

Cabinet

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 15 June 2021 at 11.00 am at Ground floor meeting rooms, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Kieron Williams (Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Alice Macdonald
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Catherine Rose

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jasmine Ali (due to the need to self-isolate under Covid requirements).

An apology for absence was also received from Eleanor Kelly, chief executive.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Councillor Kieron Williams congratulated Duncan Whitfield on the recent grant of his OBE, in recognition his work for Local Government. Cabinet extended their congratulations for this incredible achievement.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

None.

3. NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN A CLOSED MEETING, AND ANY REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED

There were none.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

Phil Addison

Will Southwark Council undertake an audit and a needs assessment of the play and informal recreation provision of Champion Hill Ward?

Response by Councillor Jasmine Ali, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

An audit needs assessment and gap analysis of playground provision in the borough was completed in 2018 as part of the council plan commitment to “ensure a top quality playground in every local area”. The play audit considered the number and quality of open access playgrounds available in each ward against local demographic data. This audit has since been updated to take account of playground improvements delivered since 2018.

A further review of play provision in the borough is underway to inform capital investment in adventure playgrounds in the borough and involves local area analysis of the neighbourhoods surrounding our seven adventure playgrounds. This indeed includes an assessment of play demand and current youth and play provision in Champion Hill ward, which is the location for Dog Kennel Hill Adventure Playground. Our initial finding is that play provision in this ward falls below the borough level, relative to its under 18s population. On this basis, it is expected that consultation on a new capital scheme at Dog Kennel Hill Playground will take place over the summer, with the final design confirmed, and a planning application submitted in the autumn.

Supplemental question

Phil Addison asked that a more bespoke analysis of need be undertaken in relation to the astro-turf pitch, as it was felt that this is the choice being made by the community for recreation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS, BUSINESS AND TOWN CENTRES

Councillor Jason Ochere, cabinet member for jobs, business and town centres announced that £300,000 will be allocated to a high street recovery fund to mitigate the impact of Covid. Community, business and voluntary groups can apply for funding that demonstrate a commitment to economic growth and improvement of digital connectivity within the community. Applicants will also be asked to demonstrate a commitment to the ambitions of Southwark Stands Together.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

7. DEPUTATION REQUESTS

There were none.

8. POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY: FINANCIAL REMIT 2022-23 AND SCENE SETTING, FAIRER FUTURES BUDGET PRINCIPLES UPDATE

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress made on updating the Fairer Future Budget Principles (see draft at Appendix 1 of the report) be noted and that a final version will be brought back to cabinet for approval later this year.
2. That the continuing financial uncertainty as a result of a number of factors be noted:
 - A one year spending review in 2020 providing no indication of funding for 2022-23 and beyond
 - The postponement of the planned reforms of local government finance (Fair Funding Review, Business Rate Retention arrangements) previously intended to be implemented from April 2021
 - The ongoing deferment of the Business Rates reset
 - A published white paper on Social Care but no clear indication of if, how or when proposals might be implemented
 - The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on spending, income and savings plans and the pace of recovery
 - The extent of government support to offset the financial cost to the council of the pandemic in 2021-22 and beyond

- Any local impact arising from the national and global economic environment following the pandemic
 - Economic and financial impacts to the council of exiting the European Union
 - The current absence of any certainty of funding streams to support climate emergency plans.
3. That it be noted that the accumulated deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant was £21m at 31 March 2021 with the prospect of achieving any meaningful reduction without additional funding from the Department for Education being remote.
 4. That it be noted that financial planning is extremely challenging, with a range of potential scenarios suggesting a funding gap in 2022-23 of anywhere between £14m and £26.4m and that, subject to the inherent uncertainties, the central forecast indicates a potential budget gap of £19.4m in 2022-23.
 5. That it be noted that the central budget forecast is based on the assumptions set out at paragraph 21 of the report, with the key assumptions being:
 - Government funding rises in line with inflation, with the exception of:
 - New Homes Bonus – expected reduction of circa £3.5m resulting from ending of current scheme
 - The Fair Funding review and Business Rate Retention reset will be delayed again until 2023-24
 - Additional costs arising from pay and prices (both 2%)
 - Additional debt financing costs arising from additional capital projects (£2.5m)
 - Council tax will increase by the maximum amount allowed (1.99%)
 - No additional precept for adult social care
 - Council Tax and Business Rate losses arising from the pandemic and associated economic circumstances will be neutralised by a combination of government compensation schemes, service efficiencies and savings and, where appropriate, contributions from earmarked reserves
 - Existing budgeted council income streams will be achieved in 2022-23.
 6. That it be noted that the strategic director of finance and governance, with the support of other strategic directors, will look to establish medium term budget plans, reviewing any decisions previously taken.
 7. That it be noted that the strategic director of finance and governance, with the support of other strategic directors, will seek to prepare indicative savings options and commitments, initially for 2022-23.
 8. That it be noted that cabinet will receive further reports in the autumn including modelling and proposals for future years as further information

regarding funding is made available.

9. POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY: REVENUE MONITORING REPORT, INCLUDING TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2020-21

RESOLVED:

1. That the balanced general fund outturn position for 2020-21 after the application of reserves and emergency Covid-19 funding (Table 1 of the report) be noted.
2. That the application of £43.5m of general Covid-19 emergency grant funding be noted.
3. That the key adverse variations and budget pressures underlying the outturn position be noted:
 - (i) The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) outturn position of an £20.5m deficit and the pressures on high needs budgets;
 - (ii) The growing pressures within children's social care
 - (iii) the continuing budget pressures on temporary accommodation;
 - (iv) additional costs associated with protecting leisure services.
4. That the utilisation of £4m contingency to offset adverse variances be noted.
5. That the housing revenue account outturn for 2020-21 (table 2 of the report) be noted.
6. That the detailed movements of earmarked reserves as set out in Appendices B, C and D of the report be noted.
7. That the treasury management activity in 2020-21 be noted.
8. That cabinet approves the interdepartmental budget movements that exceed £250k, as shown in Appendix A of the report.
9. That the interdepartmental general fund budget movements that are less than £250k as shown in Appendix A of the report be noted.

**10. POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY: CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT
OUTTURN 2020-21**

RESOLVED:

1. That the outturn and resources for 2020-21 and future years for both the general fund and housing investment programmes as detailed in Appendices A, B and D of the report be noted.
2. That the virements and variations to the general fund and housing investment capital programme as detailed in Appendix C of the report be approved.
3. That the substantial funding requirement of £290m for future years which needs to be identified for the general fund programme in order for this to be fully delivered, as summarised in Appendix A of the report be noted.
4. That the borrowing requirement of over £900m required for future years for the housing investment programme to be fully delivered over the remaining term of the programme, as detailed in Appendix B of the report be noted.

**11. ACQUISITION OF CATLIN STREET, SE16- STRATEGIC INVESTMENT / SITE
ACQUISITION**

RESOLVED:

1. That pursuant to s227 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 the council be authorised to acquire the freehold interest in the property known as the Old Stables Catlin Street SE16 shown edged black on the plan at Appendix A of the report.
2. That the principal purchase terms set out in full in paragraph 20 of the closed version of this report be authorised.
3. That authority to agree the detailed terms of the acquisition be delegated to the director of planning and growth.

**12. GATEWAY 3 VARIATION DECISION: EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS FOR THE
PROVISION OF GENITO-URINARY MEDICINE SERVICES AT KCH AND GST
(KINGS COLLEGE AND GUYS & ST THOMAS' HOSPITALS)**

RESOLVED:

1. That the extension of the use of the open access pan-London genito-urinary medicine (GUM) contracts that Lambeth Council have with King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (KCH) and Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital Trust (GSTT) for a maximum period of 12 months commencing on 1 April

2022, at an estimated total contract value of £4.304m (£1,404,489 for KCH and £2,900,000 for GSTT), inclusive of a six month break clause be approved.

2. That it be noted that the need for this variation has arisen as a direct consequence of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the procurement process and planned re-commissioning schedule for these contracts while the providers (local major acute trusts) are involved in responding to the ongoing emergency.

13. GATEWAY 0: STRATEGIC OPTIONS ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF GENITO-URINARY MEDICINE SERVICES

RESOLVED:

1. That the strategic options assessment (paragraphs 34-46 of the report) for the delivery of genito-urinary medicine (GUM) services for Southwark Council be approved.
2. That recommendation (option five, paragraph 50) to undertake a joint procurement with Lambeth and Lewisham and negotiate with the existing providers be approved.
3. That the proposed service requirements and outcomes for the future GUM contracts (set out in paragraphs 25-33 of the report) be noted and that formal consultation on the future service model will be conducted with service users and residents as part of the planned engagement programme.

14. REPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMISSION: REVIEW OF APPROACH TO EQUALITY AND ADOPTION OF THE EQUALITY FRAMEWORK

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations from the education and local economy scrutiny commission arising from the interview with the cabinet member for communities, equalities and neighbourhoods in respect of the council's review of approach to equality and adoption of the Equality Framework, paragraph 7 of the report be noted.
2. That the relevant cabinet member reports back to cabinet on the recommendations within eight weeks.

15. REPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMISSION: EDUCATION: CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

RESOLVED:

1. That the education and local economy scrutiny commission report on children's experience and education during the Covid-19 pandemic, Appendix A of the report be noted.
2. That the recommendations from the education and local economy scrutiny commission be considered and that the relevant cabinet member reports back to cabinet within eight weeks.

16. REPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMISSION: LOCAL ECONOMY: REVITALISING SOUTHWARK'S HIGH STREETS AND TOWN CENTRES

RESOLVED:

1. That the education and local economy scrutiny commission report on revitalising Southwark's high streets and town centres, Appendix A of the report be noted.
2. That the recommendations from the education and local economy scrutiny commission be considered and that the relevant cabinet member reports to cabinet within eight weeks.

17. MOTIONS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

RESOLVED:

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

That the motion referred from council assembly as a recommendation to cabinet, set out below be agreed.

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 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.

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>

Bringing back Trams to Southwark

That the motion referred from council assembly as a recommendation to cabinet, set out below be agreed.

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.

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>

- 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 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.

International Women's Day

That the motion referred from council assembly as a recommendation to cabinet, set out below be agreed.

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.

The Union Learning Fund

That the motion referred from council assembly as a recommendation to cabinet, set out below be agreed.

- 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

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.

Sustainable future funding for Local Welfare Assistance

That the motion referred from council assembly as a recommendation to cabinet, set out below be agreed.

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.

End Male Violence against Women and Girls

That the motion referred from council assembly as a recommendation to cabinet, set out below be agreed.

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 Soutwark 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.

18. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2021-22

RESOLVED:

That appointments to the outside bodies listed in Appendix A of the report for the 2021-22 municipal year be agreed as follows:

Better Bankside Board

Councillor Jason Ochere

Blue Bermondsey Bid

Councillor Sunny Lambe

Board of Southwark College Corporation

Councillor Jason Ochere

Browning Estate Management Association

Councillor Martin Seaton

Canada Water Consultative Forum

Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Jane Salmon

Central London Forward

Councillor Kieron Williams

Centre for Literacy in Primary Education

Councillor Catherine Rose

Creation Trust

Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Jack Buck

Cross River Board

Councillor Helen Dennis

Crystal Palace Community Development Trust

Councillor Catherine Rose

Groundwork London, Local Authority Strategic Input Board

Councillor Catherine Rose

Guys and St. Thomas NHS Foundation (Council of Governors)

Councillor Evelyn Akoto

Kings College Hospital NHS (Council of Governors)

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE

London Road Safety Council (LRSC)

Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Radha Burgess

London Youth Games Limited

Councillor Alice Macdonald

Councillor Jasmine Ali (deputy)

Millwall for All

Councillor Sunny Lambe

Newable Limited (formerly Greater London Enterprise)

Councillor Jason Ochere

North Southwark Environment Trust

Councillor Kath Whittam

Old Vic Board of Trustees

Councillor Alice Macdonald

Potters Fields Park Management Trust

Councillor Alice Macdonald
Caroline Bruce

Plastic Free East Dulwich

Councillor Charlie Smith

Plastic Free Peckham

Councillor Cleo Soanes

Shared ICT Services Joint Committee

Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Alice Macdonald (reserve)
Councillor Stephanie Cryan (reserve)

South Bank and Waterloo Partnership

Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor David Noakes

South Bank Business Improvement District Ltd

Councillor Jason Ochere

Councillor Adele Morris

South Bermondsey Big Local Partnership Steering Group

Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Sunny Lambe

South London Gallery Trustee Limited

Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Graham Neale

South London and Maudsley (SLaM) NHS Trust Members Council

Councillor Evelyn Akoto

Southwark Construction Skills Centre

Councillor Jason Ochere

Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee (SLAEC)

Councillor Richard Leeming
Mr. Bob Skelly (Deputy)

Safer Neighbourhood Board (Southwark)

Councillor Darren Merrill

WeAreWaterloo BID

Councillor Graham Neale.

19. APPOINTMENTS TO PANELS, BOARDS AND FORUMS 2021-22

RESOLVED:

That the allocation of places to the panels, boards and forums set out in Appendix A of the report for the 2021-22 municipal year and member nominations be agreed as follows:

Joint Partnership Panel (Trade-union consultation)

Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Rebeca Lury

Homeowners Service Charge Arbitration Panel

Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Renata Hamvas
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai

Tenancy and Leasehold Arbitration Tribunals

Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Renata Hamvas
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
Councillor Cllr William Hougbo

Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board

Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Darren Merrill

Southwark Safeguarding Children's Board

Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor Darren Merrill

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Maggie Browning
Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Graham Neale

Southwark Tenant Management Organisation Committee

Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor William Hougbo.

MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 3 of paragraph 10.4 of the access to information procedure rules of the Southwark Constitution.

The following is a summary of the decisions taken in the closed part of the meeting.

20. MINUTES

The minutes of the closed section of the meeting held on 9 March 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

21. ACQUISITION OF CATLIN STREET, SE16- STRATEGIC INVESTMENT / SITE ACQUISITION

The cabinet considered the closed information relating to this item. Please see item 11 for the decision.

The meeting ended at 12.10pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE 2021.

THE ABOVE DECISIONS WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTABLE UNTIL AFTER THAT DATE. SHOULD A DECISION OF THE CABINET BE CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY, THEN THE RELEVANT DECISION WILL BE HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING THE OUTCOME OF SCRUTINY CONSIDERATION.