

Council Assembly (Annual Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Annual Meeting) held on Monday 24 May 2021 at 7.00 pm at Southwark Cathedral

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2020-21 and 2021-22, Councillor Barrie Hargrove (Chair)

Councillor Evelyn Akoto	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Jasmine Ali	Councillor Alice Macdonald
Councillor Humaira Ali	Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Peter Babudu	Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Maggie Browning	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Jack Buck	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Radha Burgess	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Victor Chamberlain	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor James Coldwell	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Stephanie Cryan	Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Helen Dennis	Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE	Councillor Victoria Olisa
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Karl Eastham	Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Paul Fleming	Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Jon Hartley	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor William Hougbo	Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Peter John OBE	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Nick Johnson	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Sarah King	Councillor Leanne Werner
Councillor Sunny Lambe	Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE	Councillor Bill Williams
Councillor Richard Leeming	Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall	Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR

The Mayor of Southwark, Councillor Barrie Hargrove, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Thereafter, Councillors Kieron Williams and Hamish McCallum paid tribute to the Mayor and to Southwark's resilience over the last year.

The clerk asked for nominations for Mayor for the ensuing municipal year 2021-22.

Councillor Kieron Williams, seconded by Councillor Jasmine Ali, moved that Councillor Barrie Hargrove be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Southwark for the municipal year 2021-22.

The nomination was put to the vote and it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Barrie Hargrove be elected Mayor for the 2021-22 municipal year.

Councillor Barrie Hargrove accepted the office of Mayor. The clerk declared that Councillor Barrie Hargrove was duly elected Mayor of Southwark for 2021-22.

The new Mayor signed the declaration of acceptance of office and took the chair.

The new Mayor stated that he appointed Mary Doherty as his Mayoress.

The new Mayor appointed Councillor Sunil Chopra as Deputy Mayor.

The new Mayor gave his incoming speech and announced that his chosen charity would be the Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers.

2. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

2.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, Tom Flynn, Eleanor Kerlake, Rebecca Lury, Eliza Mann, Charlie Smith and Dan Whitehead.

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

The Mayor announced the sad death of former councillor Ian Ritchie. Councillors Richard Livingstone and Graham Neale gave tribute. The meeting held a minute's silence in his memory. The Mayor asked the meeting to pay its respects to Folajimi Olubunmi-Adewole, who died trying to save another's life. The meeting held a minute's silence in his memory.

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

There were none.

2.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

2.5 MINUTES

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of council assembly on 24 March 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

3. REPORTS

3.1 EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS 2021-22

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly received a report from the leader on the following executive issues for the coming municipal year 2021-22:
 - Noted the appointment by the leader of cabinet members
 - Noted the appointment of any deputy cabinet members
 - Noted the establishment and appointment of any cabinet committees
 - Noted the leader's report on the delegation of executive functions to the full cabinet, cabinet committees, individual cabinet members, chief officers and any other delegations.

Appointment of the cabinet

2. That the leader reported to council assembly on the appointment of members of the cabinet and determination of their executive functions.

Cabinet portfolio	Cabinet member
Leader of the Council	Councillor Kieron Williams
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education	Councillor Jasmine Ali
Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Cabinet Member for Council Homes and Homelessness	Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Cabinet Member for the Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development	Councillor Helen Dennis
Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Democracy	Councillor Rebecca Lury

Cabinet Member for Equalities, Neighbourhoods and Leisure	Councillor Alice Macdonald
Cabinet Member for a Safer, Cleaner Borough	Councillor Darren Merrill
Cabinet Member for Jobs, Business and Town Centres	Councillor Jason Ochere
Cabinet Member for Transport, Parks and Sport	Councillor Catherine Rose

Appointment of deputy cabinet members

- That the leader reports to council assembly on the appointment of deputy cabinet members and determination of their duties and responsibilities.

Deputy Cabinet Members

Councillor Radha Burgess - Deputy Cabinet Member for Clean Air and Active Travel

Councillor Leanne Werner - Deputy Cabinet Member for Domestic Abuse

Establishment and appointment of cabinet committees

- That the leader reports on the establishment of any cabinet committees.
 - Cabinet (Livesey Trust) Committee,
 - Better Placed Joint Committee
 - Joint IT Committee (Brent, Lewisham and Southwark).

Delegation of executive functions

- That the leader reported on the delegation of executive functions between full cabinet, individual decision makers, chief officers and any other delegations.
- That council assembly noted the leader's report on any changes to the delegation of executive functions to the full cabinet, cabinet committees, individual cabinet members, chief officers and any other delegations.
- That council assembly noted that as a consequence of recommendation 6, the proper constitutional officer will update Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the leader's report on the delegation of executive functions.

3.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES, PANELS AND RELATED MATTERS 2021-22

The nominations for chairs and vice chairs of committees and the nominations to the Local Government Association General Assembly were circulated.

There were two contested positions.

The position of chair of overview and scrutiny committee was put to the vote, and it was agreed that Councillor Ian Wingfield be appointed chair of overview and scrutiny

committee.

The position of community champion for North-east multi-ward area was put to the vote, and it was agreed that Councillor Sunny Lambe be appointed community champion for North-east multi-ward area.

The substantive motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly noted the appointment of political group leaders, deputies and whips.

LABOUR GROUP

Leader	Councillor Kieron Williams
Deputy Leader	Councillor Jasmine Ali
Chief Whip	Councillor Maggie Browning

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP

Leader	Councillor Hamish McCallum
Deputy Leader	Councillor William Hougbo
Chief Whip	Councillor Adele Morris

2. That council assembly noted the political balance of the council as follows:

Table 1: Political balance

Group	Members	%
Labour	48	76.19
Liberal Democrat	14	22.22
Independent (not a group)	1	1.59
Total	63	100.00

3. That council assembly noted that there is no change to proportionality and the allocation of seats on committees and panels as agreed by council assembly on 16 September 2020 remains the same as set out below.
4. That council assembly established the following committees for the coming municipal year 2021-22:

Table 2: Ordinary Committees - Total number of seats 29

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
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Committee 1 Appointments Committee	7	6	1
Committee 2 Planning Committee	8	6	2
Committee 3 Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	7	5	2
Committee 4 Corporate Parenting Committee	7	6	1
Total	29	23	6

Table 3: Other committees - Total number of seats 26

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11	8	3
Licensing Committee	15	12	3
Total	26	20	6

Note: The political balance rules require that the political groups represented on council have proportionate representation on council committees. A political group must comprise at least two members, so the one Independent member does not constitute a political group. Councils can allocate seats on committees to members not aligned to a group, but are under no statutory obligation to do so.

Table 4: Multi-ward areas

1.	North-west
2.	North-east
3.	West-central
4.	East-central
5.	South

Note: The composition of multi-ward areas is set out in Article 8 of the constitution (see paragraph 42 of this report).

Health and wellbeing board

5. That the health and wellbeing board be established as a committee of the council under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 with the membership set out below:

- Leader of the Council
- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
- Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
- Opposition Spokesperson for Health (Southwark Councillor)
- Chief Executive Officer of Southwark Council
- Strategic Director of Children's and Adults' Services
- Director of Public Health of Southwark Council

- NHS South East London Clinical Commissioning Group representatives x2
 - Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust representative
 - Community Southwark representative (Voluntary Sector)
 - King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (Kings Health Partners) Representative
 - Independent Chair of Partnership Southwark (Partnership Southwark representative)
 - South London and Maudsley (SLAM) NHS Foundation Trust (King's Health Partners) Representative
 - Healthwatch Southwark Representative
 - Southwark Headteachers Representative
 - Voluntary Sector Representative
6. That it be noted that the leader of the council nominates the local authority membership. In accordance with committee procedure rules, the leader chairs the board.

Appointment of chairs and vice chairs

7. That council assembly appointed chairs and vice chairs for the following committees:

Committees

- Appointments committee
Chair: Councillor Kieron Williams
Vice-chair: Councillor Jasmine Ali
- Planning committee
Chair: Councillor Martin Seaton
Vice-chair: Councillor Kath Whittam
- Audit, governance and standards committee
Chair: Councillor James McAsh
Vice-chair: Councillor Graham Neale
- Corporate parenting committee [see note 1 below]
Chair: Councillor Jasmine Ali (Appointment of cabinet member with the responsibility for children and schools formally noted)
Vice-chair: Vacant
- Overview and scrutiny committee
Chair: Councillor Ian Wingfield
Vice-Chair: Councillor Victor Chamberlain
- Licensing committee
Chair: Councillor Renata Hamvas
Vice-chair: Councillor Adele Morris

Notes:

1. In 2021-22, the cabinet member responsible for children's services chaired the corporate parenting committee. Council assembly is asked to formally approve this appointment in 2021-22.
2. All outstanding appointments will be referred to the first meeting of the respective committee in the 2021-22 municipal year.

Appointment of community champions

8. That council assembly appointed community champions for the following multi-ward areas:

Multi-ward areas

	Councillor	Multi-ward area
1.	Maria Linforth-Hall	North-west
2.	Sunny Lambe	North-east
3.	Dora Dixon-Fyle	West-central
4.	Vikki Mills	East-central
5.	Andy Simmons	South

Multi-ward areas: Deputy Community Champions

	Councillor	Multi-ward area
1.	Sirajul Islam	North-west
2.	Leanne Werner	North-east
3.	Eleanor Kerslake	West-central
4.	Cleo Soanes	East-central
5.	Richard Leeming	South

Establishment of the council's panels

9. That council assembly established the following council panels (see paragraph 53 of the report):

Table 5: Panels - Total number of seats 16

Panel	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
Council assembly business panel	4	3	1
Constitutional steering panel	4	3	1
Pensions advisory panel	3	2	1
Voluntary bodies appointments panel	5	4	1
Total	16	12	4

Note: This table is based on the panels established in 2020-21.

Appointments of chair to constitutional steering panel and voluntary bodies appointments panel

10. That council assembly appointed a chair to the following panels:

- Constitutional steering panel [see note 1 below]
- Voluntary bodies appointments panel.

Notes:

1. The group whip of the majority group chaired the constitutional steering panel in 2020-21. Council assembly is asked to formally approve this appointment in 2021-22.
2. That it be noted that the Mayor chairs the council assembly business panel.

Urgency committee

11. That the role of the urgency committee between a municipal election and the annual meeting of council assembly, as agreed by council assembly on 26 March 2014, be noted as set out in paragraphs 55 and 56 of the report.

3.3 NOMINATIONS TO LONDON COUNCILS COMMITTEES, GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM, BOROUGH LEAD MEMBERS, LONDON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS) COMMON INVESTMENT VEHICLE (CIV) LTD AND LONDON COUNCILS LIMITED 2021-22

RESOLVED:

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

Note: Council Assembly may only nominate cabinet members as representatives or deputies to this joint committee.

1 representative and up to 2 deputies

Labour nomination

Councillor Kieron Williams

Deputies

Labour nominations

Councillor Jasmine Ali

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

Note: Council Assembly may only nominate cabinet members as representatives or deputies to this joint committee.

1 representative and up to 4 deputies

Labour nomination Councillor Catherine Rose

Deputies

Labour nominations -

3. LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE (ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE)

Note: Council Assembly may only nominate cabinet members as representatives or deputies to this joint committee

1 representative and up to 4 deputies

Labour nomination Councillor Alice Macdonald

Deputies

Labour nominations -

4. LONDON LGBS COMMON INVESTMENT VEHICLE (CIV) LIMITED

1 representative and up to 2 deputies

Labour nomination Councillor Rebecca Lury

Deputy

Labour nomination -

5. GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM

1 representative and 1 deputy

Labour nomination Councillor Rebecca Lury

Deputy

Labour nomination -

6. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ARTS/CULTURE, TOURISM, SPORT AND LEISURE

Labour nomination Councillor Alice Macdonald

7. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE/SAFEGUARDING AND SCHOOLS

- Labour nomination Councillor Jasmine Ali
8. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CRIME AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
- Labour nomination Councillor Darren Merrill
9. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/BUSINESS
- Labour nomination Councillor Jason Ochere
10. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES
- Labour nomination Councillor Rebecca Lury
11. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INCLUDING ADULT SERVICES
- Labour nomination Councillor Evelyn Akoto
12. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HOUSING AND REGENERATION
- Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan
13. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – PLANNING/ INFRASTRUCTURE/DEVELOPMENT
- Labour nomination Councillor Helen Dennis
14. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT
- Labour nomination Councillor Jason Ochere
15. LONDON COUNCILS LIMITED
- 1 representative
- Labour nomination Councillor Kieron Williams

3.4 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES 2021: COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS, FUTURE AMENDMENTS - CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND EQUALITIES

Councillor Helen Dennis and Councillor Adele Morris spoke to the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly agreed the proposed change to the constitution as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report.

Article 8: Community Champions

2. That Article 8.2 of the constitution be amended to include the fact that the community champion acts as the lead councillor for the relevant local area forum.

Future constitutional amendments – climate emergency and equalities

3. That council assembly noted planned amendments to the constitution, which will be brought to the July 2021 meeting.

3.5 SPECIAL URGENCY AND URGENT IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS - ANNUAL REPORT

RESOLVED:

That council assembly noted the schedule of special urgency and urgent implementation decisions (set out in Appendix 1 of the report) taken in accordance with access to information procedure rules 19 and 20.

3.6 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Councillor Ian Wingfield, chair of overview and scrutiny committee, presented the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly noted the scrutiny activity for the 2020/21 municipal year as detailed in the report.

4. AMENDMENTS

There were no amendments.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: