



Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting) held on Wednesday 28 November 2012 at 7.00 pm at Harris Academy Peckham, 112 Peckham Road, London SE15 5DZ

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2012/13, Councillor Althea Smith (Chair)

Councillor Kevin Ahern	Councillor Peter John
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Paul Kyriacou
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Linda Manchester
Councillor Chris Brown	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Michael Bukola	Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Poddy Clark	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton	Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Rowenna Davis	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Patrick Diamond	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Toby Eckersley	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 Geoffrey Thornton
Councillor Claire Hickson	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Jeff Hook	Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

The Mayor announced that Barry Albin-Dyer had been appointed Deputy Lieutenant to Sir David Brewer, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London on 9 October 2012. The meeting extended its congratulations to Mr Albin-Dyer.

The leader of the council, Councillor Peter John, announced that Councillor Fiona Colley would be returning to the role of cabinet member for regeneration and corporate strategy with effect from 1 December 2012. As a result a number of changes will be made to existing portfolio arrangements. These will be circulated in a notice to all councillors on executive delegations.

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

There were no late items of business.

The Mayor stated that following consultation with the group whips on the motions on the theme it had been agreed that the three motions and relevant amendments would be moved and seconded, followed by a single debate. At the close of the debate a separate vote would be taken on each amendment and motion. Items 6.1 on council tax reduction scheme would also be considered in a similar manner.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

The clerk announced that the deputy monitoring officer had granted a dispensation to those members present who had signed the dispensation form in respect of items 6.1 and 6.2 on council tax reduction scheme and technical reforms.

There were no disclosures of interest.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillors Neil Coyle, Helen Hayes, Victoria Mills, Lewis Robinson and Andy Simmons.

1.5 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of council assembly held on 17 October 2012 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

2.1 PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no ordinary questions from the public. There was one question from the public on the theme (see item 3.2).

2.3 DEPUTATION REQUESTS ON THE THEME

(See pages 1 - 3 of supplemental agenda 4)

Deputation from Southwark Living Streets

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation from Southwark Living Streets.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Jeremy Leach, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Barrie Hargrove, cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling. Councillor Barrie Hargrove provided an oral response.

Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, Peter John and Graham Neale asked questions of the deputation.

Thereafter the deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

Deputation from Southwark Cyclists

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation from Southwark Cyclists.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Colin Hartridge-Pearce, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Barrie Hargrove, cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling. Councillor Barrie Hargrove provided an oral response.

Councillors Mark Glover, Stephen Govier and Poddy Clark asked questions of the deputation.

Thereafter the deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

Deputation from the Camberwell Society

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation from the Camberwell Society.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Alex Blacknell, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Peter John, leader of the council. Councillor Peter John provided an oral response.

Councillors Veronica Ward, Columba Blango, Tim McNally and Ian Wingfield asked questions of the deputation.

Thereafter the deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

3. THEMED DEBATE - TRANSPORT IN SOUTHWARK

3.1 CABINET MEMBER STATEMENT

Councillor Barrie Hargrove (cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling) introduced the theme of the meeting.

The opposition spokesperson for environment, Councillor Graham Neale, replied to the cabinet members' statements.

3.2 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE THEME

(See supplemental agenda 4, page 4 of the green paper circulated at the meeting)

There was one question from the public on the theme, the answer to which was circulated on green paper at the meeting. The question and written response is attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

3.3 MEMBERS' MOTIONS ON THE THEME

The meeting had agreed that there would be a single debate on the three motions on the theme.

MOTION 1 – SUPPORTING CYCLING IN SOUTHWARK

(See page 4 of the main agenda)

Councillor Geoffrey Thornton, seconded by Councillor Lisa Rajan, moved the motion.

Councillor Rowenna Davis, seconded by Councillor Michael Situ, moved Amendment A.

MOTION 2 – ROAD SAFETY

(See pages 4 - 5 of the main agenda)

Councillor Helen Hayes, seconded by Councillor Mark Glover, moved the motion.

MOTION 3 – BUS SERVICES IN THE SOUTH OF THE BOROUGH

(See page 5 of the main agenda)

Councillor Toby Eckersley, seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson, moved the motion.

Councillor Andy Simmons, seconded by Councillor Gavin Edwards, moved Amendment B.

Councillor James Barber, seconded by Councillor Rosie Shimell, moved Amendment C.

Following debate (Councillor Paul Noblet), at 9.00 pm the Mayor announced that the time allocated to the themed section of the meeting had expired. The clerk announced that each motion and amendment which had been moved and seconded would be voted on separately.

Vote on Motion 1 and Amendment A – Supporting Cycling in Southwark

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

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

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly believes a lot more should be done to encourage cycling throughout Southwark, including making bicycles more accessible to residents, encouraging the take up of cycling and improving road safety for cyclists.
2. That council assembly therefore welcomes the fact that:
 - The current administration has spent or allocated £2.677 million on cycling in the last two years and plans to spend nearly another £4 million on cycling infrastructure. One third of the money allocated from TfL to Southwark gets spent on cycling.
 - Southwark has installed 174 cycle lockers on housing estates and created over 1500 new spaces for on street cycle parking.
 - Southwark is the first London borough to install life-saving Trixi mirrors at dangerous junctions throughout the borough and welcomes the news that a further eight mirrors will be installed by March 2013.
 - Proposals for 25 cut-throughs, shared use footways and contra-flow schemes

across the borough are currently under consideration and that this will help to improve cycle permeability by improving access and reducing travel times.

- The council's transport plan also proposes: 20mph streets to help make Southwark roads safer for everyone by reducing speeds, developing 'green links' to encourage local cycle trips for less confident cyclists and families, school travel plan initiatives and cycle parking on and off street.
 - Southwark Council's bike loan scheme allows employees to take out an interest free loan of up to £1,000 to buy a bike to use to cycle to work.
 - Despite the fact that Transport for London has reduced the overall budget for cycle training from £163,000 to £156,000, the council continues to offer free cyclist training to anyone that lives, works or is educated in the borough. Around 900 children and 600 adults receiving training each year.
3. That council assembly therefore calls on cabinet to:
- Continue to work with organisations such as Southwark Cyclists to explore how Southwark can realise its ambition of becoming the most cycle friendly London borough.
 - Continue to lobby Transport for London to extend the London cycle hire scheme throughout the borough.
 - Take a serious and sensible approach to increasing the number of people who cycle in the borough and make good on its commitment to review the target for people cycling in Southwark which is in line with the London target and based on key developments such as the introduction of cycle hire, and the existing and planned cycle superhighways. The current target translates into a 33% increase (from 3-4%) in current cycling levels or 4,700 new trips by bike every day.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

Vote on Motion 2 – Road Safety

Motion 2 was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly expresses condolences for the tragic deaths of Hichame Bouadimi, Ellie Carey and many other cyclists and pedestrians who have been killed in road accidents in recent years in Southwark.
2. That council assembly notes that the number of people killed on Britain's roads increased by 3% in 2011 to 1,901 – the first increase since 2003. It also notes that the number of pedestrians killed jumped by 12% to 453.
3. That council assembly regrets the then Conservative Transport Secretary, Phillip Hammond's pledge to "end the war on the motorist" in 2010 which has led to the removal of speed cameras, the abolition of national casualty-reduction targets, the proposal of 80mph speed limits and the reduction in the number of charges for death by dangerous driving.
4. That council assembly also regrets the decision by Transport for London (TfL) to

change the phasing of London's traffic lights, ostensibly to improve traffic flow, which has made roads less safe for cyclists and pedestrians.

5. That council assembly welcomes measures introduced by the council to promote cycling and to improve road safety including:
 - Becoming the first London council to install Trixi mirrors at four junctions in Southwark, with eight more junctions earmarked
 - Carrying out spot checks on cyclists and drivers breaching traffic enforcement laws in order to crackdown on dangerous driving
 - A comprehensive road safety education, training and publicity programme – including for lorry drivers - and a safer routes to school programme (SRTS), which aims to encourage and enable children to walk or cycle to and from school through the introduction of targeted traffic calming and the creation of safer walking and cycling routes.

6. That council assembly believes that the biggest cause in road deaths is speeding and therefore calls on the cabinet:
 - For Southwark to become a 20mph borough
 - To call on the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to ensure police enforce 20mph speed limits
 - To call on TfL to give greater flexibility and support for the use of average speed cameras.

And also for:

- More to be done to make TfL operated roads safer and calls for greater transparency for TfL's review of dangerous junctions in Southwark.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

Vote on Motion 3 and Amendments B and C – Bus Services in the South of the Borough

Amendment B was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Amendment C was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

RESOLVED:

That council assembly believes that improvements are needed by TfL to bus services in the south of the borough, and in particular requests the cabinet to report on:

1. Further work lobbying the Mayor of London and Transport for London (TfL) to secure an extension of bus route 42 to Sainsbury's Dog Kennel Hill via North Dulwich station.
2. Continuing complaints about the reliability and frequency of the 37 and 3 bus services, as well as the frequency of the 12 during the rush hour.
3. The feasibility of TfL extending the 201 bus service eastwards from Herne Hill to provide better east/west services through Dulwich.
4. Support and working with TfL on extending the 63 bus service onto Honor Oak Park station to provide connection with London Overground services following the excellent campaign by Peckham Rye's Labour councillors and Val Shawcross, Assembly Member, to extend the number 63 route. Council assembly notes that the extension of the 63 route was a key pledge from Ken Livingstone at the last election but was opposed by Boris Johnson and is concerned whether there is the political will from the current Mayor of London to deliver this extension.
5. Options for new buses on the 12 route that represent an effective use of public money.
6. TfL improving bus links to the Kingswood estate, one of the most geographically isolated parts of Southwark, where many residents can not afford to use the nearby Sydenham Hill train station.
7. TfL providing a direct bus service from the south of the borough to Kings College Hospital.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

4. OTHER DEPUTATIONS

There were no other deputations.

5. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

5.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

(See pages 7 - 13 of the main agenda and the blue and yellow papers circulated at the meeting)

There were two urgent questions to the leader, the written responses to which were circulated on blue paper at the meeting. Three supplemental questions were asked of the leader. All questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 2 to the minutes.

There were 41 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated on yellow paper at the meeting. There were 14 supplemental questions, all questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 3 to the minutes.

5.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

MOTION 1 – SOCIAL HOUSING IN MIXED COMMUNITIES

(see page 15 of the main agenda)

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, seconded by Councillor Michael Bukola, moved the motion.

Councillor Peter John, seconded by Councillor Claire Hickson, moved Amendment D.

Following debate (Councillors Paul Noblet, Nick Dolezal, Gavin Edwards, Neil Coyle, Adele Morris, Ian Wingfield and Lewis Robinson), at 10.11 pm the bell was rung and the Mayor announced that the guillotine had fallen. The Mayor announced that the motion and amendment would be voted on separately.

Amendment D was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That council notes that not only is the current administration investing £326 million to ensure every council home in Southwark is warm, dry and safe by 2016, it is also building 1000 new council homes in Southwark over the next eight years - more than have been built in all of London in the last 10 years. It regrets that the previous administration failed to build enough council housing, had an unworkable and unfunded decent homes programme which left many Southwark residents without decent homes and by the end of their time in office left Southwark with 7,800 fewer council homes.
2. That council notes the publication of the 'Ending Expensive Tenancies' report by Policy Exchange in August 2012, which called on councils to sell off higher valued social homes and replace them with others in cheaper areas.
3. That council also notes the reaction of the leader to the report on his blog: "the blanket policy proposed by the paper of selling-off all council properties above a certain value is flawed and would undoubtedly lead to the removal of genuinely affordable social housing from certain areas."
4. That council recognises that there is a need for affordable housing in all parts of the borough, and that many key workers and other residents in lower pay brackets live in social homes in those parts of the borough where land values are highest. That is why this council opposes the government's housing benefit cap, opposes the introduction of affordable rent at 80% of market rent, opposes the ending of secure tenancies, opposes the slashing of the social housing budget by £3.9 billion and is building 1000 new council homes in Southwark over the next 8 years.
5. That council is concerned that the government's housing benefit cap will further social segregation in the borough and agrees with the comments of Simon Hughes MP when he told the BBC in January "As it currently stands, the benefits cap will

break up families...there are bottom lines in politics and that one is making sure that those with least finances and the most mouths to feed, and the most needy are protected." However it regrets that only five months later Simon Hughes ignored his own warning and voted to cap housing benefit for families in Southwark.

6. That council welcomes Southwark Council's plans to build more council homes, which has been made possible by the council's decision to accept "in lieu" payments from developers rather than requiring them to deliver on-site "affordable housing" where that "affordable housing" is anything but affordable. It is perplexed that the Liberal Democrats claim to support Labour's plan to deliver 1000 new council homes but do not support the proposed means of delivering them and would encourage Southwark Liberal Democrats to explain how they would pay for new council homes.
7. That council notes and regrets that Simon Hughes MP recently voted to allow developers to deliver 0% affordable housing on new developments. Council therefore calls on cabinet to write to the government and call on them to drop the proposal in the Growth and Infrastructure Bill that lets developers wriggle out of their affordable housing requirements.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

6. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION FROM CABINET

6.1 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

(See pages 17 - 25 of the main agenda and supplemental agenda 1, pages 1 - 321)

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

The meeting had agreed that there would be a single debate on the report and Amendments E and F.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (1), Councillor Richard Livingstone, cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety, moved the report.

Councillor Toby Eckersley, seconded by Councillor Michael Mitchell, moved Amendment E.

Councillor Tim McNally, seconded by Councillor Paul Noblet, moved Amendment F.

At 10.28 pm the Mayor announced that the time allocated to this report had expired. The Mayor announced that the amendments would be voted on separately, followed by a vote on the substantive recommendations.

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

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

The recommendations contained in the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations made by cabinet on 23 October 2012 to adopt a policy under Section 13A Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), which will form the basis of the regulatory framework for a local council tax reduction scheme, be agreed.
2. That the recommendation made by cabinet on 23 October 2012 to adopt the preferred council tax reduction scheme option, which will result in capping council tax support to 85% of current entitlement levels and abolishing the second adult rebate for non-pensioners in 2013/14, be agreed.
3. That following resolution 1, the council tax reduction scheme finalised policy be presented to council assembly in January 2013 for approval, following the publication of prescribed requirements regulations which are currently in draft form.

Note: The clerk announced that the cabinet recommendation had not been amended, therefore in accordance with the budget and policy framework procedure rule 2 (e), the decision could be implemented with immediate effect.

6.2 COUNCIL TAX TECHNICAL REFORMS

(See pages 26 - 48 of the main agenda and supplemental agenda 3, pages 1 - 23)

The clerk announced that as item 6.1 had been agreed without amendment, Amendment G fell.

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

The recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendation of the cabinet on 23 October 2012 to remove the existing 10% discount awarded for second home properties with effect from the 1 April 2013 (see paragraphs 6 and 7 of the main report), be agreed.
2. That the recommendations of cabinet on 20 November 2012 to introduce local discounts and an empty house premium, as set out below, be agreed:
 - (1) The introduction of a local discount to replace class A exemptions set at zero percent from 1 April 2013 for properties where there are major repairs or

structural alterations.

- (2) The introduction of a local discount to replace class C exemptions set at 100% for up to a maximum of 2 months from 1 April 2013 for empty and unfurnished properties, subject to a review within March 2014.
- (3) The introduction of a local discount of zero percent from 1 April 2013 for empty (unoccupied) and furnished properties.
- (4) The introduction of an empty homes premium resulting in council tax of 150% for properties that have been empty and unfurnished for more than two years from 1 April 2013.

Note: The clerk announced the cabinet recommendation had not been amended, therefore in accordance with the budget and policy framework procedure rule 2 (e), the decision could be implemented with immediate effect.

7. OTHER REPORTS

7.1 ADOPTION OF SECTION 16 OF THE LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND TRANSPORT FOR LONDON ACT 2003

(See pages 49 – 59 of the main agenda)

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

The recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That Section 16 of the London Local Authorities and Transport for London Act 2003 (“the Act”) be adopted so as to give effect to highway enforcement powers concerning vehicle crossings over footway and verges for the benefit of public safety (see Appendix 1 of the report).
2. That the Appointed Day for implementation of the adopted legislation should be 1 April 2013 pursuant to section 3 of the Act.
3. That the resolution and associated public notices be published in accordance with section 3 of the Act.

7.2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT - MID-YEAR UPDATE 2012/13

(See pages 60 – 70 of the main agenda)

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with

council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

The recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the 2012/13 mid-year treasury management update be noted.
2. That the changes to prudential indicators as set out in paragraph 17 of the report be agreed.

8. AMENDMENTS

Amendment are set out in Supplemental Agenda No.5.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a merry Christmas.

The meeting closed at 10.35pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: