



Council Assembly (Council Tax Setting Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Council Tax Setting Meeting) held on Wednesday 27 February 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 (Chair)

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Paul Kyriacou
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Chris Brown	Councillor Linda Manchester
Councillor Michael Bukola	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Tim McNally
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 Lewis Robinson
Councillor Mark Gattleson	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Norma Gibbes	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Stephen Govier	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Geoffrey Thornton
Councillor Claire Hickson	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Jeff Hook	Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Peter John	

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

The Mayor announced that the monitoring officer had granted all members a dispensation to vote on the council tax report. There were no further disclosures of interest.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Kevin Ahern, Darren Merrill and Lisa Rajan. Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillors Victoria Mills and Lewis Robinson.

2. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION FROM THE CABINET

2.1 POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2013/14 - 2015/16: REVENUE BUDGET

(See pages 1 – 63 of the main agenda)

There were two members' questions on the report, the written responses to which were circulated on lilac paper. Two supplemental questions were asked of the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety. All questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

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

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9), Councillor Richard Livingstone, cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety, moved the report.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9), Councillor Tim McNally, shadow cabinet member for resources and housing investment, responded to the cabinet member's statement.

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

Councillor Lewis Robinson, seconded by Councillor Michael Mitchell, moved Amendment B.

Following debate (Councillors Claire Hickson, Rowenna Davis, David Hubber, Gavin Edwards, Eliza Mann, Patrick Diamond, Peter John, Columba Blango, Mark Williams, Catherine Bowman, Nick Dolezal, Stephen Govier, Ian Wingfield, Paul Kyriacou, Mark Glover, Michael Bukola, Barrie Hargrove, Mark Gettleson, Rosie Shimell, Catherine McDonald, Jonathan Mitchell, Sunil Chopra, Robin Crookshank Hilton, Veronica Ward, Nick Stanton, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Toby Eckersley, Fiona Colley, Wilma Nelson, Rebecca Lury, Geoffrey Thornton, Andy Simmons, Poddy Clark, Chris Brown, Neil Coyle and Paul Noblet), the Mayor invited Councillor Tim McNally to reply to two questions raised by Councillor Patrick Diamond. Thereafter Councillor Richard Livingstone exercised his right of reply.

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED:

1. That it be noted that the final settlement was announced on 4 February 2013 with no significant change to Southwark's figures.
2. That it be noted that the GLA precept included in the report is the Mayor's precept, as approved by the London Assembly plenary meeting on 25 February 2013.
3. That the recommendations of the 12 February 2013 cabinet for a general fund budget for 2013/14 of £334.0m and a nil council tax increase for 2013/14, attached as Appendix 1 of the report be agreed.

3. OTHER REPORTS

3.1 SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX 2013/14

(See pages 64 – 76 of the main agenda)

It was noted that an addendum report which set out a revised version of paragraph 13 of the main report had been circulated on page 2 of supplemental agenda 1.

The clerk stated that as part of its consideration of the previous item on the revenue budget, council assembly had agreed the level of council tax for 2013/14. This had been set out in the cabinet's recommendation which had been agreed in the substantive motion on item 2.1. Council assembly now needed to formally agree the council tax resolution in line with the decisions of item 2.1.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (2), the report was formally moved by the Mayor.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly note the Greater London Authority precept of £303.00 at Band D.
2. That the council tax for band D properties in Southwark be set at £1,215.14.
3. That no discount be applied to properties in the former parish of St Mary Newington.
4. That no discount be applied to properties in the former parish of St Saviours.
5. That the council tax for band D properties in Southwark be set for:

	Band D council tax £	Discount £	Net band D for the area £
the former parish of St Mary Newington	1,215.14	0	1,215.14
the former parish of St. Saviours	1,215.14	0	1,215.14
the remainder of the Borough	1,215.14	0	1,215.14

6. That the formal resolution for council taxes in 2013/14 (shown in Appendix A of the report) be approved.
7. That the existing local 100% disregard scheme for war disability and war widows/widowers pensions when calculating housing benefit be continued in 2013/14.

3.2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2013/14 INCLUDING ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND ANNUAL MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STATEMENT

(See pages 77 – 100 of the main agenda)

It was noted that an addendum report which set out a revision to paragraph 23 of the main report had been circulated on page 3 of supplemental agenda 1.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (2), the report was formally moved by the Mayor.

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

carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That it be noted that the treasury management strategy 2013/14 is to be managed by the strategic director of finance and corporate services under financial delegation.
2. That the annual investment strategy 2013/14 set out in Appendix A of the report be agreed, with capital preservation a key objective, in line with government guidance on investments.
3. That prudential indicators covering capital finance, borrowing and cash management for the years 2013/14 to 2015/16 as set out in Appendix B of the report, be agreed.
4. That the annual minimum revenue provision statement which sets aside prudent sums from revenue to reduce debt, set out in paragraph 31 and Appendix C of the report, be agreed.
5. That the proposed changes to capital allowances as set out in paragraph 34 be noted, and the level of capital allowances for 2013/14 be agreed as set out in paragraph 30 should the changes not be implemented.

4. DATE OF COUNCIL ASSEMBLY IN JULY 2013

(See pages 101 – 103 of the main agenda)

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (2), the report was formally moved by the Mayor.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the council assembly dates for 2013/14 be confirmed as set out below, and it be agreed to hold the July meeting on Wednesday 10 July 2013 for the reasons set out in paragraph 4 of the report.

Council Assembly Meetings 2013/14	Theme
Wednesday 10 July 2013 Note: Revised date to that previously agreed	Welfare Reform
Wednesday 16 October 2013	Green Southwark

Wednesday 27 November 2013	Local Business and Enterprise
Wednesday 22 January 2014	Active Communities and the Elderly
Wednesday 26 February 2014	Budget and council tax setting
Wednesday 26 March 2014* Note: If local government elections take place on 1 May 2014, this meeting would be rescheduled for 19 March 2014. If there is a combined election in June 2014 this meeting would proceed.	Future Vision for Southwark
Wednesday 21 May 2014* Note: This date is based on local government elections taking place on 1 May 2014. In the event of a combined election, the annual meeting would be held after the elections (in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 4.1.2).	Annual meeting (Mayor making & constitutional)

Note: * - There remains some uncertainty regarding confirmation of the dates for the local government elections and European elections in 2014. This could impact on the proposed dates for the council assembly meetings in March 2014 and May 2014.

2. That council assembly procedure rule 2.1 (Dates and frequency of meetings) be suspended to allow council assembly to set an alternative date.

5. AMENDMENTS

The amendments are set out in supplemental agenda 1.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: