

Council Assembly

Ordinary meeting

Wednesday 24 November 2021

7.00 pm

Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Councillors are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to consider the business contained herein

Eleanor Kelly
Chief Executive

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information

You have the right to request to inspect copies of minutes and reports on this agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

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Access

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Contact

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Date: 12 November 2021



Council Assembly

Ordinary meeting

Wednesday 24 November 2021
7.00 pm
Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
	PART A - OPEN BUSINESS	
1.	PRELIMINARY BUSINESS	
	1.1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
	1.2. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE	
	To receive any announcements from the Mayor, members of the cabinet or the chief executive.	
	1.3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT	
	In special circumstances an item of business may be added to an agenda within seven working days of the meeting.	
	1.4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS	
	Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
	1.5. MINUTES	1 - 18
	To approve as a correct record the open minutes of the council assembly meeting held on 14 July 2021.	

2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

2.1. PETITIONS

To formally receive any petitions lodged by members of the council or the public which have been received in advance of the meeting in accordance with council assembly procedure rules.

2.2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The deadline for public questions is 11.59pm, Thursday 18 November 2021. Questions can be emailed to constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk.

Questions from the public will be distributed in a supplemental agenda.

3. THEMED DEBATE

3.1. COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

The deadline for community evidence on the theme is 11.59pm, Thursday 18 November 2021. Submissions can be emailed to constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk.

Submissions from the public will be distributed in a supplemental agenda.

3.2. MOTION ON THE THEME

19 - 23

The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development to present the theme for the meeting.

4. DEPUTATIONS

The deadline for deputation requests is 11.59pm, Thursday 18 November 2021. Deputations can be emailed to constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk.

Deputation requests will be distributed in a supplemental agenda.

5. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

5.1. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

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To receive any questions from members of the council.

5.2. MEMBERS' MOTIONS		30 - 41
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To consider the following motions:

- A Roadmap for Clean Streets in Southwark
- Responding to the Afghan Refugee Crisis and Supporting Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Refusing Unsafe Building Developers
- Youth Democracy
- UNESCO World Heritage Status for Borough, Bankside and the Wider Area
- Centenary Celebrations for Ada and Alfred Salter

6. REPORTS FOR DECISION

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6.2. TREASURY MANAGEMENT - MID-YEAR UPDATE 2021-22		47 - 55
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6.3. WAIVER OF SIX MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE - SECTION 85 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972		56 - 58
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6.4. RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON		59 - 61
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7. AMENDMENTS

Any member of the council may submit an amendment to a report or motion on the agenda. The amendments will be circulated to all members in a supplemental agenda.

ANY OPEN ITEMS IDENTIFIED AS URGENT AT THE START OF THE MEETING

EXCLUSION MOTION (IF NECESSARY)

The following motion should be moved, seconded and approved if the council wishes to exclude the press and public to deal with reports revealing exempt information:

“That under the access to information procedure rules of the Southwark constitution, the 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 section(s) 1 – 7 of paragraph 10.4 of the procedure rules.”

PART B – CLOSED BUSINESS

ANY CLOSED ITEMS IDENTIFIED AS URGENT AT THE START OF THE MEETING

Item No.

Title

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8. RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON - CLOSED

Date: 12 November 2021



**Council Assembly
(Ordinary meeting)**

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary meeting) held on Wednesday 14 July 2021 at 7.00 pm at 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

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

Councillor Evelyn Akoto	Councillor Alice Macdonald
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Jasmine Ali	Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Peter Babudu	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Maggie Browning	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Jack Buck	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 Sandra Rhule
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Karl Eastham	Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Paul Fleming	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor Jon Hartley	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor William Hougbo	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Peter John OBE	Councillor Leanne Werner
Councillor Nick Johnson	Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Sarah King	Councillor Bill Williams
Councillor Sunny Lambe	Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Richard Leeming	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Richard Livingstone	

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Humaira Ali, Radha Burgess, Tom Flynn, Eleanor Kerlake, Lorraine Lauder, Rebecca Lury, Eliza Mann, Victoria Olisa, Leo Pollak, Dan Whitehead and Maria Linforth-Hall (self isolating due to covid-19).

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Victor Chamberlain and Paul Fleming.

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

The Mayor congratulated Duncan Whitfield MBE, strategic director of finance and governance, for his recognition in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

The Mayor announced the sad death of Mr Alastair Hanton, an innovative ethical banker and green transport campaigner.

The Mayor announced that he will be recommending that Jadon Sancho be considered for the Freedom of the Borough in recognition of his achievements in football and speaking out against racism.

The Mayor announced that the deadline for nominations for the Covid Challenge Awards is Friday 16 July 2021.

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

At this point, the programme motion was agreed:

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

Time	Business
19:00 - 19:10	1. Preliminary business and announcements
19:10 - 19:20	2.2 Public question time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iman Altay • Maloma Kadzeya
19:20 - 20:20 (20 minutes - 2 minutes'	Themed debate 3.1 Community Evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannah Olomola, Southwark Youth Council • George Imafidon, Southwark Scholar • Rubel Ahmed, Active Communities Network

speech) (7 minutes) (5 minutes) (25 minutes) (3 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freya Spencer-Wood, We Made That • Fariah Rarrah • Laura Reynolds, Coin Street Young Leaders • Nicholas Okwulu, Pempeople <p>3.2 Motion on the Theme</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillor Jasmine Ali, deputy leader and cabinet member for children, young people and education 2. Councillor William Hougbo, opposition spokesperson, to speak on the motion and move Amendment A 3. Themed debate open to all other councillors 4. Cabinet member's right of reply to the debate
20:20 - 20:40	4. Deputation requests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save Bells (residents of Bells Gardens) • Dodson and Amigo Group
20:40 - 21:00	Motion 2 – Protecting Green Spaces for Our Future Generations
21:00 - 21:35 (5 minutes) (15 minutes) (15 minutes)	5.1 Members' Question Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late questions • Members' questions to the leader • Members' questions to the cabinet
21:35 - 22:00	5.2 Motions
	Motion 1 – Recognising Single Parent Rights
	Motion 3 – Covid-19 Education Recovery
22:00*	6. Reports
	6.1 Constitutional Changes: Climate Emergency and Equality, Council assembly role and functions
	6.2 Treasury Management Performance - 2020-21 annual report and prudential indicators

* 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:

Item 3 - Themed debate

Community Evidence Submissions

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

- Hannah Olomola, Southwark Youth Council
- George Imafidon, Southwark Scholar
- Rubel Ahmed, Active Communities Network
- Freya Spencer-Wood, We Made That
- Fariah Rarrah
- Laura Reynolds, Coin Street Young Leaders
- Nicholas Okwulu, Pempeople

Format

A two minute presentation from the group.

Themed debate

To run as listed in the timings above.

Item 4 - Deputations

Meeting to agree to hear deputations from:

- Save Bells (residents of Bells Gardens)
- Dodson and Amigo Group

(3 minutes to speak; deputation question to relevant cabinet member, one question from each group)

Item 5.2 General motions:

Each motion to have a single debate, subject to the guillotine.

That the meeting agree to **vary the order of business** to hear Motion 2 – Protecting Green Spaces for Our Future Generations after item 4: Deputation requests.

1.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor William Hougbo declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is a trustee of Active Communities Network, one of the deputations at the meeting.

1.5 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the annual meeting of council assembly held on 24 May 2021, and the extraordinary meeting of council assembly held on 24 May 2021, were agreed as correct records.

2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

2.1 PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(See page 1 of supplemental agenda 3 and additional papers circulated at the meeting)

There were two questions from the public, the answers to which had been circulated by email before the meeting. One public questioner asked a supplemental question of the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Business and Town Centres.

3. THEMED DEBATE

3.1 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

The meeting agreed to receive submissions from the following:

Hannah Olomola

The representative spoke to the meeting for two minutes.

George Imafidon

The representative spoke to the meeting for two minutes.

Rubel Ahmed

The representative spoke to the meeting for two minutes.

Coin Street Young Leaders

The representative spoke to the meeting for two minutes.

Nicholas Okwulu

The representative spoke to the meeting for two minutes.

We Made That and Fariah Rarrah, who had requested to present community evidence, were unavailable at the meeting.

3.2 MOTION ON THE THEME

The deputy leader and cabinet member for children, young people and education, Councillor Jasmine Ali, presented the first motion in the themed debate.

Councillor William Hougbo, the majority opposition group spokesperson, responded to the motion and proposed Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Jason Ochere, Evelyn Akoto, Nick Johnson, Kath Whittam, Peter John, Victor Chamberlain, Richard Leeming, James McAsh, Hamish McCallum and Kieron Williams), Councillor Jasmine Ali 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:

The Southwark Youth New Deal

1. Council Assembly notes:
 - a. That under this Labour administration, Southwark is committed to working with young people to deliver the best possible services through a £15 million youth investment. This investment is geared towards improving all outcomes for young people including their health, wellbeing, social, education and employment opportunities. This includes three council managed youth centres and 29 organisations that deliver youth activities in great spaces across the borough, including the reopening and refurbishment of spaces like the Blue Youth Club.
 - b. The council has won an international award for its ethnographic engagement of young people in the design of its services. Young people are currently working with urban creatives *We Made That* to film spaces on the Brandon which will bring about a youth-led transformation of relevant spaces.
 - c. The new Youth Parliament selection is underway – with every

secondary school, special education school, pupil referral unit, college, and youth centre currently engaged in canvassing and voting so that the new Youth Parliament can sit in the autumn.

- d. This Labour administration has revolutionised young people's mental health services. Southwark is now a beacon of mental health support by delivering its commitment to support 100% of children and young people with mental health needs, through its launch of the free open access mental health drop in The Nest and the £2m investment in schools for mental health prevention.
 - e. The council has delivered on training and employment for its young residents whilst the government's implementation of Kickstart made it difficult for employers to navigate, and challenging for young people to participate. Since July 2019, Southwark Works has supported 570 young people; helping 104 of them into secure and good quality jobs and apprenticeships, and 142 into other outcomes including training and work experience. A further 114 young people have been supported into well-paid internships.
 - f. Under this Labour administration, Southwark is committed to great outcomes for its young people, with no young person left behind. 199 young people who were previously not in education, training or employment have received training through the Southwark Construction Skills Centre, and a further 961 Southwark school children are engaged with the programme.
 - g. Southwark's Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Services include great education and post sixteen offers for our young people. We are exemplars, with other local authorities turning to Southwark for guidance on their SEND services. Our Youth Offending Service (YOS) is now a national exemplar, and was praised by Ofsted and HM Inspectorate of Probations for carrying out essential work supporting young people. This Labour administration has protected funding for YOS and will continue to do so in the face of Conservative cuts.
2. Council Assembly further notes:
- a. Even before the pandemic, children and young people have been stunted and pulled down by 11 years of Conservative austerity. We recognise that cuts to council budgets, attacks on welfare and benefits, a national crisis in care, and the London housing crisis have all impacted on young people in the Southwark.

- b. According to the YMCA over 760 youth centres have closed since the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition in 2010, widely condemned by experts as pushing young people into violence and exploitation. The list goes on; university tuition fees trebled, arts provision cut, Educational Maintenance Allowance scrapped. In this time, investigations where a young person is believed to be at risk of significant harm have more than doubled.
 - c. Children and young people have lost over half a year of face to face learning, and this, combined with unequal access to home learning, has exacerbated existing attainment gaps. Worryingly, in June the government's schools recovery chief, Sir Kevan Collins, resigned in disbelief over the lack of funding offered - £1.4bn against the £15bn recommended – to help children catch up.
 - d. The growing mental health crisis for young people has been magnified by repeated lockdowns, whilst provision remains woefully inadequate. According to the charity Young Minds, 67% of young people believe that the pandemic will have a long-term negative effect on their mental health, whilst 40% said that their school had no school counsellor. Devastatingly, data from the Millenium Cohort Study has shown that 7% of children have attempted suicide by the age of 17.
 - e. Covid-19 has wreaked havoc on the sectors where young people make up the bulk of employees, such as leisure, hospitality and tourism – according to a London School of Economics (LSE) study, if you are under 25 you are more than twice as likely to have lost your job than an older adult.
3. Council assembly therefore calls on cabinet:
- a. To deliver the Youth New Deal at pace:
 - i. To put all young people at the heart of service design for young people.
 - ii. To make sure that the new Youth Parliament is inclusive and accessible with co-opted young members with care experience, experience of the youth justice system and school exclusion.
 - iii. To recommission its youth service programmes, ('Positive futures for young people fund') to reflect young people's voices, by directly

involving young people in the selection of providers with new programmes, to commence in April 2022.

- iv. To build on the vision to support 100% of child and adolescent mental health need and the success of the council's child and adolescent free mental health drop-in service by continuing to provide its outreach service to schools and including pop-up drop-in services throughout school holidays, in order to increase accessibility and profile of and young people's mental health support.
- v. To recession-proof youth opportunity and ensure that every school leaver has an education, training or employment opportunity, by delivering ongoing support for vulnerable young people into jobs and apprenticeships through programmes such as Southwark Works.
- vi. To ensure that, aligned to the emerging digital hub, the Youth Opportunities Campaign will continue to promote job and training opportunities directly to young people and their guardians via a monthly bulletin. The £2m Southwark Pioneers Fund will also support young entrepreneurs to start and sustain their own businesses.
- vii. Launch a new Sure Start for Teenagers to establish a new cross council and cross partnership initiative to support teenagers and their families where needed.
- viii. To develop a new youth digital information hub and establish a new youth services portal/website as the cornerstone of the Youth New Deal. To ensure the rapid provision of comprehensive, up to date and accessible information about activities and services for young people and their families.

b. To lobby the government to invest in young people's futures by:

- i. Putting forward a comprehensive schools plan that will allow our young people to catch up on their lost education, coupled with a funding package which means this can actually be delivered.
- ii. Funding our schools in Southwark properly and finding a fairer funding formula that will allow our schools to stay open despite falling pupil admission numbers, so that smaller class sizes can

help our young people catch up on lost learning.

- iii. Ensuring there is good quality mental health support in every school and Higher Education facility, and follow the lead of the Labour-led Welsh Government which has legislated to make counselling support for pupils age 10 -18 mandatory.
- iv. Address the administrative issues and technical difficulties which are stopping businesses and young people alike from benefitting from the Kickstart scheme.
- v. Reinstating and ring-fencing youth services funding to 2010/11 real terms levels.

4. DEPUTATIONS

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

Amanda Johansson, Save Bells

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for three minutes and thereafter asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Council Homes and Homelessness.

Two members asked questions of the deputation.

Redevelopment of Dodson Street

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for three minutes and thereafter asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Council Homes and Homelessness.

Two 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 Hamish McCallum, the written response to which was circulated by email before the meeting. There were two supplemental questions.

There were 29 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated by email before the meeting. There were 15 supplemental questions.

5.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion 1: Recognising Single Parent Rights

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Stephanie Cryan moved the motion. Councillor Margy Newens seconded the motion.

There were no amendments to the motion.

Following debate (Councillors Adele Morris, Anood Al-Samerai, Alice Macdonald, Kieron Williams), 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:
 - a. There are 2.9 million single parents in the UK, accounting for one in four parents. Around one third of parents experience some period of single parenting. Although almost 70% of single parents are employed, a third of children in working single parent homes live in poverty and almost 30% (double that of coupled parents) report mental health concerns. Single parents face discrimination throughout their daily lives, from the workplace to accessing housing. This has knock on effects for them, their children and society as a whole.
 - b. Many single parents face multiple discrimination given 90% are women, around 27% live with a disability (compared with 21% of couple parent households), and black and mixed ethnicity communities have higher numbers of single parents compared with white communities. In London there are over 260,000 single parents; according to the 2011 census Southwark has 40% rate of single parent households and these figures are likely under-reported.
2. Council assembly further notes that discrimination towards single parents occurs in:
 - a. the workplace when it comes to recruitment, professional development and promotion
 - b. housing, specifically accessing private rentals properties especially for those reliant on housing benefit
 - c. child benefit calculations: a couple earning £98,000 combined

will receive full child benefit for one child, whilst a single parent on £60,000 will receive no child benefit for two children;

- d. childcare vouchers with couples able to access double the amount of vouchers where both are working, regardless of the actual amount they spend on childcare;
- e. [universal credit childcare payments](#);
- f. support and adaptations required for a disabled child to live safely in both homes where parents share care.
- g. entrance fees at tourist attractions are often higher per person for [single parent families than couple families](#). At the National Trust single parents pay 25% more per adult;
- h. membership fees e.g. for birthing/ parenting classes where the second parent in a couple is often 'free';
- i. inheritance tax with the child(ren) of a couple essentially have double the threshold compared to the child(ren) of a single parent;
- j. [the cost of holidays](#), and
- k. government and business [policies and rules during the Coronavirus lockdown 2020](#).

3. Council assembly recognises:

- a. That Southwark Council is committed to promoting equality irrespective of marital or civil partnership status and valuing the contribution made by all citizens. At a national level, however, the legislative oversight in respect of single parents is a chasm which needs to be addressed. Single parents are often subject to systematic discrimination across every aspect of life, and it is unconscionable that these circumstances have been permitted to exist for so long, all the while doing so much harm.

4. Council assembly therefore resolves to:

- a. Be at the forefront of ensuring that equality for all is embedded in our practices and employment policies.
- b. Actively support the campaign for single parents' rights, working with the government, campaign groups, community organisations and other partners to ensure that single parents have the parity they deserve.
- c. Lobby the Government to enshrine single parent rights in law including:
 - 1. The right for employees to request part-time or flexible working from their first day in a job.

2. Commissioning an independent review into the funding and affordability of childcare, particularly in regards to single parents, and to accept its recommendations.
 3. Better access to financial support for single parents who have to take time off work to care for children sent home from school or childcare settings due to Covid-19. The single parents' charity Gingerbread is calling for the Government's £500 Test and Trace Isolation Grant to be extended to parents in low-income households who have to take unpaid time off work when their children are sent home from school or childcare settings due to Covid-19.
 4. End the 5 week wait for Universal Credit and create a faster process for single parents to receive their first Universal Credit payment.
 5. Make the £20 Universal Credit uplift permanent, as according to Save the Children two thirds of claimants are single parents.
5. Council assembly recognises that making these law changes would have a number of benefits, including:
- a. greater single parent employment;
 - b. reduced reliance on government benefits;
 - c. greater disposable income for single parents to spend in society;
 - d. more stable and decent housing for single parent families;
 - e. better mental health for single parents;
 - f. lower poverty levels for children of single parents; and
 - g. better outcomes for the children of single parents.

Motion 2: Protecting Green Spaces and Tackling the Housing Crisis for Future Generations

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai moved the motion. Councillor Hamish McCallum seconded the motion.

There was one amendment to the motion. Amendment B was moved by Councillor Bill Williams, and seconded by Councillor Sarah King.

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) For all local authorities, there is a delicate and necessary balance between the building of new council homes and the adequate provision of outside space for residents.
- b) There is a very real human cost to choosing not to explore all sites on which to provide new council homes, just as we must continue to enhance our outside spaces.
- c) Southwark Council is exploring all avenues to provide more council homes, including 70 sites across the borough.
- d) Developing those sites would guarantee that future generations have access to genuinely affordable homes and all of the health and wellbeing benefits that this provides.
- e) All projects will include open, inclusive and transparent consultation with residents including a robust process to take residents with us as we make these decisions together.
- f) In addition to this, our Great Estates Programme seeks to both expand the number of council homes on appropriate existing estate sites, and enrich these estates by working with residents to improve the look and feel of them.
- g) Southwark has 30 green flag parks (the highest number within inner London), and continues to invest in its parks and green spaces:
 - Over £61 million invested in parks since 2010;
 - Launch of the Southwark Nature Action Plan (SNAP) in 2020 to protect biodiversity and make nature accessible for all;
 - 'Re-wilding' parts of our green spaces;
 - Introduction of 200 new allotment plots as part of the Allotment Expansion Scheme;
 - Planting over 8,000 trees this year alone under our commitment to plant 10,000 by 2022.
- h) The New Southwark Plan will also increase the amount of protected open space in the borough, including 17 new Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.
- i) There is a dire need to meet Southwark's 15,000 household-strong waiting list for housing, and the council's current approach to site-selection will fully incorporate the importance of provision of accessible, green, outside spaces.
- j) The disastrous right-to-buy policy introduced and extended by successive Conservative governments has led to the loss of over 17,000 council rented homes in Southwark

- k) Despite the fact that Southwark has brought 231 empty homes back in to use this year, the number of empty homes in Southwark is still unacceptable and so in September cabinet will put forward an Empty Homes Action Plan to bring more empty homes back into use.

2. Council Assembly further notes that:

- a) Green spaces in London are of significant benefit and popularity to the population surrounding them.
- b) Green spaces should not become a luxury only accessible to the well off. A report by the National Children's Bureau in 2013 found that better-off children were nine times more likely to have access to green spaces than those in the most deprived areas.
- c) Our green spaces aid wellbeing. A London Green Spaces Commission report last year estimated that green spaces save London £950m per year in avoided health costs. A Public Health England report in 2020 stated, "£2.1 billion per year could be saved in health costs if everyone in England had good access to greenspace."
- d) After a year of lockdowns, Londoners want to see green spaces protected. A May 2020 poll by CPRE, the countryside charity, and the National Federation of Women's Institutes (WI), found that nearly two-thirds of Londoners (62%) felt that protecting nearby green spaces should be a higher priority for the government when lockdown ends.
- e) London is facing increased urbanisation. A 2020 report by the London Green Spaces Commission discovered that, in the previous ten years, spending on public green space fell by over 30% to £159m. However, London's population in that time grew by 11.2%.
- f) Losing parks and green spaces would adversely affect the climate emergency. For instance, the ONS found that UK vegetation removed enough dangerous air pollution in 2017 to equate to a saving of £1.3bn in health costs.
- g) Therefore, it is our duty as councillors to ensure that we protect our green spaces so that future generations can enjoy them equally and gain from them as fruitfully as we have done.
- h) It is also our duty as councillors to do everything within our means to house residents in affordable, comfortable and safe housing; and do all we can to prevent homelessness in Southwark.
- i) London is in the grip of a housing crisis. Between 1997 and 2016 London's

population increased by 25%, but the number of homes only increased by 15%.

- j) In June 2020, over 127,000 children were living in Temporary Accommodation in London.
 - k) There are 15,000 households on the waiting list for a home in Southwark. Half of these households include children.
 - l) Many of these households currently live in severely overcrowded and unsuitable accommodation – sometimes entire families in a single room.
 - m) There are 3,200 households in temporary accommodation in Southwark.
 - n) Southwark urgently needs more council homes.
3. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:
- a) Conduct an audit of all planned investment in our green spaces, outdoors sports and children’s play facilities across Southwark to ensure that they are recognised and protected for residents’ amenity.
 - b) Urgently review the site-selection criteria for council-led developments, to ensure there is enough provision to support our commitment to tackle the housing crisis and maintain our dedication to high quality parks and green spaces across the borough.
 - c) Invest further and enhance the borough’s parks and open spaces to ensure residents across Southwark have access to high quality green space and to further increase our borough’s biodiversity.
 - d) Focus on building new council homes on sites suited for development — including former industrial/commercial sites across the borough and on car parks and under-used sites on our existing estates and publicly owned land.
 - e) Continue to be creative in finding ways to deliver more council homes, including buying new sites and homes where financially viable and continuing to secure more social housing in new developments through planning.

Motion 3: Covid-19 Education Recovery

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor James McAsh moved the motion. Councillor Maggie Browning seconded the motion.

There were no amendments to the motion.

Following debate (Councillors Vikki Mills, Nick Johnson, Jasmine Ali), 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 Government published its plans for education recovery after the pandemic on 2 June 2021.
 - b. Sir Kevan Collins, appointed by the Prime Minister as the Government's Education Recovery Commissioner, had judged that some £15bn was needed to repair the damage done to the nation's pupils because of Covid-19. The Government's subsequent offer of £1.4bn falls far short and is severely inadequate. The Education Policy Institute have calculated that this amounts to £50 per pupil per year.
 - c. This contrasts with the offer of £1,600 per pupil in the USA and £2,500 per pupil in the Netherlands. There are no quick or cheap fixes if we are to build back better from the pandemic and have an education system that supports high standards and strong mental health for everyone.
2. Council assembly also notes that:
 - a. The Department for Education has changed the census used to calculate Pupil Premium funding for the most disadvantaged pupils. This means that £150 million is being taken away from young people and schools most in need, including £1.2m in Southwark – the equivalent of 892 Southwark primary school children not receiving their Pupil Premium.
3. Council assembly therefore resolves:
 - a. To lobby the Government to value and invest in all our children, so they are supported to learn, succeed, and go on to have bright futures.
 - b. To write to the Prime Minister and call on the Government to scale up its ambition for our children and young people and give our education system the resources they need to ensure that no child is left behind. The Government should show it is serious about levelling up by putting in the investment called for by its own former Education Recovery Commissioner.

6. OTHER REPORTS

6.1 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES: CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND EQUALITY, COUNCIL ASSEMBLY ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

After debate (Councillors Helen Dennis, Adele Morris and Alice Macdonald), 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 paragraphs 11 to 14 and appendices 1 to 4 of the report.

6.2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE - 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council Assembly noted the 2020-21 outturn for the council's treasury management activity and that:
 - all treasury management activity was undertaken in compliance with the approved treasury management strategy and with the council's prudential indicators, as Appendix A of the report;
 - the balance remaining on all external loans at 31 March 2021 was £886m, with £72m of new long-term borrowing drawn during the financial year, all long-term borrowing is to support the growth in capital investment.

7. AMENDMENTS

The meeting closed at 10.20 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

Item No. 3.2	Classification: Open	Date: 24 November 2021	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motion on the Theme: Climate Justice: A Green Future For All	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The theme for this meeting is climate justice: a green future for all.

The relevant cabinet member shall submit a motion on the theme. All other political groups on the council are allowed to submit one amendment to the motion. The cabinet member's motion and the amendments do not need to be seconded. The cabinet member will present the motion to the meeting, followed by the lead opposition spokesperson's response and moving of their amendment, if any. Following this, the subject matter of the theme will be open to debate. Amendment(s) from other opposition groups on the council can be moved during this part of the meeting.

Motion from Councillor Helen Dennis, Cabinet member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development

Climate Justice: A Green Future For All

1. Council Assembly notes:
 - a) That the climate crisis requires urgent global action to keep warming below 1.5 degrees and to avoid the catastrophic consequences of temperatures rising beyond this, as set out by the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
 - b) That the UK along with other wealthier countries has a particular responsibility to reduce emissions, being responsible for a larger proportion of both current and historic emissions, and notes the government's legally binding target to reduce emissions by 78% by 2035 and to be net zero by 2050, along with this borough's ambition to be a carbon neutral borough by 2030.
 - c) That in a warming world, Southwark is particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events and to flooding, as an urban borough which is bordered by the Thames in the north with flat and low-lying land beneath this, with 60% of residents living less than 10 metres above sea level.

- d) That according to a recent global survey three quarters of young people now feel frightened about their future as a result of climate change. In London, 82% of residents are concerned about climate change, with 66% saying they have become increasingly concerned in the last year.
- e) That UK government plans including their Net Zero Strategy, are too little, too late, and fail to provide adequate funding for local authorities to deliver on a just transition, especially in the area of social housing decarbonisation which could help reduce fuel bills for residents.
- f) That the government's record speaks for itself: scrapping the planned zero carbon homes standard, ending the feed-in tariff, continuing to pursue oil and gas exploration, a dodgy trade deal with Australia, and a failed Green Homes Grant. Failing to regulate properly and invest, leaving everything to the whim of the market. And a Prime Minister who doesn't think twice about taking a private jet to Cornwall.
- g) That the recent Spending Review barely mentioned climate change, whilst halving air passenger duty for domestic flights and freezing fuel duty, just days before COP26 began.

2. Council Assembly further notes:

- a) That despite a lack of leadership from government, local communities and local authorities are stepping up to make ambitious commitments to bring about change.
- b) That Southwark declared a climate emergency in 2019, accelerating work that was already underway to reduce emissions, and that the council's operational emissions have already halved since 2018.
- c) That the council has published its Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, with 85 priority actions which will put us on the path towards net zero by 2030.
- d) That we have already made excellent progress on much of this, including:
 - i. Buildings – installing water-source heat pumps on three of our estates to serve over 2100 homes; bringing forward new passivhaus council homes in Rotherhithe; delivering retrofit work to street properties and the Tustin towers; greening our council buildings including by installing heat pumps in libraries; strengthening our planning policies through the New Southwark Plan and establishing a new Green Buildings Fund to retrofit our community buildings.

- ii. Transport – doubling cycle storage to 500 hangars next year, delivering 4 kilometres of cycleways, installing over 260 electric vehicle charging points with more planned this year; 36 school streets and 11 street space schemes to promote active travel; and major upgrades to London Bridge, Denmark Hill, Elephant and Castle and Peckham stations.
 - iii. Natural environment – planted over 8,000 new trees last year alone, supported biodiversity through its ‘no-mow’ policy, creating 200 new food growing plots on estates, opened the new Elephant Park, invested in renewing Burgess Park, Camberwell Green and Dickens’ Fields, started to consult on Bramcote Park, and retained 30 Green Flag parks – the most in inner London. Through the New Southwark Plan, the council is creating 17 new sites of importance for nature conservation, ensuring biodiversity net gain in development, and creating 11 hectares of new protected open space.
 - iv. Circular and Green Economy – pledged to create 5000 green jobs between now and 2030; ended the pension fund’s direct investments in fossil fuels with a target to be 100% fossil fuel free by 2030; and maintained one of the best recycling rates in inner London, up from the 6th worst recycling rate in the country in 2010.
 - v. Renewable and Sustainable Energy – rolled out LED street lighting, switched to 100% renewable electricity in council buildings, supported the expansion of South East London Combined Heat and Power (SELCHP), sought to maximise renewable energy generation through new developments, and have started to install solar photovoltaic systems on council buildings.
- e) We are investing an additional £25 million of capital funding into carbon reduction projects which will include among other things, electrification of our council fleet, further decarbonisation of council buildings including leisure centres when these are brought in house, and the expansion of measures to support the borough’s climate resilience.
- f) That the council is supporting a citizens’ jury on climate change, which will bring together a group of people who are representative of the borough’s demographics to make recommendations on how the borough can further respond to the climate emergency.
- g) That the analysis underpinning the Climate Strategy and Action Plan estimates that capital investment of £3.92 billion is required for Southwark alone and that the government must therefore demonstrate its seriousness to this agenda by fully partnering with and resourcing local authorities.

- h) That the lack of a long-term funding settlement with TfL is damaging to our efforts to become a carbon neutral borough, putting important projects on hold such as the Bakerloo Line Extension, the Rotherhithe Bridge, bus service enhancements and electrification, and active travel infrastructure.

3. Council Assembly celebrates and thanks:

- a) The community organisations and projects who have worked hard to bring down carbon emissions locally and protect Southwark from climate change; we applaud you and are grateful to be hearing from some of these groups today.

4. Council Assembly resolves to call on Cabinet to:

- a) Continue working with the community and local businesses to build upon Southwark's climate action plan and ensure collectively we are doing everything we can with the resources we have to achieve net zero by 2030. This work must have a strong focus on decarbonising Southwark's buildings, and moving away from petrol and diesel vehicles.
- b) Go further in addressing and resourcing action to address the related ecological emergency, building on the existing Southwark Nature Action Plan, to see further flourishing of nature and biodiversity across the borough.
- c) Review Southwark's planning policies in line with our aim to be a carbon neutral borough by 2030, including through the establishment of a local carbon offset price.
- d) Work to implement all the recommendations of Southwark's Climate Change Citizens Jury within the council's capacity, and work with all concerned stakeholders to respond to the Jury's recommendations.
- e) Protect Southwark residents from the impacts of climate change by bringing forward an Adaptation Plan in 2022 which will consider:
 - i. An increased population due to climate refugees and displaced citizens.
 - ii. The urban heat island effect which we are already experiencing in London.
 - iii. Flooding and other extreme weather.
 - iv. Public health risks including new diseases.
 - v. Water scarcity and food shortages for residents.

- f) Strengthen its lobbying efforts, working with the Local Government Association and networks like UK100, to push the government for the more ambitious national action and funding that is urgently needed to address the climate emergency.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet members Motion	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team Constitutional.Team@southwark.gov.uk

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	5 November 2021

Item No. 5.1	Classification: Open	Date: 24 November 2021	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members' Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members' question time shall not exceed 30 minutes. During this time, members may not question any one cabinet member or committee chair for longer than fifteen minutes. Members are limited to one question at each meeting.

Questions to the leader will be taken first, followed by question from community council councillors followed by questions to other cabinet members. The order in which the different political groups ask questions of the leader will be rotated. Questions to cabinet members will also be rotated. The order of portfolios will be rotated at each meeting such that the cabinet member answering questions immediately after the leader will be the second to last cabinet member to answer any questions at the next meeting of council assembly. The rotation is in line with decisions of council assembly in July 2014 and rotations circulated by the proper constitutional officer.

Cabinet members and committee chairs have discretion to refer a question to another cabinet member.

Responses to members' questions will be circulated on the evening of the meeting.

The Mayor will ask the member asking the question if they wish to ask one supplemental question to the member to whom the question was asked. The supplemental question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Therefore, supplemental questions to the leader or other cabinet members are not free ranging.

No question shall be asked on a matter concerning a planning or licensing application.

Notes:

1. The procedures on members' questions are set out in council assembly procedure rule 2.9 in the Southwark Constitution.
2. In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (12) & (13) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which questions to the leader appear in this report may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS

The Nest, Southwark's free mental health drop in centre for young people, was recently expanded into schools. How many young people have used The Nest since it was launched?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN

What are the expected consequences for Southwark Council and for the Old Kent Road Area Action Plan following TfL's postponement of the Bakerloo Line Extension?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

Plans have recently been approved for 162 new council homes in Southwark, including 79 in my ward, St Giles. Taking these into account, how many of the 2,500 new homes promised by 2022 are completed or on site?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

The council has recently rebranded the Carbon Offset Fund, and announced it as if it were something new. Can the leader explain why the decision was taken for the Cabinet members to use it for their pet projects rather than having some cross party/and or democratic accountability to the spend? Having sat on this money for some time already, does he agree with me that it would have been better to make this decision after we have heard the recommendations from the Citizens' Jury in February? Can he also detail how the projects will be assessed to ensure that they deliver the per-tonnage, per-£ carbon savings?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARGY NEWENS

In 2018 the council pledged to halve its carbon emissions by 2022. Can the leader tell us what progress has been made against this and whether we are on track to meet this commitment?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR HUMAIRA ALI

The quality of major works in London Bridge and West Bermondsey ward is appalling. At the start of my tenure in 2018, Engie had just completed works on a number of estates. The resultant works left flats with mould, damp and leaks, incomplete painting and decorating (one estate had its railings painted at least 5 times. Some with the wrong paint, some badly!). We have escalated to you the major works at Devon Mansions where repeated section 20 notices are being sent to residents regardless of who (contractors) is damaging the building. A scaffolding company destroyed a 5-year garden project recently. Furthermore,

works on other estates are being asked to be signed off, but are poor quality and incomplete. This all has a large impact on residents' lives. This is especially the case when, for example, scaffolding is left up for weeks (one property has had scaffolding up for over 2 years, but no action).

Please will the leader explain how he will ensure that residents really do come first when we are conducting works; that Southwark Council are not paying the price for this incompetence; and that residents are being compensated for delays, repeat works and the impact on their lives?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LEO POLLAK

Can the leader update us on plans to bring empty homes in the borough back in to use?

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

The council has supported extensive regeneration in the borough, with the aim of improving the economy and further inward investment. However, with these benefits comes an impact on local residents from an increase in busking and construction noise, and late night anti-social behaviour. We congratulate the council's Environmental Protection Team on their recent award for working with a major development site to try to mitigate the impacts of construction on residents. However, we are aware that the team has limited resources with which to do this.

Can the leader of the council confirm what flexibility exists around using CIL funding to support enforcement on Bankside? If community infrastructure levy (CIL) monies cannot be used for revenue, can the leader confirm what options the administration will consider to protect the amenity of residents in Bankside from noise and other ASB nuisance?

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS

Following COP26, how will the council be working with residents, businesses, schools, hospitals and other organisations to make sure the whole borough is moving towards a carbon neutral Southwark?

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

Despite objections, and the fact that there are no parking issues in the area, the car owners of Surrey Docks are about to be charged for parking outside their homes through the council's controlled parking zone (CPZ). Why is this happening when Surrey Docks has the lowest public transport accessibility level (PTAL) rating in the borough and, consequently, encouraging people to swap to public transport is not an option? If we are keen to reduce car use, what is the council doing to support and improve public transport accessibility in the area?

How will the council make sure that the Surrey Docks Farm, mostly run by volunteers, can carry on providing much needed training and support for the most vulnerable in our society without the worry of parking tickets and restricted parking?

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Of approved projects to be built, how many new council homes will rely on fossil fuels to provide their heating and how many will not?

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM HOUNGBO

In terms of hygiene, anti-social behaviour and crime, the state of the Harold, Swan Mead and Creasy Estates remains appalling. What is the council doing to avert this acute situation for inhabitants?

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH MCCALLUM

How many litter bins have there been in Southwark each year between 2010 and 2021? How frequently was rubbish from these litter bins collected each year between 2010 and 2021? What number of staff did the council employ in the litter-picking and fly-tipping teams, by year, since 2010?

14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR NICK JOHNSON

The South Dock Marina and Greenland Dock are a unique part of Southwark's heritage. We are grateful for the leader's recent stated support for creating a 'Marine Centre of Excellence' around the Dockyard – seeking to expand and support an eco-system of small marine-related businesses in the Boatyard, cherishing what is the last non-privately owned boatyard on the Thames, whilst providing a much needed revenue stream for the council.

As local councillors, we were concerned to learn that the current Harbour Master has resigned. Can the administration reaffirm its commitment to the Marine Centre of Excellence vision and confirm its support for a role that is vital to the successful delivery of the vision for the Boatyard?

15. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

Would it be appropriate to offer residents suffering with Alzheimer's disease free access to Southwark's gym and leisure facilities?

16. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Can the leader confirm that every council report since July has taken the climate emergency into account, as was agreed at Council Assembly that month? Can he give details of how that is being monitored by each department, and how the impact of any report is assessed by each department?

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES

According to the Resolution Foundation, despite changes to Universal Credit announced at the Budget, three quarters of families on Universal Credit will still be worse off from the recent £20 a week cut. With families facing a cost of living crisis this winter, does the cabinet member agree that the Budget has failed to support the poorest households?

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LEEMING

The council recently announced a 'Green Buildings Fund', funded by a levy on developers. Can the cabinet member tell us where the fund will be used?

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES MCASH

Over the last decade the government has cut core funding for local authorities by 63 percent. Can the cabinet member explain what the recent Spending Review will mean for the council's finances?

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN

When was the last time the council surveyed pension fund members as to what they would like their money to be invested in? What is the council's net zero carbon investment plan for its pension fund? How much money has the council pension fund directly or passively invested in clean energy compared to fossil fuel companies since December 2016?

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

What budget did the council dedicate to street cleaning, by year, between 2010 and 2021? How much money has the council raised from its bulky waste disposal charge since its introduction?

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR SUNNY LAMBE

Can the cabinet member confirm what percentage of the council's pension fund is now divested from fossil fuels?

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH KING

Given the projected £3.92bn cost of Southwark's Climate Action Plan, how would the cabinet member respond to the allocation of funding towards climate initiatives in the Spending Review?

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR DAN WHITEHEAD

How many complaints regarding repairs, by year, has the council received from its tenants since 2010? What service-level agreements (SLA) are in place for the council's call centres and front-facing services? How did the council perform against those SLAs in the past five years?

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM

It is excellent news for service users that the Riverside day centre will be reopening after intervention from the council and campaigners. When will the centre be reopening and how will this be managed?

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR JACK BUCK

Following the Emergency Motion on male violence against women and girls passed unanimously at Council Assembly on 24 March 2021, what steps has the council taken and what work is in the pipeline?

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

The 'Summer Food and Fun' programme last summer was a great way to make sure children in Southwark could access free, nutritious food in a fun and non-stigmatising environment. Do you have any plans to continue the programme over the winter?

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH

At the time of submitting this question, Covid-19 cases in Southwark are low - for this I give my thanks to NHS staff and Public Health colleagues. How will the council ensure that Covid-19 cases remain low?

Item No. 5.2	Classification: Open	Date: 24 November 2021	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members' Motions	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The councillor introducing or “moving” the motion may make a speech directed to the matter under discussion. This may not exceed five minutes¹. A second councillor will then be asked by the Mayor to “second” the motion. This may not exceed three minutes without the consent of the Mayor.

The meeting will then debate the issue and any amendments on the motion will be dealt with. At the end of the debate the mover of the motion may make a concluding speech, known as a “right of reply”. If an amendment is carried, the mover of the amendment shall hold the right of reply to any subsequent amendments and, if no further amendments are carried, at the conclusion of the debate on the substantive motion.

The Mayor will then ask councillors to vote on the motion (and any amendments).

IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution allocates responsibility for particular functions to council assembly, including approving the budget and policy framework, and allocates to the cabinet responsibility for developing and implementing the budget and policy framework and overseeing the running of council services on a day-to-day basis. Therefore, any matters that are reserved to the cabinet (i.e. housing, social services, regeneration, environment, education etc.) cannot be decided upon by council assembly without prior reference to the cabinet. While it would be in order for council assembly to discuss an issue, consideration of any of the following should be referred to the cabinet:

- to change or develop a new or existing policy
- to instruct officers to implement new procedures
- to allocate resources.

Note: In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10 (7) & (8) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which motions appear in the agenda may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

¹ Council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9)

1. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL (Seconded by Councillor Jane Salmon)

A Roadmap for Clean Streets in Southwark

1. Council assembly observes that:
 - a) The UK has significant issues with rubbish. According to Greenpeace, the country produces more plastic waste per person than any other country bar the US. Official statistics revealed that the UK only recycled around 44% of waste in 2018, below the EU average. The German rate was 67%.
 - b) Charity Keep Britain Tidy estimates that two million pieces of rubbish are dropped every day across the country. The street cleaning cost of this is £1bn annually. On average, 14 calls a day are made to the RSPCA regarding wildlife harmed by litter.
 - c) Seven million tonnes of food and drink are thrown away each year, most of which could have been consumed. Experts say that food waste contributes 8-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions
 - d) In an article earlier this year, the Sunday Mirror reported that fly-tipping in Britain has jumped by more than 500%. This has a large impact on the environment as damaged fridges and freezers let out ozone-harming gases.

2. Council assembly notes that:
 - a) Southwark council was ranked 12th for recycling in London in 2019-20 with a rate of 35%. It is far below the highest placed borough, Bexley, at 54%.
 - b) Since 2014, Southwark's recycling rate has plateaued. Its own internal target for recycling is unambitious at around 35%, and it still missed this by some margin in 2020-21 with a 32.4% rate.
 - c) Government data also shows that Southwark Council has the 12th highest number of fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 people in England. But, when it came to how often local authorities took enforcement action with fly tipping, Southwark was 44th on the list.
 - d) According to Southwark's own performance targets, it missed 213.77 bins for every 100,000 collections in the 2020-21 financial year. Its goal was to miss no more than 50. This target of 50 was, in fact, an increase from its prior aim of 30 in 2019-

20. Even in 2019-20, before the full effects of the pandemic were felt, the council failed to reach this goal of 30. Instead, it missed 100 bins for every 100,000 collections.

- e) The same document shows that it fell short of its aim to double fly-tipping enforcement actions in 2019-20.
- f) Our streets are full of litter and fly-tipping. The council has been unable to keep our streets free of litter.
- g) The Liberal Democrats campaigned against the council's decision to implement bulky waste disposal charges in 2015. As the Liberal Democrats predicted, fly-tipping jumped by 12% in the six months after the council brought in these changes.
- h) In Southwark, the Liberal Democrats support community action to reduce litter on our streets. As North-West Community Champion, Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall actively tackles fly-tipping and litter issues in the area.

3. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:

- a) Set a target for Southwark to become the best London council for recycling by 2030, with rates of at least 60%.
- b) Expand the teams dealing with littering and fly-tipping. Aiming to bring fly-tipping incidents to below the London average by 2026.
- c) If the proposed Environment Bill becomes law, utilise its new powers to maximum effect in order to achieve the above.
- d) Increase the number of street cleaners. Organise and promote new litter-picking days or similar acts of community engagement.
- e) Work with businesses in the borough, including supermarket chains, to help trial and explore new methods of dealing with waste such as 'plastic-free' aisles in shops.
- f) Start adding new bins for general waste, recycling, dog fouling and cigarette butts; and for communal use on blocks or estates around the borough.
- g) Reintroduce free bulky waste disposal services.
- h) Investigate new means of creatively reducing, collecting and disposing of food and garden waste including incentivising, supporting and encouraging an increase in home composting by residents across the borough.

- i) Improve accessibility and ease of use of Southwark's reuse and recycling centre in order to make disposing of waste easier. Specifically enact such adjustments with the purpose of making the centre more accessible for those who are digitally excluded and those who do not have access to a car.
- j) To increase our enforcement of fly-tipping and impose higher fines.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE (Seconded by Councillor David Noakes)

Responding to the Afghan Refugee Crisis and Supporting Refugees and Asylum Seekers (cross party)

1. Council assembly notes:
 - a) Afghanistan has undergone a devastating and avoidable tragedy and continues to face a humanitarian and political crisis. Our thoughts are with all those forced to flee their homes, with the families and loved ones of those killed and wounded and those who are suffering in and still trying to escape Afghanistan - including the families of many Southwark residents. We continue to have particular concern for women and girls and for Afghan people who have supported the British civil and military authorities in their country in various ways.
 - b) More than 15,000 Afghans were evacuated to the UK before 31 August. The majority of those refugees have since been placed in bridging hotels – 30 % have been placed in bridging hotels in London – including here in Southwark.
 - c) London boroughs have been integral to providing wraparound support. Without the work of local government, thousands of Afghans would not have had their basic needs met and children would not be accessing play and education. It is equally clear that without local government, resettlement will be impossible.
 - d) In the context of a decade of cuts to local government funding and drastic cuts imposed on our own budget in Southwark, it is imperative that government provides adequate funding to councils to support refugees and does not let the burden fall on already stretched local authorities.

- e) That beyond the recent Afghanistan crisis - London boroughs are already supporting thousands of asylum seekers in contingency hotels. This includes Southwark where there has been a lack of meaningful consultation and coordination with Southwark Council.
2. Council assembly further notes that Southwark Council:
- a) Has a long and proud history of supporting people fleeing persecution overseas and is committed to becoming a Borough of Sanctuary.
 - b) Has committed to welcome Afghan refugees to our borough under the new Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and is in the process of identifying long-term accommodation. We are proud to have worked through London Councils to agree and sign up to the principle of all London boroughs providing long term homes.
 - c) Had already committed to participate in the previous Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and have resettled families through the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.
 - d) Is already providing wraparound support to Afghan refugees placed by the Home Office in temporary hotel accommodation in our borough. We are working with local partners and Afghan community leaders to provide the appropriate support including mental health provision, English language lessons, co-ordinating school places for children, help registering with a GP and enabling access to our libraries and leisure centres.
3. Council assembly thanks
- a) All the voluntary and community organisations and residents who have offered their support and donated time, money and energy to make refugees welcome. This includes Panjshir Aid, Community Southwark, the Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers and Refugees, Little Village, the Red Cross, the Southwark Refugees and Communities forum and many more.
 - b) Our local Members of Parliament - Neil Coyle, Harriet Harman and Helen Hayes and their staff for all their work to support Afghan refugees and their families.
4. Council assembly calls on the British Government to:
- a) Provide greater clarity to Afghan refugees about their future in the UK and resolve delays in the process to match Afghan families with accommodation identified by local authorities.

People are stuck in hotels - including here in Southwark - with no idea how long they will be there or a say over their future.

- b) Provide adequate resources to local authorities to support refugees in the short and the long term. This must include finalising the funding for the wraparound support in bridging hotels, and ensuring that local authorities are paid for supporting all bridging hotel residents, including British nationals.
 - c) Provide British nationals with resettlement support aligned with ARAP and ACRS, and address concerns around homelessness applications.
 - d) Ensure that boroughs are consulted on the processes involved in standing down bridging hotels.
 - e) Work with local authorities to achieve a more equitable asylum system and end the hostile environment.
 - f) Keep UK borders open to receive asylum seekers from Afghanistan and not deport any undocumented Afghans in accordance with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) non-return advisory. Immediately expand eligibility for family reunion enabling family members who have relatives in the UK to travel safely to join them and quickly decide all asylum claims from Afghans who have arrived in the UK independently, including reviewing previously refused claims.
 - g) Abandon their damaging plans to introduce a two tier refugee system under the Nationality and Borders Bill. The government should treat each arrival in the UK based on their needs not how they got here and provide proper support to people in need of sanctuary. The UK must adhere to Article 31 of the Refugee Convention that prohibits penalties being imposed on Refugees who enter or are present in a country without authorisation.
5. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:
- a) Continue to support refugees and asylum seekers in Southwark.
 - b) Call on the government to provide the resources required and to provide clarity on the status of and future of the resettlement scheme.
 - c) Continue to work with London Councils to coordinate support and ensure that councils across London as well as the UK are

all playing an equal part in responding to this international emergency.

- d) Continue to work with local organisations and community leaders to support refugees in our Borough and respond to their needs.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

3. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN (Seconded by Councillor Humaira Ali)**

Refusing Unsafe Building Developers

1. Council assembly notes:

- a) The significant financial and health impacts of the building safety crisis on thousands of Londoners.
- b) Although changes are being touted, support from central government for properties with dangerous cladding has to date been wholly insufficient to deal with the building safety crisis.
- c) That the UK Government must do more to protect leaseholders in the building safety crisis and must ensure remediation work is completed as soon as possible on all affected properties.

2. Council assembly acknowledges that:

- a) Council assembly voted in support of a motion proposed by the Southwark Liberal Democrats in November 2020 to act on cladding and snagging as a duty of care to all residents.
- b) Southwark News identified in February 2021 that at least 17,000 people in the borough were caught up in the cladding crisis. Last month it also discovered that Southwark had one of the highest amounts of waking watches in London. 71 properties employ staff to carry out these safety patrols.
- c) In October, national newspapers reported that housing association Optivo informed key workers living in shared ownership Oyster Court properties in Southwark that they had to pay a combined £2.6 million bill to fix safety issues in the blocks.
- d) This summer the London Assembly passed a motion, proposed by Liberal Democrat member Hina Bokhari, calling on the Mayor to no longer work with developers that do not support leaseholders affected by the cladding crisis.

3. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to follow the London Assembly's lead and:
 - a) Implement a clear policy of not working with or funding developers or housing associations that have not taken action to support leaseholders affected by the building safety crisis in existing stock they own or have built.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MARGY NEWENS (Seconded by Councillor Michael Situ)

Youth Democracy

1. Council assembly notes:
 - a) Young people aged 16-24 are the age group that is least likely to vote in elections, as demonstrated by the turnout of 47% amongst 18-24 year olds compared to 74% amongst the over 65s at the 2019 general election.
 - b) Despite these low election turnout figures, young people today are often leading the fight on the important political issues of our times, such as the climate school strikes and the Black Lives Matter movement.
 - c) The Elections Bill 2021 includes provision for the requirement of photographic ID at polling stations, which is likely to act as a form of voter suppression, particularly amongst groups who are already the least likely to vote.
2. Council assembly welcomes the fact that:
 - a) In July 2021, Southwark Council created the Southwark Youth Parliament, which is for young people aged 14 to 19. Two candidates from each Southwark school and two candidates from ten community areas were successfully elected, along with Southwark's first-ever Youth Leader and Deputy Youth Leader.
 - b) The Welsh government has successfully lowered the voting age to 16 in Wales via the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. This meant 16 and 17 year olds in Wales were able to participate in the recent Senedd and local council elections in May 2021.

3. Council assembly believes:
 - a) Young people's participation in politics is essential to our democracy.
 - b) More needs to be done to support young people to engage in politics on a local and national scale.
4. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:
 - a) Continue to support the good work of Southwark's Youth Parliament.
 - b) Put in place measures to make voter registration easy and accessible for all Southwark residents ahead of any future elections, in an effort to increase voter turnout.
5. Council assembly calls on the government to:
 - a) Support legislation that would lower the voting age to 16 across the UK, as is already the case in Scotland and Wales.
 - b) Support the provision of high quality Citizenship education in all schools, including appropriate training for teachers and discreet curriculum time.
 - c) Abandon the flawed Elections Bill, which will act to deter voter turnout through the introduction of ID requirements at polling stations.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN (Seconded by Councillor Hamish McCallum)

UNESCO World Heritage Status for Borough, Bankside and the Wider Area

1. Council assembly notes that:
 - a) Southwark is home to some of the UK's most significant cultural and historical locations in Bankside, Borough and North Bermondsey.
 - b) The area's history goes back to the earliest days of London, with Anglo-Saxon and Roman settlements. It has historic links with the lives and works of Chaucer, Shakespeare, and

Dickens. This rich historic heritage continues with Shakespeare's Globe and the remains of the Rose Theatre.

- c) The area is still a cultural hub for London. In 2019, the Tate Modern was the second most visited attraction in England with six million visitors.

2. Council assembly identifies that:

- a) The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the area and its businesses. In October 2020, Better Bankside Business Improvement District said that footfall was about half what the area experiences for that time of year.
- b) There is a need to help support the area and its businesses recover from the pandemic. Taking greater advantage of the area's heritage and associated tourism could play a part in any such revival.
- c) UNESCO World Heritage status would help to support the management of visitors to the area. It would protect and celebrate its historic cultural heritage. It presents great potential for attracting additional resources from other funding sources that would seek to safeguard the built heritage.
- d) Borough, Bankside, and the wider area meet the requirements of UNESCO World Heritage status due to their association with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.
- e) Receiving this status would be a source of pride for the area and Southwark as a whole following a difficult period in the pandemic.
- f) If this status were granted, it would provide an even greater focus on preserving the historic beauty of many of the area's most significant buildings and historical sites.

3. Council assembly calls on cabinet to:

- a) Conduct an assessment into the suitability and likelihood of Borough, Bankside, and the wider area becoming an UNESCO World Heritage site. The study should examine the advantages and disadvantages of this status being bestowed in these sections of the borough. Any assessment should actively engage and seek the views of local stakeholders, residents and businesses
- b) Based on a positive outcome to this assessment, apply to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport for selected areas to be listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

6. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LEANNE WERNER (Seconded by Councillor Humaira Ali)

Centenary Celebrations for Ada and Alfred Salter (cross party)

1. Council assembly notes:

- a) 2022 marks the centenary of Ada Salter becoming Mayor and Dr Alfred Salter being elected MP. The Salters were a legendary and much loved couple, who became famous locally and nationally.
- b) Ada left a well off home in the Midlands to do social work amongst the city slums. Alfred gave up a brilliant medical career to become a local doctor. Together they dedicated their lives to the people of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe.
- c) Their pioneering work on the environment, housing and public health was transformational. Ada's Beautification Committee planted 9,000 trees and filled public spaces with flowers, playgrounds, music and sport. She designed model council housing and supported women factory workers. Alfred promoted free medical treatment, a solarium, a convalescent home for mothers, and health education by cinema vans on the streets. As Quakers, they both campaigned tirelessly for peace.
- d) The Salters' key issues – environment, housing and public health – are even more crucial today, as we face a climate crisis, worldwide homelessness and a global pandemic.

2. Council assembly welcomes the fact that:

- a) Community activists have set up a Salter Centenary Project to celebrate the Salters' vision and continue their inspiring legacy.
- b) Dame Judi Dench has become their patron, giving her support as a fellow Quaker and enthusiastic environmentalist.
- c) The project will create and support events and activities in the spirit of Ada and Alfred, so their principles are carried forward into the future.

3. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:

- a) Celebrate the inspiration of Ada and Alfred Salter in their centenary year by providing resources, for instance to organise a Salter exhibition from the local studies archives.

- b) Support the Salter Centenary Project in its community activities, such as environmental plans for greening the area.
- c) Invite civic representatives and residents from Ada's home town of Raunds to join the centenary celebrations.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Member Motions	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team Constitutional.Team@southwark.gov.uk

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	5 November 2021

Item No. 6.1	Classification: Open	Date: 24 November 2021	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		New Civic Award - Diversity	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards	
From:		Constitutional Steering Panel	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That further to a motion agreed by council assembly in July 2019, council assembly agree to create an additional new Civic Award, which specifically and additionally recognises and values the importance of enabling Southwark to be a welcoming, inclusive, fair, tolerant, cohesive and integrated borough, which values and celebrates the rich diversity of the borough and promotes good community relations, so that all feel welcome, safe and included. One award is to be made each year based on the criteria set out in paragraphs 11-14 below.
2. To agree that Southwark Together be the name of the new Civic Award.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Council Assembly at its meeting on 17 July 2019 agreed a motion on “Promoting Equality and Valuing Diversity” and agreed:

‘to create a specific award for those who have made an outstanding contribution to making Southwark a more integrated, plural and tolerant place for us all, as part of the borough’s Civic Awards’.
4. Since 1997 the London Borough of Southwark has presented civic awards annually to people who live or work in Southwark who have demonstrated exceptional community spirit. Awards are made by the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee, after nomination by any member of the public.
5. In addition to the rarely conferred Freedom of the Borough, conventionally the Civic Awards have included:
 - The Liberty of the Old Metropolitan Borough of Bermondsey
 - The Liberty of the Old Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell
 - The Liberty of the Old Metropolitan Borough of Southwark
 - The Young Citizen of the Year Award
 - The Mayor’s Discretionary Award
6. In February 2021, the audit, governance and standards committee noted that it would consider the criteria for the new award.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Policy framework implications

7. Council Assembly wishes to see Southwark as 'a leader and serve as a beacon to others in demonstrating how to create the tolerant, open and mutually supportive society we want to see'. The new civic award will contribute to this aspiration by celebrating 'those who have made an outstanding contribution to making Southwark a more integrated, plural and tolerant place for us all'.
8. While equality, diversity and inclusion values and principles can be found throughout the criteria for the Civic Awards, it is important to specifically recognise an outstanding contribution to the promotion of good community relations, which helps to enable Southwark to be a welcoming, inclusive, integrated, safe borough, which values its rich diversity. It will also help to promote the continuing good work of the Southwark Stands Together aims and pledges.
9. The new award is consistent with the two additional values in the Council's Fairer Future For All commitments and Borough Plan:
 - to always work to make Southwark more equal and just;
 - to stand against all forms of discrimination and racism.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

10. The new award will contribute to recognition of outstanding work enabling communities or individuals to come together, understand, value and support each other in what all have in common as well as recognising strength in valuing and celebrating the great diversity of the borough. This can include many of the following:
 - Age – young people; older people
 - Women
 - Men
 - Different gender identities
 - LGBT groups and individuals
 - Faith groups
 - All groups from different racial and ethnic backgrounds
 - Disabled people
 - Diverse socio-economic backgrounds
 - Carers.
11. The proposed criteria for the new Civic Award should include the following:
 - to always work to make Southwark more equal and just;
 - to stand against all forms of discrimination and racism

- to promote good community relations, tolerance, understanding and mutual respect
- to celebrate and value the rich diversity of the borough
- to promote community cohesion and integration, so that all feel valued, included and have a sense of belonging
- to promote safe, included and cohesive communities
- to tackle barriers to equal access and address disadvantage
- to promote equality and inclusion in the borough
- to tackle prejudice and promote understanding of the borough's rich diversity.

12. Success for an award will be demonstrated by:

- identifiable qualitative and quantitative impact on bringing together members of diverse communities, promoting community/social cohesion and challenging injustice and discrimination in the borough.
- outstanding work in the area, as opposed to scale, size etc. However, scale or size could also be a factor in impact of the area of work/event/project etc.
- significant impact on the promotion of good community relations and valuing diversity; understanding diversity; promoting understanding and mutual respect of diversity; promotion of inclusion and sense of belonging; tackling prejudice and discrimination; promoting cohesive communities; promotion of social integration; promotion of an equal, fair and just Southwark; addressing disadvantage and multiple disadvantage etc.

13. Eligibility for the new award will be in line with the other civic awards i.e. the council accepts nominations for any individual whose unpaid voluntary activity is unrelated or additional to the nominee's current employment, or from any community group, organisation or business which is based in and/or benefits the Southwark community.

14. Elected members or council employees cannot be nominated (other than for other work) but can nominate others.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

15. The new Civic Award is consistent with the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion commitments in the Southwark Equality Framework, which also includes the Council's work on Southwark Stands Together. It will contribute to the Council implementing commitments on the Public Sector Equality duty, which include promoting equality, diversity and inclusion and specifically the promotion of good community relations, tackling prejudice, promoting tolerance and understanding.

16. As this theme cuts across all the Civic Awards, the criteria should make clear that any nomination for any of the other awards can be automatically considered for this new award - if the proposer so wishes.

Health impact statement

17. None in the context of this report

Climate change implications

18. None in the context of this report.

Resource Implications

19. None in the context of this report.

Consultation

20. The name and criteria for the new award have been discussed by the Equalities and Inclusion Lead Officer and the Civic Office (Mayor and Deputy Mayor).

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**Director of Law and Governance**

21. None in the context of this report.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

22. None in the context of this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
July 2019 Council Assembly decision:	https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/g6375/Printed%20minutes%20Wednesday%2017-Jul-2019%2019.00%20Council%20Assembly.pdf?T=1	Constitutional Team Email: constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk
February 2021 Audit, governance and standards committee	https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/g6715/Printed%20minutes%20Monday%2008-Feb-2021%2018.30%20Audit%20Governance%20and%20Standards%20Committee.pdf?T=1	Constitutional Team Email: constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	
Report Author	Martin Kovats, Community Projects Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	11 November 2021	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	N/A
Cabinet Member	Yes	N/A
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		11 November 2021

Item No: 6.2	Classification: Open	Date: 24 November 2021	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Treasury Management – Mid-year Update 2021-22	
Wards or Groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly note the 2021-22 mid-year treasury management update report and that:
 - all treasury management activity was undertaken in compliance with the approved treasury management strategy and within the council's prudential indicators, as Appendix A
 - the balance outstanding on all external debt as at 30 September 2021 was £826m.
 - in the six months to 30 September 2021 the average investment balance was £179m and the balance of investments at 30 September 2021 stood at £143m.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. In compliance with the Local Government Act 2003, the council has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management Code of Practice (the Code). The Code requires local authorities to determine an annual treasury management strategy and, as a minimum, formally report on their treasury activities and arrangements to Council Assembly mid-year and after the year-end.
3. The Code provides the following objective with regard to treasury management:

“It is important that treasury management policies adequately reflect risk and in particular security, liquidity and yield, in that order of importance. No treasury management transaction is without risk and management of risks is the key purpose of the treasury management strategy.”
4. The 2021-22 treasury management strategy was approved by Council Assembly in February 2021. Under financial delegation, all executive, managerial and operational decisions are the responsibility of the strategic director of finance and governance.

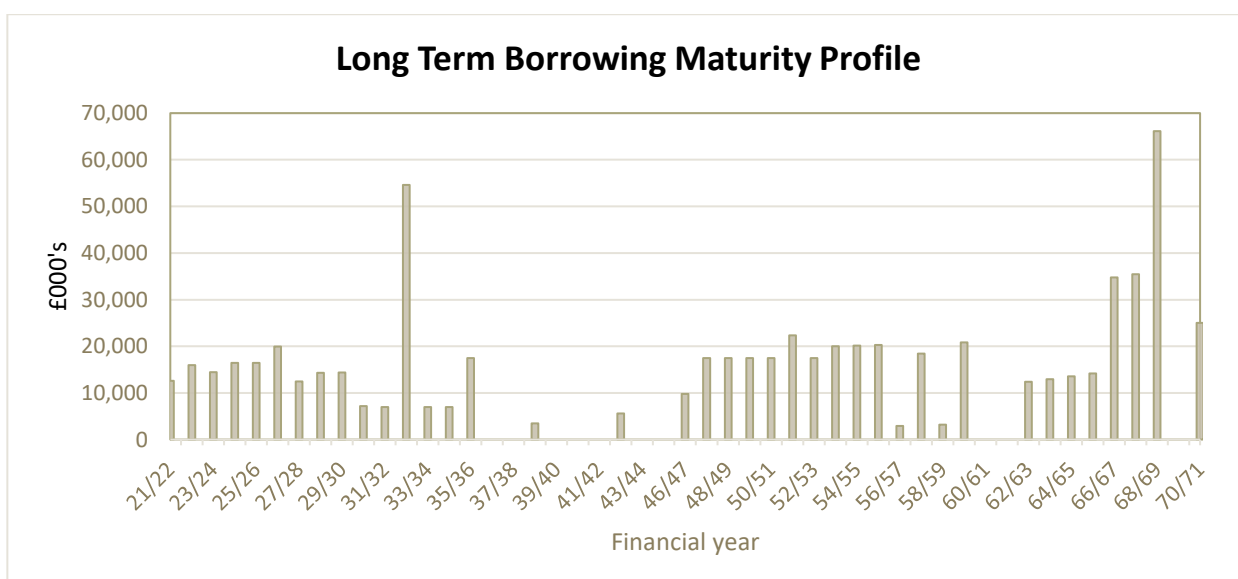
5. The council is exposed to financial risks from its investments, existing external debt, as well as future borrowing requirements arising from the council's capital programme. The risks include potential losses from investments and increased borrowing costs from changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk remain central to the Authority's treasury management strategy.
6. This mid-year Treasury Management Report covers the treasury management activity and compliance with the treasury management strategy for the period from April to September 2021.
7. The economic recovery from coronavirus pandemic continued to dominate the first half of the financial year.
8. The key issues covered in this report are:
 - The council's borrowing strategy and debt management position
 - Investment performance and activity
 - Prudential indicators for 2021-22

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Borrowing strategy and debt management activity and position

9. The council's chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required.
10. The council's debt management strategy is to pursue a policy of internal borrowing, which is the use of existing reserves and balances to temporarily fund capital expenditure, where possible, rather than the use of external borrowing.
11. The use of internal borrowing allows the council to minimise unnecessary external borrowing costs by only borrowing when needed for liquidity, or to benefit from advantageous borrowing rates. Efficient use of existing council resources to fund capital expenditure through internal borrowing also reduces the council's counterparty risk inherent in the investment of cash balances.
12. The council's outstanding long-term debt portfolio, used to fund historical capital expenditure, stood at £686m as at 30 September 2021. The majority of long term outstanding debt was borrowed from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB), part of HM Treasury, at fixed rates of interest.
13. During the first half of 2021-22, £2.6m of long debt principal matured and was repaid and no new PWLB loans were taken.

14. The balance of short term borrowing at 30 September 2021 was £142m with a weighted average rate of interest on short term borrowing of 0.16%, significantly less than long term rates of borrowing. All short term borrowing was via other local authorities which are typically at lower rates than from other sources for short duration debt.
15. With short-term interest rates currently much lower than long-term rates, it is likely to be more cost effective in the short-term to borrow short-term loans. By doing so, the Authority is able to reduce net borrowing costs.
16. Whilst our advisors do not anticipate any significant increases in borrowing rates in the near or medium term, the increasing proportion of the council's borrowing in short-term (less than one year) loans increases the councils exposure to interest rate risk. To mitigate risk, it would be prudent to ensure that temporary short term borrowing as a proportion of the total debt portfolio is managed within prudential limits
17. The benefits of internal/short-term borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years when long-term borrowing rates are forecast to rise modestly. This will help inform decisions on whether the council borrows additional sums at long-term fixed rates with a view to keeping future interest costs low, even if this causes additional cost in the short-term.
18. The weighted average rate of interest for the council's debt portfolio is 3.3% at 30 September 2021 (3.3% at 31 March 2021).
19. The maturity profile of outstanding long term borrowing as at 30 September 2021 is shown in the chart below:



Investment strategy and investment activity and position

20. The council holds sizable investment balances, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held.

Investments as at 30 September 2021 were £143m (£219m at 31 March 2021).

21. Council resources that are not immediately required for current expenditure are invested in money market instruments, in accordance with guidance issued by the former MHCLG on Local Authority Investments and the approved investment strategy. The MHCLG are now known as the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)
22. The guidance gives priority to security and liquidity and the council's aim is to achieve a yield commensurate with these principles.
23. Council investments are managed both in-house and delegated to two fund managers: Alliance Bernstein and Aberdeen Standard (formerly Aberdeen Asset Management). The focus for in-house investment is to meet variable near term cash liquidity requirements, principally using money market funds (MMFs).
24. Any surplus cash resources not required in the short term to fund council activities is placed with the council's two external fund managers. The fund managers invest for a longer term in UK government gilts, supranational bank bonds, certificates of deposits issued by major banks/building societies and other financial instruments.
25. The use of fund managers has the advantage of diversification of investment risk, coupled with the services of professional fund managers, which over the longer-term, provides enhanced returns within the council's risk appetite. Although investments can be redeemed from the fund managers at short notice, the intention is to hold them for the medium term. Their performance and suitability in meeting the council's investment objectives are regularly monitored.
26. The distribution of council investments across counterparties by rating and maturity as at 30 September 2021 is set out in the table below:

Investment Maturity	A		AA		AAA		Total	
	£m	%	£m	%	£m	%	£m	%
Up to 1Year	57.0	39.9	3.1	2.1	46.6	32.6	106.7	74.7
1-2 Years	0.3	0.2	2.0	1.4	17.3	12.1	19.6	13.7
2-5Years	0.3	0.2	12.7	8.9	3.6	2.5	16.6	11.6
Total	57.6	40.3	17.8	12.4	67.5	47.2	142.9	100

27. The annualised rate of return for council treasury management assets for the first half of 2021-22 financial year was 0.02%.

28. To assess the treasury management portfolio performance, the council measures the return against a composite investment benchmark of three month LIBID and one to three year gilt index. For the equivalent period of the financial year the benchmark index annualised return was -0.1%.
29. The priorities for treasury management investment are, in order of priority, security, liquidity, and yield. The objective therefore is to ensure that funds are available to meet council liabilities as they fall due. The rate of investment return generated by the treasury management portfolio is therefore a consequence of the council's prudent, low risk approach to treasury management investing. This is in line with the requirements of the statutory guidance for local government treasury investment issued by MHCLG (now known as DLUHC).
30. The investment activity during the period conformed to the approved strategy and the cash flow was successfully managed to maintain liquidity.

Prudential Indicators - Actuals

31. Local authority borrowing, investment and capital finance activity is supported by the Prudential Code for Capital Finance, the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and related guidance published by CIPFA.
32. The codes require councils to set a series of indicators and limits each year. The 2021-22 indicators were agreed in February 2021, before the start of the financial year and enable the strategic director of finance and governance to carry out his responsibilities in this area. The prudential indicator estimates for 2021-22 are included at Appendix A.
33. The council has complied with its Prudential Indicators throughout 2021-22.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

34. This report monitors the council's compliance with the treasury management strategy and Council's prudential indicators as agreed in February 2021. This report has been judged to have no direct impact on local people and communities.

Climate change implications

35. There are no climate change implications arising directly from this report.

Resource implications

36. There are no direct resource implications in this report.

Consultation

37. There has been no consultation on this report.

SUPPLEMENTAL ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Governance

38. The constitution determines that agreeing the treasury management strategy is a function of the council assembly and that review and scrutiny of strategies and policies is the responsibility of the audit, governance and standards committee.
39. Financial standing orders require the strategic director of finance and governance to set out the treasury management strategy for consideration and decision by council assembly, and report on activity on a regular basis to cabinet and at mid and year-end to council assembly. Furthermore all executive and operational decisions are delegated to the strategic director of finance and governance.
40. The Local Government Act 2003 (“the 2003 Act”) and supporting regulations require local authorities to determine annual borrowing limits and have regard to the Prudential Code for Capital Finance, and the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Guidance, published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, when considering borrowing and investment strategies, determining or changing borrowing limits or prudential indicators.
41. Section 15(1) of the 2003 Act requires a local authority “to have regard (a) to such guidance as the Secretary of State may issue”. This guidance is found in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Guidance on Local Authority Investments updated February 2018 and there is statutory guidance on the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) made under section 21(1A) of the 2003 Act.
42. Section 12 of the 2003 Act grants local authorities the powers to invest for any purpose relevant to its functions or for the purposes of the prudent management of its financial affairs.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held at	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Prudential Indicators – 2021-22 Actuals & Estimates

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Duncan Whitfield, Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	
Report Author	Timothy Jones, Departmental Finance Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	10 November 2021	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comment included
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	N/A
Cabinet Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	11 November 2021	

APPENDIX A

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS: 2021-22 ACTUALS AND ESTIMATES

BACKGROUND

1. Capital finance, borrowing and investment arrangements are supported by a series of prudential indicators, drawn from the Prudential Code on Capital Finance for Local Authorities and the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice plus Guidance, published by CIPFA. The Local Government Act 2003 requires that councils have regard to these codes. The indicators were approved by Council Assembly in February 2021, and the 2020-21 outturn position was reported in July 2021. This appendix updates 2021-22 indicators.
2. The indicators are grouped into three broad areas: affordability and prudence, capital finance and treasury management. The indicators are of a technical nature and existing budgets take account of capital finance and treasury activities.

INDICATORS ON AFFORDABILITY AND PRUDENCE

2020-21 Outturn	2021-22 Estimate	
		Ratio of Financing Cost to Net Revenue Stream A measure of the cost of borrowing and long term liabilities net of interest income and set-asides, as a percentage of revenue.
8%	9%	HRA
4%	4%	General fund

		Capital Financing Requirements (CFR) and Gross Debt The CFR is the balance remaining on past capital expenditure financed through debt and long term liabilities. The level of gross debt should not exceed the CFR unless prudent over the short term. Actual gross debt has remained below the CFR throughout 2020-21 and 2021-22.
£1,220m	£1,490m	CFR
£886m	£1,239m	Maximum Gross Debt in the Year

INDICATORS ON CAPITAL FINANCE

2020-21 Outturn	2021-22 Estimate	
		Capital Expenditure
£215m	£302m	HRA
£118m	£139m	General fund
£333m	£441m	Total

		Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) The CFR is the balance on past capital expenditure financed through borrowing and long term liabilities
£521m	£670m	HRA
£699m	£820m	General fund
£1,220m	£1,490m	Total

INDICATORS ON TREASURY MANAGEMENT

Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit for External Debt:			
These are limits the council determines to accommodate borrowing and long term liabilities. The lower limit is the operational boundary and takes account of existing positions and ordinary activity and the higher limit is the authorised limit, enabling additional borrowing to be taken for very short periods, in the interest of prudence, within a risk controlled framework.			
2020-21	2021-22 Limit	2021-22 Estimate	Operational Boundary
£886m	£1,550m	£1200m	Borrowing (maximum outstanding in year)
£86m	£81m	£81m	Other Long Term Liabilities
£972m	£1,631m	£1,281m	Total

Authorised Limit			
£886m	£2,000m	£1,400m	Borrowing (maximum outstanding in year)
£86m	£120m	£81m	Other Long Term Liabilities
£972m	£2,120m	£1,481m	Total

2020-21 Outturn	2021-22 Limit	2021-22 Estimate	
77%	100%	89%	Gross and Net Debt An upper limit on net debt as a percentage of gross debt. The net debt has remained below gross on account of investments held to meet spend.
			Fixed and Variable Rate Upper Limits Limits recognising existing positions with flexibility to vary exposure within a risk controlled framework should it be prudent.
100%	100%	100%	Fixed rate debt
0%	20%	0%	Variable rate debt

Maturity Structure of Borrowing			
			Limits accommodating existing positions with flexibility to vary exposure within a risk
22%	35%	18%	Under 1 year
1%	35%	2%	1 year and within 2 years
6%	50%	6%	2 years and within 5 years
8%	75%	8%	5 years and within 10 years
62%	100%	66%	10 years and over
			Limits on Investments Greater than One Year Caps on the maximum exposure to longer investments, while recognising benefits from prudent exposure within a risk controlled framework.
28%	65%	33%	Percentage longer than one year
11.6 months	30 months	10.3 months	Overall maximum average maturity

Item No. 6.3	Classification: Open	Date: 24 November 2021	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Waiver of six month councillor attendance rule – Section 85 of Local Government Act 1972	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Monitoring Officer	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, council assembly approves Councillor Anood Al-Samerai’s non-attendance at meetings until 1 April 2022 on the grounds of parental responsibility (maternity leave).
2. That in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, council assembly approves Councillor Lauder’s non-attendance at meetings until the end of the 2021/22 municipal year (5 May 2022) on the grounds of continued ill health.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that ‘if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.’ Any exemption must be considered before the expiry of the six consecutive months’ absence.
4. Qualifying meetings include council assembly, any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or at a meeting of any joint committee, joint board or other body by whom for the time being any of the functions of the authority are being discharged, or who were appointed to advise the authority on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions.
5. The extension would not prevent Councillor Al-Samerai and Councillor Lauder (if her health allows) from returning to meetings at any time, but would give flexibility and prevent further recourse to the Council before the end of the extension periods.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Councillor Al-Samerai

6. Councillor Al-Samerai last attended a meeting on 14 July 2021 when she was present at a council assembly meeting. She has been on maternity leave since 1 October 2021 and wishes to remain on maternity leave for

a further period up to 1 April 2022. The purpose of this report is to propose that council assembly approve her continuing absence for a period which exceeds 6 months and until able to resume normal duties.

7. Council assembly can only consider approval of any reasons for non-attendance before the end of the relevant six month period, which will be 13 January 2022. Councillor Al-Samerai has confirmed that she will not be able to attend this council assembly meeting scheduled for Wednesday 24 November 2021 and so a report has been submitted to approve an extension of the usual six month rule.
8. Councillor Al-Samerai does not hold a position which attracts a special responsibility allowance.

Councillor Lauder

9. Councillor Lauder last attended a meeting on 22 July 2021 when she was present as a reserve at a licensing sub-committee meeting.
10. Councillor Lauder has been unable to attend meetings recently due to ill health and the purpose of this report is to propose that council assembly approve her continuing absence for a period which exceeds 6 months.
11. Council assembly can only consider approval of any reasons for non-attendance before the end of the relevant six month period, which will be 21 January 2022. Councillor Lauder has confirmed that it is very unlikely that she will be able to attend this council assembly meeting scheduled for Wednesday 24 November 2021 and so a report has been submitted to approve an extension of the usual six month rule.
12. Councillor Lauder does not hold a position which attracts a special responsibility allowance.

Policy framework implications

13. None in the context of this report.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

14. This report has no immediate impact on the community. Councillor Al-Samerai's ward and constituency casework is and would continue to be co-ordinated by her ward colleagues.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

15. Supporting members in being able to take extended absence due to maternity leave or ill health will have a positive impact on the general equality duty with regards to the protected characteristics under the Act.

Health impact statement

16. None in the context of this report.

Climate change implications

17. None in the context of this report.

Resource Implications

18. None in the context of this report.

Consultation

19. None in the context of this report.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**Director of Law and Governance**

20. The legal requirements are detailed in the report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Section 85 (1) Local Government Act 1972	Constitutional Team, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team Email: constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
Report Author	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
Version	Final	
Dated	11 November 2021	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
	Officer Title	Comments Sought
	Comments included	
	Director of Law and Governance	Yes
	Incorporated in report	
	Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No
	No	
	Cabinet Member	No
	No	
	Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	11 November 2021

Item No. 6.4	Classification: Open	Date: 24 November 2021	Meeting: Council Assembly
Report title:		Re-appointment of independent person	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Law and Governance	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly approves the re-appointment of the independent person named in the closed report for a further period of three years.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 requires provision for the appointment of at least one independent person whose views must be sought and taken into account before the authority makes a decision on an allegation or complaint relating to a member.
3. The independent persons will advise the council prior to any decision to investigate an allegation or complaint relating to whether a member has failed to comply with the code of conduct. The independent persons may be consulted by the council's monitoring officer in respect of an allegation against a member in other circumstances. They may also be consulted by a member or co-opted member of the council against whom an allegation or complaint has been made.
4. Additionally, the views of the independent persons will be considered by the council's Audit, Governance and Standards (Standards) Sub-Committee, who are responsible for determining the outcome of any complaints and remedial action. The independent person will therefore be required to attend meetings of the committee.
5. The monitoring officer considers that it is important to have a minimum of three independent persons to call upon to provide the advice and assistance needed when dealing with complaints, particularly to cover for periods of absences and to avoid potential conflicts where a member wishes to obtain advice.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. There are currently three independent persons. Two of these were appointed by the council assembly at its meeting on 28 November 2018. These appointments will continue until 30 November 2022. At the same

meeting the council agreed to the reappointment of a third independent person for three years who was first appointed by council on 8 July 2015.

7. The monitoring officer is requesting council assembly to agree that this independent person is appointed for a further period of three years.
8. The initial appointment by council assembly was made in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, following an open recruitment process and interviews being conducted by a panel comprising council members and references being obtained.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

9. The appointment of independent persons is required by statute and the individuals appointed play an important part in the work of the council monitoring the probity and conduct of elected councilors for the benefit of the community that the council serves.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

10. The initial appointment process for independent persons is an open and transparent one that takes account of the need to ensure that council is complying with the public sector equality duty. The current independent persons are from a diverse background and they broadly reflect our diverse community in terms of gender and ethnicity.

Health impact statement

11. There is no obvious health impact arising from this report.

Climate change implications

12. There is no obvious climate change impact arising from this report.

Resource implications

13. The annual fixed allowance per independent person can be contained within current budgets.

Legal implications

14. The legal statutory context to this re-appointment is set out above.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Council Assembly previous reports and decisions: 8/07/2015 & 28/11/2018	Constitutional Team, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team Email: constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Director of Law and Governance	
Report Author	Allan Wells, Specialist Governance Lawyer	
Version	Final	
Dated	9 November 2021	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Incorporated in report
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	9 November 2021	

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MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22**

NOTE: Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to
Virginia Wynn-Jones Tel: 020 7525 7055

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