

Council Assembly Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting) held on Wednesday 24 March 2021 at 7.00 pm at Online. This meeting will be livestreamed on Southwark Council's YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/southwarkcouncil>

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2020-21, Councillor Barrie Hargrove (Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
Councillor Humaira Ali
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor Peter Babudu
Councillor Maggie Browning
Councillor Radha Burgess
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Sunil Chopra
Councillor James Coldwell
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Nick Dolezal
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Paul Fleming
Councillor Tom Flynn
Councillor Renata Hamvas
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor William Hougbo
Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Peter John OBE
Councillor Nick Johnson
Councillor Eleanor Kerslake
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Richard Leeming
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Alice Macdonald
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Victoria Olisa
Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Leanne Werner
Councillor Dan Whitehead
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Bill Williams
Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jack Buck, Helen Dennis and Karl Eastham. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Paul Fleming and Dan Whitehead.

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

The Mayor announced the anniversary of the start of lockdown for the Covid-19 pandemic, and the meeting held a minute's silence for everyone who has lost their lives to the virus.

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

The mayor agreed to accept Late motion 6:

At this point, the meeting agreed the programme motion:

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

Time	Business
19:00 - 19:15	1. Preliminary business and announcements
19:15 - 19:30	2.2 Public question time <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Penny Morgan• Steven Hammerton• Bridget Furst
19:30 - 19:40	4. Deputation requests <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nicole Hooper - StarFish Domestic Abuse Project
	Minute's silence
19:40 - 20:00	5.2.6 Late Motion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• End Male Violence against Women and Girls
	Five minute break
20:05 - 21:05 (15 minutes)	Themed debate: Southwark's Economic Renewal: creating a fair, equal and inclusive local economy 3.1 Community Evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Winifred Ayeni• Ross Palmer• Jerome Campbell

(7 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben Clasper Business Together Stronger - Dulwich Area Independent High Street Businesses
(5 minutes)	<p>3.2 Motion on the Theme</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors Rebecca Lury and Alice Macdonald to present the themed debate Councillor Nick Johnson, opposition spokesperson, to speak on the motion and move Amendment A Themed debate open to all other councillors Cabinet member's right of reply to the debate
(30 minutes)	
(3 minutes)	
Five minute break	
21:10 - 21:35 (5 minutes)	5.1 Members' Question Time
(10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late question to the leader Members' questions to the leader Members' questions to cabinet members
(10 minutes)	
21:35 - 22:10	5.2 Members' Motions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bringing back Trams to Southwark International Women's Day Commercial Events in Southwark Park The Union Learning Fund Sustainable future funding for Local Welfare Assistance
Five minute break	
22:15*	6. Reports
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay Policy Statement Member Allowances Scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three questions on the report, one amendment Constitutional changes 2021: Disorderly conduct and Local pensions board Council assembly dates and calendar of meetings 2021-22

* subject to the guillotine rule; maximum 15 minutes debate per item.

Note: Any time left remaining on any item will be rolled into the next items.

That the meeting be conducted as follows:

Public questions

To present a supplemental question, and be responded to verbally at the meeting.

Deputation request

To receive a submission from the group listed in the deputation report:

- Nicole Hooper - StarFish Domestic Abuse Project

To be taken before the themed debate.

Format

That the deputation be given five minutes to present, and to receive five minutes of questions from members of the council.

THEMED DEBATE

Community Evidence Submissions

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

Southwark's Economic Renewal: creating a fair, equal and inclusive local economy

- Winifred Ayeni
- Ross Palmer
- Jerome Campbell
- Ben Clasper
- Business Together Stronger - Dulwich Area Independent High Street Businesses

Format

That each community evidence submission be given three minutes to present, with no follow up questions or debate.

Themed debate

To change the mover of the themed motion to Councillors Rebecca Lury and Alice Macdonald.

To run as listed in the timings above.

MEMBERS' MOTIONS

To accept the late Motion: End Male Violence against Women and Girls

To hear the debate on the late Motion: End Male Violence against Women and Girls before the themed debate.

REPORTS

Item 6.4 – Council Assembly Dates and Calendar of Meetings 2021-2022

That the published calendar dates for the overview and scrutiny committee and commissions be amended, as attached as an appendix to the minutes.

1.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

The monitoring officer has given all members a dispensation to vote on item 6.2: Member Allowances Scheme 2021-22.

Councillor James McAsh declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Motion 4: The Union Learning Fund, as his partner works for the Trades Union Congress. He did not take part in this item.

1.5 MINUTES

The published minutes of the meeting of council assembly on 24 February 2021 missed out the name of Councillor Sandra Rhule as present. This has now been amended.

Subject to this amendment, the minutes were agreed as a correct record.

2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

2.1 PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(See page 1 of supplemental agenda 1 and additional papers circulated at the meeting)

There were three questions from the public, the answers to which had been circulated by email before the meeting. The three public questioners asked supplemental questions of the cabinet members.

3. THEMED DEBATE

3.1 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

The meeting agreed to receive submissions from the following:

Ross Palmer

The representative spoke to the meeting for three minutes.

Jerome Campbell

The representative spoke to the meeting for three minutes.

Ben Clasper

The representative spoke to the meeting for three minutes.

Dulwich Area Independent High Street Businesses

The representative spoke to the meeting for three minutes.

Winifred Ayeni, who had requested to present community evidence, was unavailable at the meeting.

3.2 MOTION ON THE THEME

The cabinet member for finance, business and jobs, Councillor Rebecca Lury, and the cabinet member for communities, equalities and neighbourhoods, Councillor Alice Macdonald, presented the first motion in the themed debate.

Councillor Nick Johnson, the majority opposition group spokesperson, responded to the motion and proposed Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Stephanie Cryan, Victor Chamberlain, Leo Pollak, William Hougbo, Catherine Rose, Sirajul Islam, Dan Whitehead, Vikki Mills, Michael Situ, Kieron Williams, and Sunny Lambe), Councillor Rebecca Lury responded to the debate.

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

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

RESOLVED:

1. Council Assembly notes:
 - a. That Covid-19 continues to have a significant impact on employment in the borough, with nearly 44,000 Southwark residents now unemployed

or furloughed.

- b. Southwark businesses - especially those in retail, hospitality and leisure - and their supply chains have been adversely impacted by lockdown and tier restrictions. Footfall across UK high streets fell 88% in 2020 compared to 2019, according to the High Streets Task Force.
- c. The impact of Covid-19's economic fallout has not been felt equally; according to the Trade Union Congress (TUC) Covid-19 has caused an unemployment rate amongst black, Asian and minority ethnic workers which is double that of white workers.
- d. Young people have also been hit particularly hard, with those under 25 in the UK over twice as likely to have lost their job due to the pandemic as over 25s.
- e. On top of this, adapting to Brexit – from new trade rules to a narrowing workforce - poses more issues and difficulties for Southwark businesses.

2. Council Assembly further notes:

- a. Southwark Council has responded quickly and effectively to deliver a total of £94m grant funding to local businesses throughout the pandemic.
- b. Southwark Council was the first local authority to set up a Discretionary Hardship Fund to support businesses who were not eligible for Government funding during the first lockdown, distributing £2.1m of council funding.
- c. The creation and implementation of an Economic Renewal Plan by the council will ensure that businesses, high streets and town centres are able to recover from the pandemic and becoming thriving centres for our communities.
- d. That the council has created a New Youth Deal to provide support and opportunities for young people in securing jobs, apprenticeships and internships.
- e. That Southwark has committed to a Green New Deal to create 1,000 jobs in green and sustainable industries.
- f. That the council's work on Southwark Stands Together is being successfully integrated into our work supporting employment and businesses. For example, 84.5% of clients supported into work through Southwark Works are from black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds.
- g. As part of our commitment to supporting the development of thriving town centres and high streets, detailed cross-council Town Centre Action Plans are being developed.

- h. Southwark Council is the first local authority in London to be accredited as a Living Wage Place, expanding the amount of employers paying the real Living Wage across the borough.
3. Council Assembly further notes:
- a. The government's incompetence, and failure to act fast enough to support businesses who were not eligible for statutory grant funding, leading to an estimated 250,000 small businesses (with fewer than 50 staff) set to fold this year, according to the Federation of Small Businesses.
 - b. That the government has provided little or no support to 10% of the UK workforce - especially freelancers, the newly self-employed and those working in creative industries - yet can afford to spend £2bn on contracts with Conservative Party donors and friends of MPs.¹
 - c. The government's failure to give adequate notice to businesses who were required to close during lockdown, especially during the early months of the pandemic.
 - d. The government's dithering and stalling in the extension of the furlough scheme, resulting in waves of unnecessary redundancies.
4. Council Assembly calls on Cabinet to:
- a. Continue to support businesses with grant funding through both the Local Restrictions Grants and the Additional Restrictions Grants.
 - b. Continue to work with partners to shape the economic renewal Southwark needs.
 - c. Establish a Community Wealth Building partnership to ensure that local communities benefit from the economic renewal of the Borough.
 - d. Undertake a review of business support to ensure that future business support in Southwark is targeted at the businesses and entrepreneurs that need it most.
 - e. Support businesses to mitigate the impact of Brexit by providing them with the information they need and helping them to navigate the new legislative requirements.
 - f. Continue to drive forward the Southwark Green New Deal, and lobby government to provide the upskilling and training needed for residents to manage the transition into zero carbon and sustainable jobs, particularly

¹ A report by the National Audit Office has shown that £10.5bn of Covid-19 contracts before 31 July 2020 were awarded without a proper tender process. 'Covid-19: Government has spent billions on contracts with little transparency, watchdog says' <https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4474> The Labour Party has claimed that the amount of these contracts which are linked to Conservative Party donors and acquaintances of MPs totals £2bn: <https://news.sky.com/story/covid-19-labour-calls-for-government-to-crack-down-on-the-cronyism-over-2bn-coronavirus-contracts-12212275>

in areas such as construction, transport and manufacturing.

- g. Call on government to address the disparities in Covid-19 support schemes and remove all exclusions for the 3 million workers currently excluded.

4. DEPUTATIONS

As part of the programme motion the meeting agreed to hear a deputation from:

StarFish Domestic Abuse Project

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for five minutes and thereafter asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Safety.

Four members asked questions of the deputation.

5. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

5.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

There was one late question to the leader from Councillor Nick Johnson, the written response to which was circulated by email before the meeting. There were two supplemental questions.

There were 16 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated by email before the meeting. There were ten supplemental questions.

5.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion 1: Bringing back Trams to Southwark

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Damian O'Brien moved the motion. It was formally seconded.

There was one amendment to the motion. Amendment B was moved by Councillor Radha Burgess, and seconded by Councillor Michael Situ.

Following debate (Councillors Peter John, Nick Johnson, Adele Morris, Richard Livingstone, Victor Chamberlain, Richard Leeming, Sunny Lambe, and Johnson Situ), Amendment B was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

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

1. Council Assembly notes that:
 - a. The Croydon Tramlink has been running for around twenty years and is considered a success. Studies found that 19% of Croydon Tramlink passengers switched from cars, there was £1.5 billion inward investment into the area due to its development and that it is liked by all sections of the community.² This piece of infrastructure took only six years to build at a cost of £200m.
 - b. In the last three years, TfL calculated that a potential Sutton tram extension would cost around £425m and could commence service by the mid-2020s.³ Although this work was paused in July 2020, TfL stated that if “new funding opportunities emerge then the case for taking the scheme forward will be reviewed.”
 - c. Edinburgh City Council plans to expand its own tram infrastructure by 2030. This will form part of its ‘City Mobility Plan’ to deliver a net zero carbon transport system, which was approved in February 2021.
 - d. Greater Manchester’s Metrolink trams produce half as much (54 grams) of carbon emissions per passenger kilometre compared to buses (99 grams) and cars (123 grams) since around 70% of the Metrolink system is powered by green electricity generated by wind, solar, water and the rest from recycled waste sources.⁴
 - e. Southwark’s commitment to expanding public transport in the borough is motivated by the Climate Emergency and a need to challenge the default culture of car travel. Improving public transport in Southwark will make it as easy as possible for residents to lower their carbon footprint, and to this end the council has already begun exploring low carbon transport improvements with partners, including a tram system, rapid bus routes and continuing to work with the community on the campaign to reopen Camberwell station.
 - f. The council’s plans for a Low Traffic Borough places emphasis on modal shift towards walking and cycling, but also recognises the role of public transport in reducing reliance on cars.
 - g. As part of this championing of public transport, the council is committed to the Bakerloo Line Extension as an initiative which will reduce air pollution and road congestion, and the council therefore

² <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200405/cmselect/cmtran/378/378we06.htm>

³ <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/trams/sutton-link/>

⁴ <https://tfgm.com/public-transport/tram/metrolink-and-the-environment>

welcomes the recent safeguarding of station sites on the Old Kent Road.

- h. A significant proportion of transport funding serving our city was removed by the coalition government, leading to a reduction in new carbon-reducing initiatives.
2. Council Assembly also notes that:
- a. London and Southwark have a long history of trams. Their first appearance on the city's streets stem back to the 19th century. There were tram routes connecting Waterloo to Dulwich and Walworth to Surrey Quays.
 - b. There has been extensive cross-party support for Southwark public transport improvements over the last two decades, including pushing for the 'Cross River Tram' in the early 2000s and more recently the extension of the Bakerloo Line.
 - c. Southwark Council's Climate Emergency declaration set a target for the borough to become carbon neutral by 2030. The lower carbon footprint of trams, buses and Bakerloo Line Extension would help Southwark work toward that aim.
3. Council Assembly calls on Cabinet to direct the council to:
- a. Include exploring trams, alongside the Council's commitment to the Bakerloo Line Extension, as part of the council's work on options for Low Carbon Public Transport over the next decade.
 - b. Investigate routes with local residents for further transport improvements across the borough, through the Climate Action Plan launching in June; looking at trams but also including rapid bus routes, cycling infrastructure and other sustainable transport methods.
 - c. Lobby national government to properly fund regional public transport providers, enabling them to introduce new forms of public transport such as the tram and expand existing forms of public transport such as the Bakerloo Line Extension.

Motion 2: International Women's Day

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Sarah King, seconded by Councillor Victoria Olisa, moved the motion.

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

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

1. Council Assembly notes that:

- a. 8 March marked International Women's Day – a day to celebrate the political, social and economic advancement of women while recognising the urgent need for further action. The theme was 'Women in leadership – achieving an equal future in a Covid-19 world'.
- b. In Southwark and across the UK, women have been on the frontlines of the Covid-19 response in many ways as care workers, health workers, community activists, as teachers and as leaders. We must celebrate and support their leadership.
- c. But, Covid-19 has also had a devastating impact on women across the UK. It has exacerbated already shockingly high levels of domestic violence. The economic impact has been incredibly harsh as women are more likely to be in low paid work and to be more reliant on childcare and social care, which have all been affected by the pandemic.
- d. Nationally, women have also not been adequately represented in decision-making, meaning gendered aspects have been missed.

2. Council Assembly further:

- a. Pays tribute to past and present female pioneers - from politicians to community activists to women working in essential services - across the borough who have fought for greater women's rights and transformed their communities and all those women who have fought over the last year against Coronavirus.
- b. Welcomes the policies and actions already implemented by Southwark Council to advance women's rights, including: the first ever Violence against Women and Girls Strategy, lobbying to make misogyny a hate crime, the Women's Safety Charter, the Sanctuary scheme, the Ethical Care Charter, investment in services from healthcare and housing to education, and the appointment of a Cabinet Member with specific responsibility for women's rights and a Deputy Cabinet Member for Domestic Abuse.
- c. Welcomes the commitment in the Annual Workforce Equalities Plan to review and refresh current parental, adoption and carers' leave provisions to ensure they are best practice.
- d. Welcomes action to advance economic equality, including becoming the first local authority to receive accreditation as a Living Wage Place,

asking all our contractors with more than 50 employees to publish their gender pay gap and encouraging all Southwark businesses with more than 50 employees to publish their Black, Asian, minority ethnic, and gender pay gaps.

- e. Recognises that we all have a responsibility as individuals, councillors and in the communities we serve, to advance gender equality, for example: encouraging more women to stand for elected office, to take up community leadership positions, supporting measures to secure gender balanced leadership or calling out gender discrimination wherever we see it.

3. Council Assembly calls on Cabinet to:

- a. Ensure that a gendered approach to both the Covid-19 response and recovery is taken, ensuring that women's voices and experiences are heard and shape the recovery, and to commit to working with partners to capture disaggregated data.
- b. Support key stakeholders to influence and enrich our council's planning and policy frameworks to reflect the needs and lived experience of women and children in regards to housing, development and infrastructure improvements.
- c. Work with Community Southwark to support the establishment of a Southwark Community Women's Forum.
- d. Take proactive measures to encourage women to stand for elected office and support them when they are elected. This could include:
 - i. Providing all councillors with training on the legal protection available against online and offline abuse and harassment.
 - ii. Supporting local government calls for legislation to permit local councils to retain the option of remote attendance as standard practice for councillors at official council meetings including committee meetings, Council Assembly, officer briefings and committee agenda setting meetings, and putting in place the necessary technology including remote voting. Covid-19 has shown that the use of technology can enable greater participation, especially from women.
- e. Continue to raise awareness and encourage action to tackle violence against women and girls, including working with schools to address sexual harassment, extending the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation to council housing resident services and encouraging other major landlords to also seek accreditation.
- f. Review how to improve and strengthen its work and commitments to promote gender equality as part of the Council's refreshed Equality Framework.

- g. Ask the Constitutional Steering Panel to review current parental and carers' leave policies and working practices for councillors.
- h. Ask the Audit, Governance and Standards committee to review the current code of conduct to ensure it adequately addresses gender bias, sexism and discrimination.

Motion 3: Commercial Events in Southwark Park

The guillotine having fallen, the motion was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

1. Council assembly believes that:
 - a. Southwark Park - along with all Metropolitan Open Land, parks and green spaces across the borough - is vitally important for local residents.
 - b. Publicly accessible open spaces have become even more critical during the coronavirus pandemic and as a result of the associated lockdowns and restrictions.
 - c. Access to public open spaces is critical for the physical and mental health of local residents.
 - d. Publicly accessible open spaces should not be fenced off for private large-scale commercially ticketed events.
2. Council assembly notes:
 - a. The proposals for a commercial MIK K-Pop music festival to be held in Southwark Park in July 2021 that would see:
 - i. between 10,000 – 12,000 attendees per day for two days
 - ii. around one fifth of Southwark Park fenced off to the public
 - iii. up to nine days' closure in total (including the days to build and dismantle the site)
 - iv. local residents unable to access a significant proportion of their park during this time
 - v. ticket prices that are unaffordable for many local residents
 - b. The considerable impact on local residents of the noise, litter, anti-social behaviour and loss of amenity as a result of the proposed K-Pop event.
 - c. The controversy over a similar event (Alice in Winterland) that occurred in Southwark Park in 2018/19.
 - d. That other commercial events elsewhere in the borough are

similarly encroaching on public use of parks and open spaces.

- e. The relatively small financial benefit to the council of commercial events on this scale.
3. Council assembly therefore resolves:
 - a. That it does not support the use of Southwark Park and other public open spaces for private commercial ticketed events.
 - b. To call on Cabinet to reject the proposal for the MIK K-Pop Music Festival.
 - c. To call on Cabinet to amend the Outdoor Events Policy to prohibit all such events in Southwark's parks in the future.

Motion 4: The Union Learning Fund

Councillor James McAsh had declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this motion. He did not take part in the vote.

The guillotine having fallen, the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

1. Council Assembly notes that:
 - a. On Tuesday 6 October, the Trade Union Congress (TUC) received a letter from the Department for Education saying that ministers have decided to end the Union Learning Fund from March 2021.
 - b. The Union Learning Fund (ULF) was set up in 1998 under the last Labour Government to support trade unions to widen access to learning and training in workplaces for both union members and non-members. The fund supports workplace projects across England, and is coordinated by the TUC.
 - c. Each year around 200,000 workers are supported into learning or training with union support through the ULF and the TUC, including many Southwark residents via their workplaces. These learners undertake all sorts of job-relevant learning and training, including basic literacy and numeracy, ICT skills, apprenticeships and traineeships, vocational training, continuing professional development and many other informal and formal courses.
 - d. In 2019–20, the ULF was worth £12m. If upheld, this decision will effectively end union-brokered skills training, and will undermine key government skills and retraining priorities at a crucial moment for our economy.

2. Council Assembly understands that:
- a. Union learning reaches people that other Department for Education programmes do not reach.
 - b. There is an independent evaluation of the Union Learning Fund every two years. It was most recently evaluated by the University of Exeter in 2018. They spoke to 2,459 learners, and found:
 - i. Over two-thirds (68 per cent) of learners with no previous qualifications got a qualification.
 - ii. 47 per cent of those with entry level or level 1 qualifications got a qualification at a higher level.
 - iii. Four in five (80 per cent) said they had developed skills that they could transfer to a new job.
 - iv. Two in three (62 per cent) said their new skills made them more effective in their current job.
 - v. One in five (19 per cent) said they had been promoted or given increased responsibility and one in 10 (11 per cent) got a pay rise.
 - c. The 2018 independent evaluation found that union learning provided excellent value for money:
 - i. For every £1 spent on the Union Learning Fund, there is a return of £12.30: £7.60 to the worker, £4.70 to the employer.
 - ii. The Union Learning Fund delivers an estimated net contribution to the economy of more than £1.4bn as a result of a boost to jobs, wages and productivity.
 - iii. The return to the exchequer (through reduced spending on welfare benefits and other factors resulting from the boost to jobs and wages) is £3.57 for each £1 spent on the Union Learning Fund.
 - iv. The £12m government funding levered in an additional £54m from employers, unions and training providers in 2019–20.
 - d. The government has said it will put reskilling workers at the heart of its economic recovery plans after the pandemic. In September 2020, the government announced a new fully funded entitlement to achieve a first level 3 qualification, delivered through the National Skills Fund. Union learning is ideally placed to support this aspiration, in the following ways:
 - i. directly, through delivering relevant level 3 courses to workplace learners, which is already a core function of the Union Learning Fund and was assessed as highly effective by the 2018 independent evaluation;
 - ii. directly, through enabling those with basic skills to learn and develop, putting them in a position to progress to level 3 skills.
 - e. Successive governments of all parties have valued this role – and have supported the Union Learning Fund. As government funding, it is paid as a contract and is subject to stringent monitoring requirements. Union Learning Fund money can only be spent on the direct costs of getting working people into learning and skills training, and the associated costs of delivering this programme.

- f. ULF projects adapted quickly to delivering online learning and training for workers during the pandemic and have actually surpassed the number of outcomes expected by government since the beginning of April.
3. Council Assembly therefore resolves to:
 - a. Express its public support for the continuation of the Union Learning Fund.
 - b. Raise this issue with our local MPs and encourage them to call on the Government to reverse its decision.

Motion 5: Sustainable future funding for Local Welfare Assistance

The guillotine having fallen, the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

1. This Council notes that:
 - a. Until 2013, emergency financial assistance was principally provided by central government, through the Discretionary Social Fund.
 - b. From 2013, the government implemented wholesale reform of the Discretionary Social Fund. Some parts were kept, however, the coalition government abolished Crisis Loans (other than Alignment Payments) and Community Care Grants.
 - c. Responsibility for *emergency financial assistance* was devolved to the local level and funding transferred to local authorities in England on a non-ring-fenced basis, with the intention that they establish their own Local Welfare Assistance (LWA) Schemes to support local people facing a crisis.
 - d. The Government then decided that from 2015/16 onwards there would be no separate LWA funding stream. Instead, it would become part of the general Revenue Support Grant that central government provides to councils to support their spending on any local services.
 - e. In the intervening years, with reduced overall funding for councils, a lack of guidance from central government, and the absence of a statutory requirement for local authorities to deliver emergency financial assistance, local authorities faced difficult decisions about funding and maintaining LWA schemes. In many areas, local welfare provision was either significantly reduced or closed

completely.

- f. Despite this, Southwark Council has retained its own LWA schemes (Southwark Emergency Support Scheme, or SESS, and a separate Hardship Fund).
 - g. In 2020/21, in response to significant levels of need during the COVID-19 pandemic, Government provided additional funding to English local authorities to deliver emergency financial assistance. £63million was provided through the Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for food and essential items, whilst a further £170million was provided through the COVID Winter Support Grant. Southwark Council received £1.5m in total.
 - h. This funding, whilst welcome, has had to cover a wide range of needs beyond just LWA, including provision through our Community Hub, community grants to support food security and the provision of free school meals during school holidays. The Council will have spent significantly more responding to COVID and providing emergency support with food and other essentials than it has received from government.
 - i. The Council has since April 2020 provided 4,553 individuals and families with support through the emergency support scheme not including the additional support through the community hub or free school meals, totalling £1.45m.
2. This Council believes that:
- a. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impacts, we can expect there to be significant ongoing need for emergency financial assistance, with many Southwark households, including many families with children, likely to face a 'financial crisis' point – a financial problem which puts the immediate health and wellbeing of family members at risk.
 - b. Adequately resourced, local authorities are uniquely well placed to support residents facing financial crisis, with LWA schemes central to that support. Run well, LWA schemes draw on the existing knowledge that councils have of need in their communities, alongside the relationships they hold with local voluntary and community sector partners. The experience of the pandemic has clearly demonstrated the value of the Council's scheme – providing emergency short term support with the cost of essentials for thousands of households that were already vulnerable before experiencing a financial shock due to sudden loss, or interruption to income.

- c. Whilst local authorities have other mechanisms such as Discretionary Housing Payments and Local Council Tax Support Schemes to support low income households, Covid-19 has demonstrated how important it is for councils to have the capacity to deliver timely and discretionary emergency support to households reaching crisis point.
 - d. Central government should therefore provide sustainable, long-term funding for local welfare assistance- to give councils the confidence and certainty that they need to develop an effective local welfare offer.
3. This Council, therefore, resolves:
- a. To maintain its Local Welfare Assistance Scheme, including both SESS and the Hardship Fund, to support residents facing financial crisis.
 - b. To use effective communications and engagement to increase awareness of these schemes and to train voluntary sector organisations to support resident referrals.
 - c. To campaign for permanent restoration of a central government funding allocation to meet costs of Local Welfare Assistance schemes from 2021/22, and for that funding to be protected in real terms over the following years.
 - d. To write to the Chancellor, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to request that they make such a funding allocation available to local authorities.

6. Emergency Motion – End Male Violence against Women and Girls

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Evelyn Akoto, seconded by Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillors Leanne Werner, Humaira Ali, Anood Al-Samerai, Sunny Lambe and Johnson Situ), the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

Council Assembly notes:

1. That the murder of Sarah Everard has launched a wave of anger and protests across the country.

2. Blessing Olusogun's death remains unexplained.
3. Nicole Smallman and Bibaa Henry were killed after meeting friends in a park.
4. That 118 women have died this year as a result of gendered violence.
5. Reports from the vigil held at Clapham Common show police officers using excessive force against women.

Council Assembly further notes:

6. The detrimental impact that violence against women and girls (VAWG) by men has on individual women, their dependents, their communities and society as a whole.
7. Women from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, deaf and disabled women, and LGBT+ women are even more likely to experience harassment, discrimination and abuse. Women from diverse backgrounds experience abuse differently and male power is used against them differently.
8. Women living in poverty are particularly vulnerable to experiencing violence and face disproportionate challenges in accessing the necessary support to make them safe. Lack of access to secure housing, precarious employment, difficulty accessing social security and poverty work to keep women in abusive situations.
9. There are on average 12 'honour killings' every year in the UK, where women are killed due to the belief that they have brought shame or dishonour upon their family.
10. Street harassment and violence against women and girls is endemic in the UK:
 - a. 80% of women of all ages have been sexually harassed in public, with 90% of these women not reporting it as they don't believe it will make a difference
 - b. 97% of young women have been sexually harassed, with 96% not reporting it due to the same reasons above
 - c. One in two women are sexually harassed in the workplace
 - d. One in three women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime
 - e. One in five women will be raped in their lifetime
 - f. Two women a week are killed by a current or former partner (this rose to three a week during lockdown), and three women a week take their own lives following domestic abuse.
11. Women who report rape have a 3% chance of it ever being heard in court. Most women who survive domestic violence do not receive justice from the criminal justice system.

Council Assembly remembers:

12. All the women in Southwark and across the country who have died as a result of the violence of men, and all the survivors of gender-based and domestic violence.

Council Assembly notes:

13. That Southwark Council has campaigned previously to make misogyny a hate crime, so we welcome the announcement that all police forces in England and Wales are to log incidents motivated by misogyny from this Autumn.
14. Southwark continues to be one of the highest funders of VAWG provision in London, with an investment of more than £900,000 annually.
15. Southwark will expand the number of venues signed up to and will ask existing signatories to recommit to the Women's Safety Charter, and report regularly on the difference it has made - sending a clear message that female harassment will not be tolerated.
16. Southwark goes beyond the existing legal domestic abuse framework by implementing a policy to give automatic 'priority need' status to domestic abuse victims approaching as homeless - this is in advance of the new Domestic Abuse Bill that now requires this of all councils. This policy removes the barrier some victims face accessing emergency housing and the full housing duty.
17. Southwark council recently developed a cross-party 'Open Door' Project in which schools, children's centres and GP centres are able to offer domestic abuse survivors a safe space in which to access support.
18. Southwark has invested in Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA), including an IDVA role co-located within Housing Solutions service.
19. Southwark delivers workshops and works with communities to discuss Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and its effects with survivors.

Council Assembly believes:

20. That male violence against women and girls is part of a broader culture of misogyny in society.
21. Perpetrators of serious violence usually have a history of inflicting abuse and harassment against other women and girls. Tackling violence against women and girls means dismantling this culture.
22. The seeds of violent behaviour are often sown at a young age and if the right interventions are not made in time then the problem continues to perpetuate.
23. It also means tackling other forms of discrimination and the economic system that further enables abuse against women and girls.
24. The Police and Crime Bill currently making its way through parliament will potentially silence the right to protest in a meaningful or impactful way, or for women to be heard on this issue in an impactful way.
25. That a justice system that allows one of the most heinous crimes to be effectively decriminalised is not fit for purpose. Sustained cuts to all elements of the justice system, as well as institutional misogyny, mean that crimes against women and girls that are reported are not effectively investigated by the police. The decision to fail to resource this work is a political choice.

This Council resolves to:

26. Stand in solidarity with protestors who oppose violence against women, and girls.
27. Do all we can as a council and in our communities to champion the rights and entitlements of women and girls and to tackle violence against them. This includes continuing to invest in vital services, listening and responding to women and girls about the action we need, and calling out misogyny and sexism wherever we see and hear it.
28. Call on the Home Secretary for an urgent, transparent and thorough investigation into the operational policing of the vigil for Sarah Everard which took place on 13 March 2021 and for swift action to be taken.
29. Call for increased investment in the whole justice system when it comes to VAWG.
30. To promote the Our Streets Now campaign to make street harassment a crime, and encourage all elected members, and residents to sign their petition.
31. Call on the government to ratify the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combatting VAWG, to ratify the International Labour Organisation's No.190, recognising the right of everyone to work free from gender based violence and harassment and to make street harassment a criminal offence.
32. Call on the Lambeth and Southwark Borough Command Unit to prioritise investigating crimes against women and girls and ask them to ensure that women are treated with the required sensitivity.
33. Work with the Lambeth and Southwark Borough Command Unit on improving women's safety in Southwark.
34. Deliver culturally competent services for VAWG which fully serve our diverse population.
35. Educate men through campaigns and bringing in male "allies".
36. Strengthen Safer Neighbourhood ward panels to have agenda items on hate crime incidents and domestic violence.
37. Work with schools and families to tackle toxic masculinity culture.
38. Continue to work with local, London-wide, and national networks working to end violence against women and girls.

6. OTHER REPORTS

6.1 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the council's pay policy statement, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be agreed.

6.2 MEMBER ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2021-2022

There were three questions on the report, and written answers were circulated before the meeting. There were three supplemental questions for the leader of the council.

The report was formally moved.

There was one amendment to the report.

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, seconded by Councillor Humaira Ali, moved the amendment.

Amendment C was put to the vote and declared Lost.

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

RESOLVED:

1. ***That council assembly approved the member allowances scheme for 2021-2022 with effect from 1 April 2021, having regard to the advice of the London Councils Independent Remuneration Panel Report 2018 (see Appendix 1 of the report).***

6.3 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES 2021: DISORDERLY CONDUCT AND LOCAL PENSIONS BOARD

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly agreed the proposed changes to the constitution as outlined in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

Disorderly conduct at council meetings

2. That committee procedure rules (CPRs) in the council's constitution be updated to include a description of conduct that may be considered disorderly in line with the provisions within paragraph 1.7 of council assembly procedure rules (CAPRs).

Local Pensions Board update

3. That the Local Pensions Board (LPB) membership numbers in the council's constitution be updated to reflect those contained in the LPB terms of reference.

6.4 COUNCIL ASSEMBLY DATES AND CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2021-2022

The recommendations as amended by the programme motion were put to the vote and declared Carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly agreed the following dates for meetings of council assembly be fixed in the council calendar for the 2021-22 municipal year:

Council Assembly	Type of Meeting
Monday 24 May 2021 at 7.00pm (Alternative date as agreed by council assembly 15 July 2020)	Annual Meeting
Wednesday 14 July 2021	Ordinary meeting
Wednesday 24 November 2021	Ordinary meeting
Wednesday 23 February 2022	Budget and council tax setting
Wednesday 23 March 2022 (to be confirmed)	Ordinary meeting
Saturday 21 May 2022 at 11am	Annual meeting <i>Note: May be held jointly with Civic Awards Ceremony</i>

2. That council assembly noted the calendar of council meetings for the 2021-22 municipal year as shown at Appendix 1 of the report, as amended by the programme motion.

7. AMENDMENTS

Amendments are set out in supplemental agenda no. 1.

The meeting closed at 10.45 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: