communities and economic wellbeing

Councillor Veronica Ward - Culture, leisure, sport and volunteering

Councillor Fiona Colley - Regeneration and corporate strategy

Deputy Cabinet Members

Councillor Mark Williams - Deputy cabinet member for private rented sector housing

Councillor the Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole - Deputy cabinet member for faith communities

Councillor Darren Merrill - Deputy cabinet member for customer services.

A copy of the cabinet portfolios was circulated at the meeting.

The Mayor informed the meeting that as a consequence of the above the monitoring officer would update Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the leader's report on the delegation of executive functions.

4. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES, COMMUNITY COUNCILS, PANELS AND RELATED MATTERS - 2013/14

(See pages 5 – 33 of the main agenda and appendix 1, nominations and responses to questions circulated at the meeting)

There were four questions on the report, the written responses to which were circulated on blue paper at the meeting. Three supplemental questions were asked of the leader. The questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

The Mayor stated that in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11(2), this being an officer report, the recommendations set out in the report were deemed to have been moved and were subject to amendment only. He announced that there was one amendment to the report, therefore the amendment would be considered first and a separate vote would be taken on the amendment and any contested positions of chair or vice-chair. The remaining recommendations would be considered as part of the substantive motion.

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, seconded by Councillor Graham Neale, moved Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Victoria Mills, Adele Morris and Peter John), Councillor Graham Neale made a point of personal explanation. The debate continued (Councillor Mark Gettleson).

At 8.35pm the Mayor announced that the guillotine had fallen.

Amendment A was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

The Mayor stated that two nominations had been received for the position of vice-chair of the planning committee, Councillors Darren Merrill and Adele Morris. No further nominations were forthcoming, therefore the nominations were put to the vote and council assembly appointed Councillor Darren Merrill as vice-chair of the planning committee.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the appointment of political leaders, deputies and whips be noted as follows:

LABOUR GROUP

Leader	Councillor Peter John
Deputy Leader	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Chief Whip	Councillor Dan Garfield

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP

Leader	Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
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Deputy Leader Councillor Adele Morris

Chief Whip Councillor James Barber

CONSERVATIVE GROUP

Leader Councillor Michael Mitchell

Deputy Leader Councillor Lewis Robinson

Chief Whip Councillor Toby Eckersley

2. That the size and composition of the council's regulatory and other committees be established in accordance with the number of seats each political group has on the council as a whole, as set out below

Ordinary Committees: Total number of seats 37

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem	Con
Committee 1 Appointments Committee	7	4	3	0
Committee 2 Planning Committee	7	4	3	0
Committee 3 Standards Committee	9	5	3	1
Committee 4 Audit and Governance Committee	7	4	2	1
Committee 5 Corporate Parenting Committee	7	4	3	0
Total	37	21	14	2

Other committees: Total number of seats 29

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem	Con
Overview and scrutiny Committee	11	6	4	1
Licensing Committee	15	8	6	1
Health and Wellbeing Board	3	3	Nil	Nil
Total	29	17	10	2

Community councils:

- Bermondsey and Rotherhithe
- Borough, Bankside and Walworth
- Camberwell
- Dulwich
- Peckham and Nunhead.

Note: Membership as set out in Article 5 of the constitution.

Appointment of chairs and vice chairs

3. That the following be appointed as chairs and vice chairs for the committees and community councils outlined below:

Appointments Committee

Chair - Councillor Peter John
Vice-Chair - Councillor Ian Wingfield

Audit And Governance Committee

Chair - Councillor Mark Glover
Vice-Chair - Vacant

Corporate Parenting Committee

Chair: Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle
Vice Chair: Councillor Eliza Mann

Health And Wellbeing Board

Chair - Councillor Peter John
Vice-Chair - Vacant

Licensing Committee

Chair - Councillor Renata Hamvas
Vice-Chair - Vacant

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Chair - Councillor Cathy Bowman
Vice-Chair - Councillor Gavin Edwards

Planning Committee

Chair - Councillor Nick Dolezal
Vice-Chair - Councillor Darren Merrill

Standards Committee

Chair - Councillor Cleo Soanes
Vice-Chair - Councillor James Barber

Note: Any vacant position will be considered at the first meeting of the committee.

Community Councils

Bermondsey and Rotherhithe

Chair - Councillor Graham Neale
Vice-Chair - Councillor Paul Kyriacou

Borough, Bankside and Walworth

Chair - Councillor Martin Seaton
Vice-Chair - Councillor Poddy Clark

Camberwell

Chair - Councillor Mark Williams
Vice-Chair - Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle

Dulwich

Chair - Councillor Helen Hayes
Vice-Chair - Councillor Rosie Shimell

Peckham and Nunhead

Chair - Councillor Cleo Soanes
Vice-Chair - Councillor Althea Smith

Establishment of the council's panels

4. That the following council panels be established:
 - **Council assembly business panel** – The panel is chaired by the Mayor and also consists of one representative from each political group. The panel acts as an advisory panel to the Mayor on council assembly, including the annual programme and the setting of themes for debate. Groups can nominate a reserve to attend in the absence of a representative.
 - **Constitutional steering panel** – The panel is comprised of the whip and one other member from the Labour Group and the political whips of the other groups represented on the council. The panel is responsible for reviewing and recommending amendments to the constitution. It is also responsible for making recommendations to council assembly for the award of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough and Honorary Aldermen and to recommend changes

to the members' allowances scheme. Groups can nominate a reserve to attend in the absence of a representative.

- **Pensions advisory panel** – The panel has a composition of members, officers, independent advisors and a trade union representative. The purpose of the panel is to advise the advice to the finance director when performing functions relating to the council's pension scheme.
- **Voluntary bodies appointment panel** – The panel has a composition of three Labour and two Liberal Democrat members. The panel will be responsible for recommending the appointment of charity trustees to specific Southwark charities and recommending appointments to the position of school governor on local education authority secondary and special school governing bodies.

5. That the following be appointed chair of the panels outlined below:

Constitutional steering panel

Chair: Councillor Dan Garfield

Voluntary bodies appointment panel

Chair: Councillor Ian Wingfield.

Appointments to Local Government Association General Assembly

6. That three representatives with an allocation of five votes be appointed to the representatives to the LGA General Assembly as follows:

- Councillor Peter John - 2 votes
- Councillor Ian Wingfield – 1 vote
- Councillor Anood Al-Samerai - 2 votes.

Other appointments to joint committees/outside bodies

7. That it be noted that the cabinet and other committees will make appointments to all other outside committees and bodies for the municipal year 2013/14 as required by part 3S of the constitution.

Urgency committee

8. That the role of the urgency committee between a municipal election and the annual meeting of council assembly be reviewed in light of the post-election period in 2010 and the new executive arrangements. Officers will report to the constitutional steering panel with proposals on future urgency arrangements.

5. NOMINATIONS TO LONDON COUNCILS COMMITTEES, GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM, BOROUGH LEAD MEMBERS 2013/14 AND LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

(See pages 34 – 40 of the main agenda and nominations on yellow papers circulated at

the meeting)

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12(10), the guillotine having fallen the nominations contained on the yellow papers circulated at the meeting were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. LONDON COUNCILS LEADERS' COMMITTEE (S101 JOINT COMMITTEE)

Representative: Councillor Peter John

Deputies: Councillors Fiona Colley and Ian Wingfield

2. LONDON COUNCILS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (S101 ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE)

Representative: Councillor Barrie Hargrove

Deputies: Councillors Fiona Colley, Richard Livingstone, Victoria Mills

3. LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE (ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE)

Representative: Councillor Victoria Mills

Deputies: Councillors Dora Dixon-Fyle, Richard Livingstone, Catherine McDonald, Veronica Ward

4. GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM

Representative: Councillor Richard Livingstone

Deputy: Councillor Fiona Colley

5. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Representative: Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle

6. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CRIME AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

Representative: Councillor Richard Livingstone

7. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CULTURE AND TOURISM

Representative: Councillor Veronica Ward

8. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/REGENERATION

Representative: Councillor Fiona Colley

9. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES

Representative: Councillor Catherine McDonald

10. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HOUSING

Representative : Councillor Ian Wingfield

11. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – PLANNING

Representative: Councillor Fiona Colley

12. LONDON COUNCILS LIMITED

Representative: Councillor Peter John

13. LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Representative: Councillor Veronica Ward.

6. AMENDMENTS

Amendments were set out in Supplemental Agenda No.2.

The meeting closed at 8.38pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**(ANNUAL MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2013****QUESTIONS ON REPORTS****ITEM 3.2 – ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES, COMMUNITY COUNCILS, PANELS AND RELATED MATTERS – 2013/14****1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL**

What work has the council done to measure satisfaction levels with the current community council system?

RESPONSE

At each community council meeting, those attending are encouraged to complete an evaluation form which asks them how satisfied they are and elicits suggestions for improvement. After the meeting, this is collated and fed back to the chair and vice chair. In addition to this an annual review is produced and in order to assist in this process, officers are currently undertaking a questionnaire to all attendees and the results of this will be presented to the chairs and vice chairs of community councils meeting scheduled for 3 July 2013.

This feedback is used to make improvements to meetings. Examples of changes implemented from residents' feedback have been to hold meeting on Saturdays and rotating venues on a regular basis. All community council areas have developed forward plans to deliver more themed meetings and are taking residents views into account when setting agendas.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL TO THE LEADER

Yes thank you; I would like to thank the Leader for his answer. I would just like to ask, you mention in your answer that the officers are currently undertaking a review of resident satisfaction, and I wonder how you can claim that the new community council approach has been successful if that satisfaction survey has not yet been undertaken?

RESPONSE

Thank you Mr Mayor, and I thank Councillor Shimell for her supplemental question. I think we can look at the attendance figures which are published in the subsequent answer to Councillor Clark's question to see that more, or at least the same number of, people are attending community councils going forward and I think that says that people continue to be satisfied and engaged with the community council process, and I think people welcome, as they welcome the opportunity to help influence decisions on Cleaner Greener Safer capital spend, also welcome the opportunity to influence decisions about how we spend money at a ward level through the Cleaner Greener Safer revenue fund.

Do not forget there was no revenue spending of that nature decided by community councils under the previous Liberal Democrat administration who now claim to be the absolute champions of community councils. They weren't, they weren't. They only gave out CGS capital. And also Youth Fund spending is decided at a local level by community councils; we have done more to empower community councils and that leads, I believe to resident satisfaction with the whole process.

2. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK

Please list the attendance for each community council area for each meeting in the last two years?

RESPONSE

Attendance details for the last two years is set out in the following two tables:

Table 1: Data for 2011-2012 year (x 8 community councils)

Community Council	Meeting Date	Headcount
Bermondsey	24 January 2011	73
Bermondsey	9 March 2011	53
Bermondsey	3 May 2011	68
Bermondsey	9 June 2011	54
Bermondsey	13 September 2011	54
Bermondsey	10 November 2011	104
Rotherhithe	20 January 2011	31
Rotherhithe	3 March 2011	48
Rotherhithe	27 April 2011	56
Rotherhithe	15 June 2011	42
Rotherhithe	14 September 2011	70
Rotherhithe	2 November 2011	55
Borough and Bankside	03 February 2013	41
Borough and Bankside	09 March 2013	54
Borough and Bankside	03 May 2013	49
Borough and Bankside	15 June 2013	38
Borough and Bankside	13 September 2013	23
Borough and Bankside	07 November 2013	55
Walworth	24 January 2013	75
Walworth	01 March 2013	58
Walworth	03 May 2013	97
Walworth	02 July 2013	150
Walworth	14 September 2013	54
Walworth	02 November 2013	93
Camberwell	02 February 2011	38
Camberwell	20 April 2011	40
Camberwell	22 June 2011	98
Camberwell	22 September 2011	41
Camberwell	31 October 2011	86
Dulwich	24 January 2011	40
Dulwich	08 March 2011	41
Dulwich	28 April 2011	52
Dulwich	08 June 2011	44

Community Council	Meeting Date	Headcount
Dulwich	15 September 2011	79
Dulwich	07 November 2011	163
Nunhead and Peckham Rye	20 January 2011	30
Nunhead and Peckham Rye	03 March 2011	71
Nunhead and Peckham Rye	11 May 2011	30
Nunhead and Peckham Rye	22 June 2011	103
Nunhead and Peckham Rye	19 September 2011	73
Nunhead and Peckham Rye	10 November 2011	47
Nunhead and Peckham Rye	12 January 2012	44
Peckham	05 February 2011	104
Peckham	02 March 2011	34
Peckham	12 May 2011	150+
Peckham	12 July 2011	63
Peckham	21 September 2011	46
Peckham	31 October 2011	63
Peckham	10 January 2012	67

Table 2: Data for 2012-2013 meeting cycle (x5 meetings)

Community council	Meeting Date	Headcount
Bermondsey and Rotherhithe	12 July 2012	80
Bermondsey and Rotherhithe	10 October 2012	90
Bermondsey and Rotherhithe	30 January 2013	86
Bermondsey and Rotherhithe	12 March 2013	76
Bermondsey and Rotherhithe	29 April 2013	71
Camberwell	20 June 2012	85
Camberwell	24 September 2012	65
Camberwell	21 November 2012	78
Camberwell	13 February 2013	84
Camberwell	17 April 2013	69
Dulwich	26 June 2012	42
Dulwich	18 September 2012	82
Dulwich	27 November 2012	73
Dulwich	30 January 2013	51
Dulwich	22 April 2013	53
Peckham & Nunhead	20 June 2012	50
Peckham & Nunhead	24 September 2013	110
Peckham & Nunhead	21 November 2013	110
Peckham & Nunhead	02 March 2013	95
Peckham & Nunhead	17 April 2013	90
Walworth, Borough & Bankside	02-Jul-12	107
Walworth, Borough & Bankside	10 January 2012	94
Walworth, Borough & Bankside	08/12/2012	71
Walworth, Borough & Bankside	26 February 2013	135
Walworth, Borough & Bankside	22 April 2013	86

The democracy commission meeting held in September 2011 received a report on attendance at community councils. This showed areas of overlap of attendance between Bermondsey and Rotherhithe (20 people on average) and

to a lesser extent between Peckham and Nunhead and Peckham Rye (three people on average). If these are taken into account the numbers attending have remained constant after the change.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK TO THE LEADER

Thank you Mr Mayor, I thank the Leader for his reply and I can't claim my mental arithmetic is utterly brilliant, but I would like to question the fact that he says that the attendance has been increasing in these community councils, because to my mind that is not the case it is decreasing and in fact I believe I am right in saying that my own community council, which is Borough and Bankside and Walworth, has actually witnessed a fall of some 12%. And I would like to ask him if he feels he can come up with any particular answers on how we can stave this decrease, and I would like to say that I think it is partly because the meetings are so long because we have to have such packed agendas, and is there something that he could intend to do to help us in that respect? Thank you.

RESPONSE

I think it is bound on all community councils and all community council members to see and think of ways in which meetings can be made lively and involve the community. And I know that is what exactly happens in Walworth, Borough and Bankside; that the chair is keen to hear – you might laugh but at least the chair involves residents in discussions and decision making, at least the chair takes items which affect the lives of many residents, unlike the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Chair who refused to have a discussion on the housing commission at his meeting. One of the biggest issues facing the borough at this time – they want a serious and sensible debate, yet they don't want to have that serious and sensible debate in Rotherhithe, I think not. So I don't except the premise of your question Councillor Clark as to falling numbers. This administration remains committed to community councils and that is why we have given them additional powers; that is why we encourage lively resident debate and participation at our community council meetings.

3. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Will the leader consider returning to eight community council areas and allowing chairs to manage the existing budget more efficiently?

RESPONSE

The cost of returning to eight community councils with their previous functions will cost £344,000 per year. At a time when we have to make savings due to massive cuts from the Tory/Liberal Democrat government, I cannot support the Liberal Democrats' call to hike spending on community councils to over £1.3 million per year.

As Councillor Barber knows, we consulted extensively on this when making this budget decision and people told us that all areas including the budget for meetings like community councils had to take their fair share of the reductions necessary to meet these cuts. The 25% saving we made was in line with other budgets. Despite this we have been able to devolve more funding than ever before to community councils to give local people more say on local spending. This includes the new cleaner greener safer revenue fund that the current

administration introduced. Any further devolution of the existing community council budgets for local management would be minimal, for example negotiating room hire costs for meetings, and so I would not accept that this will make budget management more efficient.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER TO THE LEADER

Thank you Mr Mayor, I thank Councillor John for his response, in 2011-12 the £1.3 million budget supported 52 community council meetings each year, and 61 community council planning meetings, so they cost on average £12,000 each. This financial year the £901,000 budget will support 25 meetings an average cost of £35,500 each.

Does he think that community councils could manage a devolved budget, retaining the 25% saving at an average cost of £8,000 per community council meeting, and return to the previous structure?

RESPONSE

The reality of the situation was that savings needed to be made in the community council budget as they were right across all the departments of this council.

I don't think it was right that community councils, our democracy, should be exempted from having to deliver savings when we are asking people who are facing welfare benefits cuts and other similar sanctions from central government, of which Councillor Barber's party is a central supporting element, that we should be asking them to bear the brunt, if we as councillors are not bearing the brunt also. I hear what he says about the community council meetings; of course we could have lots more community council meetings if we want to pay for them, and if the Liberal Democrat members turn up.

The scandalous record of attendance of some Liberal Democrat councillors at community council meetings in the past would seem to demonstrate that they are not really interested in having meetings. They are interested in having arguments about having meetings; they are not actually interested in going to the meetings themselves. So maybe if he comes forward with some serious proposals with serious support from his side, and if they win the next election of course, which I think highly unlikely, they can have as many meetings as they want with as few councillors as they wish.

4. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

What percentage of planning applications has been decided by planning sub-committees in 2012/13? How does this compare to the percentage decided by community councils in 2011/12?

RESPONSE

In 2012/13 1.92% of planning applications were decided by planning sub-committee, with 1.35% decided by planning committee.

In 2011/12 5.56% of planning applications were decided by community councils, with 2.64% decided by planning committee.

The principle reason for this change is the change in the delegation authority to officers which changed at the same time as the change from community councils to planning sub-committees.



Council Assembly (Extraordinary Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Extraordinary Meeting) held on Wednesday 22
May 2013 at 8.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2013/14, Councillor Abdul Mohamed (Chair)

Councillor Kevin Ahern	Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Chris Brown	Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Michael Bukola	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Poddy Clark	Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Rowenna Davis	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Patrick Diamond	Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor The Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Mark Gettleson	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Norma Gibbes	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Stephen Govier	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Althea Smith
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Claire Hickson	Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor Jeff Hook	Councillor Geoffrey Thornton
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor Paul Kyriacou	Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There were no announcements.

1.2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

There were no late items of business.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Denise Capstick, Robin Crookshank Hilton, Toby Eckersley and Linda Manchester.

2. FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

(See pages 1 – 5 of the main agenda)

The Mayor stated that in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11(2), this being an officer report, the recommendations set out in the report were deemed to have been moved and were subject to amendment only.

Following debate (Councillors Ian Wingfield and Poddy Clark), the recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Freedom of the Borough be awarded to the nominees outlined in paragraphs 13 – 20 of the report.

3. AMENDMENTS

There were no amendments.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

Item No. 5.1.	Classification: Open	Date: 10 July 2013	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members' Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members' question time shall not exceed 30 minutes. During this time, members may not question any one cabinet member or committee chair for longer than fifteen minutes.

Members are limited to one question at each meeting. One councillor from each community council will be able to submit a question on behalf of their community council.

Questions to the leader will be taken first, followed by question from community council councillors followed by questions to other cabinet members. The order in which the different political groups ask questions of the leader will be rotated. Questions to cabinet members will be taken in the order of receipt and portfolio. The order of portfolios will be rotated at each meeting such that the cabinet member answering questions immediately after the leader will be the last cabinet member to answer any questions at the next meeting of council assembly.

Cabinet members and committee chairs have discretion to refer a question to another cabinet member.

Responses to members' questions will be circulated on yellow paper around the council chamber on the evening of the meeting.

The Mayor will ask the member asking the question if they wish to ask one supplemental question to the member to whom the question was asked. The supplemental question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Therefore, supplemental questions to the leader or other cabinet members are not free ranging.

No question shall be asked on a matter concerning a planning or licensing application.

Notes:

1. The procedures on members' questions are set out in council assembly procedure rule 2.9 in the Southwark Constitution.
2. In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (12) & (13) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which questions to the leader appear in this report may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.
3. A question from a community council must have been previously considered and noted by the relevant community council (CAPR 2.9.2).

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

How many green spaces on council owned estates are currently being considered as building plots?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL

Would the leader of the council confirm that the council in principle is not opposed to the opening of free schools in the borough?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

Will the leader join me in praising the work of the council's anti-fraud team after it won an award for its work tackling social housing fraud?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

What estimates has the council made about the number of new properties built in Southwark being sold to foreign investors?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN HAYES

What action is the council taking to meet demand for school places in the borough?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Can the leader provide an update on the council's progress against the four identified priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES

Southwark now has the highest demand for food banks in London. The director of Pecan food bank in Peckham attributes this increase in demand to the government's benefit changes. Does the leader agree?

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GEOFFREY THORNTON

How much has been spent across the council departments on a) catering b) alcohol in each of last three years and specifically, how much was the total cost of the new mayor's reception this year?

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CLAIRE HICKSON

Is he surprised that it has taken Southwark Liberal Democrat councillors three years to publicly criticise Simon Hughes MP for a decision he has taken in parliament?

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA

What number of private sector homes does the council estimate to have a category one hazard? How many complaints and requests for assistance with private accommodation issues have been received in each of the last three years?

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS

What are the latest employment levels in the borough?

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL

How many council homes do the council plan to build in each year between now and 2020?

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAN GARFIELD

What does the leader think will be the impact of the Conservative/Liberal Democrat's latest spending review on Southwark?

14. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES (CAMBERWELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Please will the council support the campaign to improve the 343 bus route and lobby Transport for London to improve services on that route?

15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Would the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety confirm that a substantial part of the recent £750,000 capital allocation to support policing and community safety will remain available to the Dulwich area, to ensure resources, in the event that the new policing model for the south-west cluster is shown by the autumn review to require additional premises expenditure?

16. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON (BOROUGHCOMMUNITY COUNCIL)

What actions are being taken by Southwark council to address the very considerable impacts on local residents that will arise from the proposed Northern Line extension, and the shaft which is being constructed in Kennington Park, and with specific regard to:

1. The impact on Kennington tube station
2. The structural, planning, and parking control issues arising from the construction process
3. The impact of the construction process on the very important green space of Kennington Park?

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

What is the council doing about general improvements in the Peckham town centre area including Rye Lane and Peckham High Street, in particular shop fronts, and what steps are being taken to attract different retailers in this area, due

to the number of empty retail shops? Please confirm whether there is a lottery grant available to carry out these improvements?

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET

What priority is the cabinet member giving to ensure that Fisher FC can return to the Surrey Docks Stadium?

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

How many leisure centre visits for swimming and other water-based activities were made to council run facilities between September 2011 and February 2012? How many were made between September 2012 and February 2013?

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

What role has the cabinet member played in securing Section 106 money for leisure facilities at the Elephant and Castle?

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN

What objects belonging jointly to the South London Gallery and to the council art collection were being housed at the Cuming museum and/or adjacent buildings at the time of the fire?

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH

Can she outline plans for events in Southwark for summer 2013?

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER

As we approach the one year anniversary of the London 2012 Olympics, what work has the council undertaken to ensure Southwark has a lasting Olympic legacy?

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES

Given their great achievements in recent years, can the cabinet member provide an update on the performance of Southwark's young people at this year's London Youth Games?

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON

How will the Cuming Museum continue to carry out its exhibition and educational work while Walworth Town Hall is closed for the foreseeable future?

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS

What action has the council taken to deliver on its promise of cutting the cost of meals on wheels?

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR REBECCA LURY

What is her reaction to the latest available data from Guy's and St Thomas' which shows that the number of people in accident and emergency being seen within four hours has fallen to 94.38%, below the previous Labour government's target of 98% and below even the Tory/Liberal Democrat government's downgraded target of 95%?

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

What progress has the cabinet member made towards her commitment to create a new dedicated telephone line for people needing social care advice?

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS BROWN

The cabinet member has recently taken on responsibility for public health. Can she comment on the level of public health funding for Southwark?

30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

How many adapted council properties are currently inhabited by persons without disabilities? What measures is the council taking to ensure that when adapted properties become available that persons with disabilities are given priority? How many adapted council properties have been authorised to be made 'un-adapted' in each of the last three years?

31. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

The report on a strategy for primary expansion was due to come to cabinet several months ago according to the forward plan. The latest plan moves the decision again until July. What is the reason for the delay?

32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

How much has the council received from the government in each of the last three years for permanent expansion places in primary schools? How much has the council spent in each of the last three years and how much has the council carried over from year to year?

33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON

How many children have been excluded from each secondary school in Southwark in each of the last three years? What has been the reason recorded for their exclusion? How many students were sent home for disciplinary reasons in each month of the last three years?

34. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GETTLESON

What is the number of children in care housed in private-run children's homes? What is the total cost to the council? What is the highest fee per child paid by the council to a private-run home?

35. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON

What is the cabinet member doing to make the junction of George Row and Bermondsey Wall West safer?

36. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK

What consideration has the council given to give relief from parking permit charges to vehicles with very low emissions, further to the existing relief for hybrid or electric vehicles? Will the council consider coming into line with Transport for London (for Congestion Charges) and HMRC (for vehicle excise duty) by giving a permit discount to vehicles emitting 100g/km or less of CO₂?

37. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

How many parking penalty charge notices (PCNs) have been issued in the borough in each of the past three years? How many of these PCNs have been written off because of failure to collect the fine, and what are the primary reasons for fines not being collected on PCNs?

38. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

Will the cabinet member confirm that future paving repairs in Surrey Docks and Rotherhithe wards in areas with the brown-brick paving will, wherever possible, be replaced 'like with like', as agreed with the strategic director for environment and leisure in a site meeting on 7 May 2013 and in subsequent emails; thereby avoiding the use of tarmac that is eroding the character of the area?

39. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DARREN MERRILL

Can the cabinet member confirm the numbers of properties lost from and added to the housing stock in 2012-13, and set out how that compares with previous years?

40. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Why were Tupman House, Bardell House, Macawber House and Wade House on the Dickens Estate not prioritised for door entry systems even though they had more reports of crime and anti-social behaviour than other blocks which were put forward, particularly given that the issues had already been raised by ward councillors and the police? Will the cabinet member review the situation in these blocks given that residents are suffering break-ins, rough sleepers and vandalism and provide door entry systems?

41. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR TIM MCNALLY

How many council tenants in Chaucer ward are currently in a state of overcrowding listed by bands 1-3 and what number of council tenants are currently under-occupying?

42. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK

How many council housing tenants have rejected offers to move to alternate council housing in each month in each of the last three years? What are the top three reasons given for refusal?

43. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO

Why does the cabinet member believe only 35% of respondents in a recent satisfaction survey were satisfied with the council's housing complaint handling performance? What is he doing to make sure this performance improves over the next year?

44. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

Would the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management outline the steps taken by the council to promote the advantages to tenants arising from recent changes to the right to buy legislation?

45. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU

What is the total amount of compensation paid out by the council in each of the past three years for personal injury, loss or damage? Please list the 10 largest payments and the reasons for these payments in each of the last three years.

46. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON

Will the cabinet member provide a full list of every police constable, sergeant, inspector, chief inspector listed by ward and cluster, including their public contact details and their police base?

47. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

Would the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety outline the steps the council is taking to reduce any need for a council tax increase in the near future, and to learn from good practice shown by low-tax London boroughs, with particular reference to shared services and the tri-borough initiative of Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea, and Hammersmith & Fulham?

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MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013/14**

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