



Council Assembly Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting) held on Wednesday 8 July 2015 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2015/16, Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle

Councillor Evelyn Akoto	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Jasmine Ali	Councillor Vijay Luthra
Councillor Maisie Anderson	Councillor Jane Lyons
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Radha Burgess	Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Stephanie Cryan	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Catherine Dale	Councillor Jamille Mohammed
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Paul Fleming	Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Tom Flynn	Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Lucas Green	Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Jon Hartley	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Ben Johnson	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Eleanor Kerslake	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Sarah King	Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Anne Kirby	Councillor Bill Williams
Councillor Sunny Lambe	Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE	Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall	Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

The Mayor announced that a number of local figures had been recognised in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours and a list of recipients had been circulated around the chamber. The meeting congratulated the recipients on their award.

The Mayor stated that she and the Deputy Mayor had attended the London Youth Games at the weekend and she congratulated all Southwark participants on their hard efforts.

With sadness the Mayor announced the passing of:

- Linda Oram, who had been a Councillor in Chaucer ward in 1986 – 1988.

Tribute was paid by Councillor Richard Livingstone.

- Barry Albin-Dyer, who was a Honorary Freeman of the Borough.

Tributes were paid by Councillors Peter John and Anood Al-Samerai.

Thereafter the meeting held a minute's silence.

Councillor Victoria Mills, cabinet member for children and schools, made a statement on Lewisham Southwark College. She stated that Southwark Council had written to the Further Education Commissioner, proposing a radical takeover of the borough's further education for the benefit of Southwark students. The council is seeking the Commissioner's support for the council removing Southwark's further education offer from Lewisham and Southwark College (LeSoCo), and bringing it under the council's control, creating a new college in Southwark.

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

There were no late items of business.

The Mayor explained that she had met with the group whips on the format of the meeting and this was set out in the programme motion which had been tabled at the meeting. The motion explained how the business of the meeting would be conducted.

PROGRAMME MOTION (*see white paper circulated at the meeting*)

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

RESOLVED:

That the meeting be conducted as follows:

PUBLIC QUESTION

Item 2.2 Public question time (Up to 15 minutes)

- To receive a supplemental question from Mr Kelland - Councillor Fiona Colley to respond
- To receive a supplemental question from Ms Scarlett - Councillor Darren Merrill to respond
- To receive a supplemental question from Mr Blamey - Councillor Darren Merrill to respond.

CEMETERY DEBATE

Item 2.1 Petition (10 minutes)

- Spokesperson to present the petition on Save Southwark Woods. Five minutes.
- Questions from members. Five minutes.

Petition time ended and meeting to agree to bring forward Deputation 4.1, Motion 5.2.1 and Amendment B on the same subject as the petition, as follows:

Item 4 Deputation (10 minutes)

- To receive a deputation on the council's future cemetery intentions. Five minutes.
- Questions from members. Five minutes.

Item 5.2 Members' Motions (30 minutes)

- Meeting to consider Motion 5.2.1 Save Southwark Woods and Amendment B – Single debate. Time limit 30 minutes:

(Motion and amendment to be moved and seconded followed by single debate. At the end of the debate the mover of the motion shall have a right of reply. Motion and amendment to be vote upon separately).

THEMED DEBATE

Item 3 - Themed debate – (One hour)

1. Councillor Victoria Mills, cabinet member (7 minutes)
2. Councillor James Barber to speak and move amendment (5 minutes)
3. Theme open to debate by all other councillors (45 12minutes)
4. Councillor Victoria Mills right of reply to the debate (3 minutes).

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

Item 4 – Other Deputations

- Meeting to agree not to hear deputations from Southwark Defend Council Housing, Aylesbury Tenants and Leaseholders First and Camberwell Campus staff of Lewisham Southwark College.

Item 5.1 – Members Question Time

- As set out on the agenda.

Item 5.2 - General Motions

- Remainder of general motions to be taken in order set out on agenda.

Items 6 and 7 - Reports

- Reports to be considered in the order set out on the agenda.

Note: Relevant procedure rules will be suspended

- CAPR 1.6 Variation in order of business
- CAPR 1.14(4) Single debate
- Conduct of business subject to the guillotine.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosure of interest.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Neil Coyle, Helen Dennis, Karl Eastham, Renata Hamvas and Lisa Rajan.

1.5 MINUTES

Councillor Damian O'Brien's name had been misspelt in the minutes of 25 February and 25 March 2015, so with those corrections the meeting:

RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the council assembly meetings held on 21 January, 25 February, 25 March and 16 May 2015 be agreed and signed as a correct record, subject to corrections to Councillor Damian O'Brien's name in the minutes of 25 February and 25 March 2015.

2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

2.1 PETITIONS

(See pages 1 – 2 of supplemental agenda 2)

Blanche Cameron, Save Southwark Woods Campaign spokesperson, addressed the meeting for five minutes. The following members had questions of the petitioners: Councillors Lorraine Lauder, Damian O'Brien, Gavin Edwards and Victoria Mills.

At the close of the questioning, the Mayor thanked Save Southwark Woods Campaign for their petition.

2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(See page 3 of supplemental agenda 2 and green papers circulated at the meeting)

There were three questions from the public, the answers to which had been circulated on green paper at the meeting. One public questioner asked a supplemental question of the

cabinet member for environment and public realm. The questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

3. THEMED DEBATE - SCHOOLS, STANDARDS AND PLACES

3.1 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

The submission from SE1 Parents had been withdrawn prior to the meeting. There were no other submissions on the theme.

3.2 MOTION ON THE THEME

MOTION ON THE THEME – SCHOOLS, STANDARDS AND PLACES (*see pages 1 - 2 of the main agenda*)

The cabinet member for children and schools, Councillor Victoria Mills, presented the motion on the themed debate.

Councillor James Barber, the majority opposition party spokesperson responded to the cabinet member's motion and proposed Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Damian O'Brien, Evelyn Akoto, Lucas Green, Maria Linforth-Hall, Helen Hayes, Jasmine Ali, Hamish McCallum, Andy Simmons, Adele Morris, David Hubber and Peter John), the cabinet member for children and schools, responded to the debate.

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

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

RESOLVED:

That council assembly:

1. Welcomes the good progress being made by the council in keeping pace with the increased demand for primary and secondary school places and in driving up standards for educational achievement.
2. Recognises the incredible work of Southwark schools, where results and performance are rising and scores continue to be above the national average.
3. Recognises the work that this administration has done to create new school places within the challenging context of the government's free schools programme, working with communities and providers to open new schools that parents want in areas of high demand.

Standards

4. Welcomes the increase in the number of schools in the borough that are rated either

Good or Outstanding, which has risen to 91%, from 64% in 2010, with no schools in Southwark rated inadequate.

5. Notes that:

- Southwark's performance is higher than the national and London averages at foundation stage is narrowing the gap with London average for Key Stage 1 performance
- Southwark ranks in the top quartile nationally for Key Stage 2 results
- Southwark is in the top quartile nationally for GCSE results and was ranked joint 20th in the country, an improvement of 43 places since 2013
- Southwark is one of the most improved and high performing London boroughs at secondary level and continues to outperform other neighbouring boroughs in results at GCSE, English Baccalaureate and A Levels.

6. Applauds Southwark secondary schools for record levels of improvement achieved in GCSE results and calls on cabinet to continue supporting schools and protecting school improvement work in the face of vicious government cuts, to achieve even more and meet the council's ambitious target of 70% of our young people achieving five or more A* to C grades at GCSE or equivalent by 2016.

Places

7. Recognises that demand for school places in Southwark, particularly in the north of the borough, continues to rise. Following the Liberal Democrats' admission that there was a 'school places crisis' when they ran the council, Council assembly welcomes the steps taken by this administration to ensure additional school places to meet this demand.
8. Calls on the cabinet to continue the practice of the last five years of expert and well researched places planning, and investment in high quality education facilities in popular, well performing schools.
9. Welcomes the work undertaken by the council to create 1,690 additional primary school places since 2010 and commends the current expansion programme, and the two new free school projects Belham and Galleywall, which will provide additional school places to meet forecast demand for September 2016.
10. Also welcomes the council's work to assist and facilitate expansion in oversubscribed secondary schools and to open a new Charter School in East Dulwich. Council assembly calls on cabinet to work with the community and providers to open an outstanding secondary school on the former Southwark Fire Station site, to meet demand for secondary school places in the north of the borough.
11. Believes that there should always be a requirement to consult with parents about the school their child is attending. Council assembly therefore condemns the proposals in the Education and Adoption Bill, which will scrap the requirement for academy sponsors to consult locally on whether they should take over schools. Council assembly calls on cabinet to challenge the government to explain what possible benefits there are in forcing a school to go through the academy process at the moment they are rated inadequate, when local experience in Southwark shows that

intensive support from a local authority can help a struggling school get back on track.

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

4. OTHER DEPUTATIONS

(See pages 6 - 8 of supplemental agenda 2)

As part of the programme motion the meeting

RESOLVED:

That the meeting receive a deputation on the council's future cemetery intentions.

Deputation on the council's future cemetery intentions

The deputation's spokesperson, Mr Gary Valentine-Fuller, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Darren Merrill, cabinet member for environment and public realm. Councillor Darren Merrill provided an oral response.

Councillors James Barber, Michael Situ and Anood Al-Samerai asked a question of the deputation.

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

As part of the programme motion the meeting

RESOLVED:

That the meeting not receive the following three deputations:

- Southwark Defend Council Housing
- Aylesbury Tenants and Leaseholders First
- Camberwell Campus Staff of Lewisham Southwark College.

5. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

5.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

There were two urgent questions, one to the leader of the council and the other to the chair of the planning committee. The written responses to which were circulated on white paper at the meeting. Two supplemental questions were asked of the leader of the council. All questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 2 to the minutes.

There were 31 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated on yellow paper at the meeting. There were 19 supplemental questions, all questions and

written responses are attached as Appendix 3 to the minutes.

5.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

MOTION 1 – SAVE SOUTHWARK WOODS (See page 9 of the main agenda)

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, seconded by Councillor David Noakes, moved the motion.

Councillor Paul Fleming, seconded by Councillor Jasmine Ali, moved Amendment B.

Following debate (Councillors Stephanie Cryan, Barrie Hargrove, James Barber, Ben Johnson and Nick Dolezal), Amendment B 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 is proud of Southwark being one of the greenest boroughs in London and believes that woods in Southwark are a vital part of our borough. The council invests approximately £130,000 every year in valuable woodlands such as Dulwich Upper Wood, Sydenham Hill Wood and Russia Dock Woodland - a combined 55 acres of woodland - and also maintains many dedicated wildlife sites, nature gardens and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation around the borough, to provide a habitat for wildlife and open space for residents to enjoy.
2. That council assembly notes that at no stage prior to the submission of this motion have Liberal Democrat councillors sought to comment on or engage with the council on its cemeteries strategy and condemns any party seeking to “play politics” with this important issue.
3. That council assembly regrets that inaccurate claims have been made about the council’s cemeteries strategy and notes its concern that these claims have led to residents being misinformed about the council’s plans to bring two pieces of designated burial ground, one of which is currently inaccessible, into use in Camberwell Old and New Cemeteries. The areas proposed for development measure less than one acre in total.
4. That council assembly recognises the challenge the council faces in securing sustainable burial space in the borough and notes that if the council takes no action, burial space in Southwark will run out in early 2017.
5. That council assembly believes that it is important to recognise the wishes of those residents who want to have the option to bury their loved ones locally and who for financial reasons would struggle to travel to visit a cemetery outside the borough.
6. That council assembly notes that an extensive public consultation was undertaken in 2011 on the future of Southwark’s cemeteries and that the local community has also been given the opportunity to review detailed plans for the next phase of the

Cemetery Strategy and contribute feedback over the last seven months.

7. That council assembly calls on the cabinet to:

- Maintain the status of Camberwell Old and New Cemeteries as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
- Continue to work with the London Wildlife Trust, the Forestry Commission and the local community to ensure that the plans for managing the cemeteries enhance the existing biodiversity and ecology of the area
- Continue to engage with the local community on the council's plans for cemeteries throughout the process of implementing the cemeteries strategy
- Continue to protect green spaces throughout the borough, as well as providing burial space for the future, to create quality open space for local people alongside a respectful place for the deceased.

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

MOTION 2 – RIGHT TO BUY (*See page 10 of the main agenda*)

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Lucas Green, seconded by Councillor Tom Flynn, moved the motion.

Councillor Ben Johnson, seconded by Councillor Adele Morris, moved Amendment C.

Following debate (Councillor Richard Livingstone), at 10.12pm the Mayor announced that the guillotine had fallen.

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

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

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly welcomes this administration's commitment to building 11,000 new council homes to meet growing demand for affordable housing in the borough, with the first 75 of these new homes recently being built at Willow Walk.
2. That council assembly notes however that the council's ambitious house-building programme is at serious risk from the government's right to buy proposals, which could lead to up to 500 council homes a year in Southwark being sold, as well as forcing the sale of new council homes as soon as they are built.
3. That council assembly believes these proposals will have a devastating effect on council housing in Southwark and could effectively stop the local authority from building much-needed new council homes, particularly in the north of the borough.
4. That council assembly believes that at a time when London boroughs are facing a housing crisis, it is an utter disgrace for the 12,000 people on Southwark's housing waiting list for the government to force the sale of desperately needed council homes. Council assembly also believes that is wrong for council housing to be sold

in London, where there is a massive housing shortage, to fund the sale of housing association properties outside the capital.

5. That council assembly calls on the cabinet to work with other London boroughs to lobby the government to reconsider these preposterous plans and to push for an exemption to new build homes, to ensure that the government's plans do not jeopardise the council's ambitious council house building programme.

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

MOTION 3 – CHILDREN MISSING FROM CARE *(See pages 10 - 11 of the main agenda)*

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors James Okosun and Maria Linforth-Hall formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Evelyn Akoto and Kath Whittam formally moved and seconded Amendment D.

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:

That council assembly:

1. Puts on record its concern about the issue of young people in Southwark and throughout London going missing from care, which can put already vulnerable people at further risk of exploitation, abuse or other serious harm.
2. Notes that in 2014/15 there were 249 recorded incidents of children going missing from care in Southwark.
3. Recognises that this is a complex issue and thanks council officers and care home staff who have been working to support young people in care and reduce the number going missing.
4. Welcomes the council's decision to commission the St Christopher's Charity to provide home visits for all young people reported missing, building trust and working with the young people to understand the reasons behind why they go missing, which is successfully reducing repeat missing episodes.
5. Welcomes the close analysis of the impact of this work by the Corporate Parenting Committee over the last year, by meeting with St Christopher's and considering the early data produced and the feedback from young people.
6. Welcomes the work being done by the council to respond to the reasons why children are going missing from care, and to find innovative ways to improve outcomes for children and young people at risk of family breakdown, to strengthen parenting and rebuild relationships between young people and their parents and to help keep more families together.

7. Welcomes the council's recruitment drive to increase the number of local foster carers through exempting them from council tax so that when children do need to be taken into care they are able to stay close to family and friends.
8. Also welcomes the work of the Safer London Project working with young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation, to build relationships with some of our most vulnerable young people and ensure that safety plans are put in place to reduce the risk of exploitation.
9. Welcomes the work done on this issue by politicians on all sides, including the 'Looked-After Children: Missing In Care' report by Caroline Pidgeon AM published in June 2015, which looked at the problem across London.
10. Recognises that this is a problem that should be acknowledged and understood by all councillors in order to highlight the issue, work towards reducing the number of recorded incidents in future years and ensure there is no complacency whatsoever where the welfare of looked-after children is concerned.
11. Notes that the council has a weekly report on children missing from care and that all children are offered a missing from care interview undertaken by St Christopher's to find out if the young person is at risk, or if there are any problems with their placement.
12. Notes that corporate parenting has responsibility for monitoring data on children missing from care and has a membership of cabinet member, backbenchers and independent members, is cross-party and has regular attendance not only from officers but also other agencies such as health as well as contributions from Speakerbox, our award-winning Children in Care Council.
13. Notes that corporate parenting committee is not only well placed to scrutinise the issue of children missing from care and the council's response but is actively doing so.
14. Also notes the on-going scrutiny of this issue by the multi-agency Children's Safeguarding Board.
15. Welcomes any request for further scrutiny by education and children's services scrutiny sub-committee.
16. Calls on the cabinet to continue to tackle the problem of children missing from care by:
 - Monitoring each of the recommendations included in the corporate parenting committee's statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care
 - Receiving a report on the work commissioned from St. Christopher's and the council's response to the feedback captured from our young people
 - Working closely with the police and all other key partners from the Children's Safeguarding Board on missing children and those at risk of sexual exploitation.

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

MOTION 4 – REVITALISING THE BLUE *(See pages 11 - 12 of the main agenda)*

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Leo Pollak and Catherine Dale formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Eliza Mann and Damian O'Brien formally moved and seconded Amendment E.

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

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

RESOLVED:

That council assembly:

1. Believes that while high streets are at the heart of the economic and civic renewal of many of our neighbourhoods, the challenges of online competition, redeveloped shopping centres and prevalent retail uses that take money out of a neighbourhood mean that creative solutions are required for their future vitality.
2. Welcomes the investment Southwark Council has made through the Investing In Local Retail Environment (ILRE) and High Street Challenge programmes across the borough, including the improvements made to shop fronts and public realm at the Blue and Southwark Park Road and the support provided to help establish the Blue Bermondsey business improvement district.
3. Supports the Blue Bermondsey BID's efforts to drive new investment into the area in a way that directly benefits local people and welcomes the establishment of a "Commonplace" survey to identify what kinds of shops, stalls, attractions and general amenities local people want.
4. Notes that the balance of shops around the Blue and Southwark Park Road does not serve local residents well, with 4 betting shops, 8 fast food takeaways, and 12 general grocer/late night off licences in the immediate area.
5. Notes that the Southwark Park Road/Market Place town centre has a very high concentration of retail units under council ownership and management.
6. Calls on cabinet to develop a new lettings strategy or charter for the parade, in dialogue with the Blue Bermondsey BID, local residents and landlords, which takes a holistic view on the maximisation of revenue income from the parade by creating over time the full variety of retail uses serving all parts of the local community and establishing the Blue as a cultural and retail destination for people in Bermondsey and beyond.

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

MOTION 5 – ALBION PRIMARY SCHOOL *(See page 12 of the main agenda)*

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Bill Williams and Renata Hamvas formally moved and seconded the motion.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That Southwark faces a significant challenge in meeting the growing demand for school places across the borough. Council assembly therefore welcomes the redevelopment of Albion Primary School, which will provide new school facilities and enable the school to expand to add an additional class, providing education to more Southwark children.
2. That council assembly welcomes the leadership being provided by Albion Primary School in meeting the challenge of growing places and building an innovatively designed new school, which makes the best possible use of outdoor space.
3. That council assembly further applauds Albion Primary School for taking the brave decision to release a portion land on the site for housing, helping to meet the council's ambitious pledge to build 11,000 new council homes while also enabling the school to build a state of the art building with fantastic facilities.
4. That council assembly believes the redevelopment of Albion Primary will deliver a genuinely world class school for Southwark children, make a huge contribution to the regeneration of the area and provide high quality facilities for the local community.

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

6. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 REPORT BACK ON MOTIONS REFERRED TO CABINET FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(See pages 13 - 30 of the main agenda)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

7. OTHER REPORTS

7.1 ELECTORAL REVIEW - COUNCIL SIZE

(See pages 31 - 84 of main agenda)

The 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.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (1), Councillor Richard Livingstone, chair of the electoral review working group, moved the report.

Following debate (Councillor David Noakes), the recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

That the report from the Electoral Review Working Group on council size be noted.

7.2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE - 2014/15 ANNUAL REPORT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS FOR CAPITAL FINANCE AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT

(See pages 85 – 94 of the main agenda)

The 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.

Following debate (Councillor Fiona Colley), the recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the 2014/15 outturn report on treasury management and in year activity as set out below, be noted:
 - a) prudently managing council cash and holding it in money market instruments with major banks and the UK government until it is needed in spend (see paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report)
 - b) updating the investment strategy in February 2015, ensuring that it remains sound under present market conditions where monetary policy is still highly accommodative and the scope for targeting higher returns without increased risk remains low (see paragraphs 7 and 8 of the report)
 - c) ensuring that the council can efficiently and effectively execute the updated investment strategy by continuing to use fund managers (see paragraph 8 of the report)
 - d) reducing the interest on PWLB loans outstanding from past capital spend by paying off £5.7m (see paragraphs 9 and 10 of the report)
 - e) reducing the draw on internal borrowing to fund capital spend by £23m and raising the headroom for future HRA capital finance by £19m (see paragraph 11 of the report)
 - f) holding balances remaining on loans and long term liabilities that pay for past

capital spend within the authorised debt limit (see paragraph 15 of the report) and other prudential limits (see Appendix A of the report).

7.3 CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES 2015/16

(See pages 95 - 122 of the main agenda)

The report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rules 1.12 (3) (4) and 2.11 (2), the report was formally moved by the Mayor and afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

Following debate (Councillor David Noakes), the recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

Late questions by group leaders

1. That the proposed change to council assembly procedure rule 2.8 in respect of urgent questions by group leaders as set out in Appendix A of the report be agreed.

Changes to Statutory Dismissal Procedures for Heads of Paid Service, Monitoring Officers and Section 151 Officers

2. That the changes to the constitution in respect of the statutory dismissal procedures for heads of paid service, monitoring officers and Section 151 officers as attached as Appendix B, C and D to the report, be agreed.

Electronic summonses and agenda packs

3. That the current uptake figures of electronic summonses be noted, and that option 2 set out in paragraph 36 of the report for taking electronic summonses forward be agreed, including the constitutional change to procedure rules to issue electronic summonses to reserve members.

Establishment of Standards (Civic Awards) Sub-Committee

4. That from the 2015/2016 civic year, the administration of the civic awards be carried out by the council pending a longer term review of the operation of the awards scheme. Officers are requested to put in place the necessary arrangements for the running of the awards within existing council resources.
5. That decisions on the granting of civic awards be delegated to a sub-committee of the Standards Committee to be known as the Standards (Civic Awards) Sub-Committee with the membership and terms of reference as set out in paragraph 52 and Appendix G of the report.

Consequential changes

6. That the proper constitutional officer be authorised to make any necessary

consequential changes to the constitution as a result of the above

7.4 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

(See pages 123 – 125 of the main agenda and pages 1 – 3 of the closed agenda)

The report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rules 1.12 (3) (4) and 2.11 (2), the report was formally moved by the Mayor and afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

The Mayor stated that as no member wished to speak on the item, the meeting would move to the vote on the recommendations and the appointment of the individuals set out in the closed report.

The recommendations contained within the open and closed reports were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the individual outlined in the closed report be appointed as an independent person, subject to recommendation 2.
2. That the commencement date of each term of office be confirmed by the director of legal services.
3. That the re-appointment of the current independent person, named in the closed report, be approved for a further period.

8. AMENDMENTS

The amendments are set out in supplemental agenda 2.

CLOSED ITEM

9. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

See item 7.4 above.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: