

# Council Assembly

## Ordinary meeting

Wednesday 23 November 2022

7.00 pm

Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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

**Althea Loderick**  
Chief Executive

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### INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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#### **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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#### **Contact**

Virginia Wynn-Jones, Andrew Weir on 020 7525 7055 or 020 7525 7222 or email: [virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk); [andrew.weir@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.weir@southwark.gov.uk); [constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk)

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Date: 11 November 2022



# Council Assembly

## Ordinary meeting

Wednesday 23 November 2022  
7.00 pm  
Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

## Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
	<b>PART A - OPEN BUSINESS</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>PRELIMINARY BUSINESS</b>	
	<b>1.1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
	<b>1.2. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	
	To receive any announcements from the Mayor, members of the cabinet or the chief executive.	
	<b>1.3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT</b>	
	In special circumstances an item of business may be added to an agenda within seven working days of the meeting.	
	<b>1.4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</b>	
	Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
	<b>1.5. MINUTES</b>	1 - 24
	To approve as a correct record the open minutes of the council assembly meeting held on 13 July 2022.	

**2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC****2.1. PETITIONS**

No petitions have been received for this meeting.

**2.2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The deadline for public questions is 11.59pm, Thursday 17 November 2022. Questions can be emailed to [constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk](mailto: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 17 November 2022. Submissions can be emailed to [constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk).

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

**3.2. MOTION ON THE THEME**

25 - 28

The Cabinet Member for Council Homes and Homelessness, and Cabinet Member for Community Safety to present the theme for the meeting.

**4. DEPUTATIONS**

The deadline for deputation requests is 11.59pm, Thursday 17 November 2022. Deputations can be emailed to [constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk).

Deputation requests will be distributed in a supplemental agenda.

**5. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS****5.1. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

29 - 34

To receive any questions from members of the council.

<b>5.2. MEMBERS' MOTIONS</b>		35 - 47
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To consider the following motions:

- Council funding crisis: We need a general election now
- Councils for Proportional Representation
- Free school meals for all primary school children
- Hot Meals for Every Household
- Care leaver as a protected characteristic
- Free Period Products in Southwark Council Buildings
- Supporting insourcing of cleaning staff at our anchor institutions including University of the Arts London (UAL)
- The Home Office and the unacceptable backlog of visa cases

**6. REPORTS FOR DECISION**

<b>6.1. WAIVER OF SIX MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE - SECTION 85 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972</b>	48 - 50
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<b>6.2. RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS</b>	51 - 53
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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**

**8. RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON**

**Item No.**

**Title**

**Page No.**

Date: 11 November 2022



## Council Assembly

(Ordinary meeting; Theme: Supporting Southwark Residents with the Cost of Living Crisis)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary meeting; Theme: Supporting Southwark Residents with the Cost of Living Crisis) held on Wednesday 13 July 2022 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

### PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2022-23 Councillor Sunil Chopra,  
 Councillor Suzanne Abachor  
 Councillor Evelyn Akoto  
 Councillor Jasmine Ali  
 Councillor Naima Ali  
 Councillor John Batteson  
 Councillor Rachel Bentley  
 Councillor Cassandra Brown  
 Councillor Maggie Browning  
 Councillor Victor Chamberlain  
 Councillor Stephanie Cryan  
 Councillor Ellie Cumbo  
 Councillor Sam Dalton  
 Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE  
 Councillor Gavin Edwards  
 Councillor Sabina Emmanuel  
 Councillor Barrie Hargrove  
 Councillor Ketzia Harper  
 Councillor Jon Hartley  
 Councillor Esme Hicks  
 Councillor Emily Hickson  
 Councillor Adam Hood  
 Councillor Laura Johnson  
 Councillor Nick Johnson  
 Councillor Sarah King  
 Councillor Sunny Lambe  
 Councillor Richard Leeming  
 Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall  
 Councillor Richard Livingstone  
 Councillor James McAsh  
 Councillor Hamish McCallum  
 Councillor Kimberly McIntosh  
 Councillor Darren Merrill  
 Councillor Victoria Mills  
 Councillor Portia Mwangangye  
 Councillor Graham Neale  
 Councillor Margy Newens  
 Councillor Jason Ochere  
 Councillor Leo Pollak  
 Councillor Reginald Popoola  
 Councillor Catherine Rose  
 Councillor Jane Salmon  
 Councillor Martin Seaton  
 Councillor Andy Simmons  
 Councillor Michael Situ  
 Councillor Charlie Smith  
 Councillor Cleo Soanes  
 Councillor Emily Tester  
 Councillor Chloe Tomlinson  
 Councillor Joseph Vambe  
 Councillor Irina Von Wiese  
 Councillor David Watson  
 Councillor Kath Whittam  
 Councillor Kieron Williams

## 1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

### 1.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Helen Dennis, Esme Dobson, Natasha Ennin, Sam Foster, Renata Hamvas, Alice Macdonald, Sandra Rhule, Bethan Roberts, and Ian Wingfield.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Victoria Mills.

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

The Mayor welcomed the new members, and thanked those who stepped down or were not elected following the local council elections in May 2022.

The Mayor announced the sad death of Norma Gibbes. Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle spoke about her life. The meeting took a minute's silence in her memory.

### 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 was agreed as follows:

Time	Business
<b>19:00 – 19:20</b>	<b>1. Preliminary business and announcements</b>
<b>19:20 – 20:20</b>  (20 minutes – 4 minutes' speech)	<b>Themed debate</b> <b>3.1 Community Evidence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age UK</li> <li>• Citizens Advice Southwark</li> <li>• Spring Community Hub</li> <li>• Albrighton Community Centre</li> </ul>
(7 minutes) (5 minutes) (25 minutes) (3 minutes)	<b>3.2 Motion on the Theme</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Councillor Stephanie Cryan, Finance, Democracy and Digital,</li> <li>2. Councillor Emily Tester, Deputy Leader of the Opposition</li> <li>3. Themed debate open to all other councillors</li> <li>4. Cabinet member's right of reply to the debate</li> </ol>
<b>20:20 – 20:40</b> (5 minutes' speech, question to the	<b>4. Deputation requests</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert Johnson, Camberwell Bus Garage</li> <li>• Kay Beaumont, Dulwich residents</li> </ul>

cabinet; no questions from members)	
<b>20:40 – 21:20</b> (joint debate)	<b>5.2 Motions</b> Motion 1 – Saving South London Buses Motion 2 – Save Southwark Buses
<b>21:20 – 21:45</b> (5 minutes) (15 minutes) (15 minutes)	<b>5.1 Members' Question Time</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Late questions</li> <li>• Members' questions to the leader</li> <li>• Members' questions to the cabinet</li> </ul>
<b>21:45 – 22:00</b>	<b>5.2 Motions</b>
	Motion 3 – Fixing Southwark's Housing Disrepair Crisis
	Motion 4 – Standing Up for Responsible Tax Conduct
	Motion 5 – Make Cycle Storage Accessible for All
	Motion 6 – Equal Pavements Pledge
	Motion 7 – Patients not Passports
	Motion 8 – The Closure of St Francesca Cabrini Primary School
<b>22:00*</b>	<b>6. Reports</b>
	6.1 Member allowances scheme 2022-2023

\* 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:

- Age UK
- Citizens Advice Southwark
- Spring Community Hub
- Albrighton Community Centre

#### Format

A four minute presentation from the group.

#### Themed debate

To run as listed in the timings above.

### Item 4 - Deputations

That the meeting agree to hear deputations from:

- Robert Johnson, Camberwell Bus Garage



- Kay Beaumont, Dulwich residents

(Five minutes to speak; deputation question to relevant cabinet member, no questions from members)

**Item 5.2 General motions:**

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

**5.2.1 Saving South London Buses**

**5.2.2 Save Southwark Buses**

To have a single debate for motions 5.2.1 and 5.2.2, subject to the timings set out in the programme motion.

To vary the order of business to hear motions 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 immediately after the deputations.

To agree that the movers of motions 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 agree to waive their rights to reply.

**5.2.2 Save Southwark Buses**

To change the seconder of Motion 2 from Councillor Sandra Rhule to Councillor Gavin Edwards

**5.2.3 Fixing Southwark's Housing Disrepair Crisis**

To change the mover of Motion 3 from Councillor Emily Tester to Councillor Jane Salmon

**1.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

The Mayor announced that the Monitoring Officer has given all members a dispensation to vote on Item 6.1: Member Allowances Scheme 2022-2023 – amendment to members' entitlement to maternity, adoption and shared parental leave and relevant allowances.

There were no other declarations of interest.

**1.5 MINUTES**

The minutes of the annual meeting of council assembly held on 21 May 2022 were approved as a correct record.

**2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC**

**2.1 PETITIONS**

There were no petitions.

**2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

### 3. THEMED DEBATE

#### 3.1 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

The meeting agreed to receive submissions from the following:

##### **Age UK**

The representative spoke to the meeting for four minutes. The cabinet member for finance, democracy and digital thanked the representatives.

##### **Citizens Advice Southwark**

The representative spoke to the meeting for four minutes. The cabinet member for finance, democracy and digital thanked the representatives.

##### **Spring Community Hub**

The representative spoke to the meeting for four minutes. The cabinet member for finance, democracy and digital thanked the representatives.

##### **Albrighton Community Centre**

The representative spoke to the meeting for four minutes. The cabinet member for finance, democracy and digital thanked the representatives.

#### 3.2 MOTION ON THE THEME

The cabinet member for finance, democracy and digital, Councillor Stephanie Cryan, presented the motion in the themed debate.

Councillor Emily Tester, the deputy leader of the opposition, responded to the motion and proposed Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Sam Dalton, Kimberly McIntosh, Victor Chamberlain, Evelyn Akoto, Naima Ali, Irina von Wiese, Victoria Mills, Jasmine Ali, Rachel Bentley, and Kieron Williams), Councillor Stephanie Cryan 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:****Tackling the cost of living crisis**

## 1. Council assembly notes that:

- a. The people of our country and borough are facing a cost of living crisis, with inflation rising at the fastest rate for 40 years, and food and fuel costs spiralling. As a result, millions of families are struggling to make ends meet and facing impossible choices between heating, eating and paying their rent.
- b. Ofgem are predicting that the number of households facing fuel poverty across the UK could double to 12 million next year. The price of food is also soaring, with the average price of pasta up by more than 50% since April 2021 and 94% of adults reporting that the price of their food shop has increased over the last month.
- c. These spiralling costs follow a decade of Conservative and Liberal Democrat government policies that have cut the incomes of millions of families across the country, with almost 4 million children now living in poverty and national demand for foodbanks up 81% over the last five years. In our borough, the Southwark Foodbank supported almost 19,000 people in 2021 (of which 7,000 were children), a 289% increase from 2019/20.
- d. Citizens Advice Southwark estimates that 31% of households in Southwark are in poverty, with the cost of living crisis likely to exacerbate this further. The council's revenues and benefits team has identified over 22,000 residents in need of financial support. Voluntary sector partners have also reported a rapid rise in the number of working people unable to make ends meet, as wages fail to keep up with the cost of living.
- e. A recent Southwark Council Housing Residents' Working Party produced a report "Pulling at the Roots" which highlights the economic and financial impact of COVID on our council housing residents and made a number of helpful recommendations to support council tenants and homeowners in debt.
- f. We have a strong voluntary and community sector in Southwark, with a community support alliance set up to ensure that residents who need help the most can get support from the sector and council. These organisations, however, have become inundated with residents facing challenges as a result of the cost of living crisis.

## 2. Council assembly also notes that:

- a. Since 2010, successive Liberal Democrat and Conservative governments have imposed austerity on the country, creating hardship and destitution on a scale not seen for decades.
- b. This includes measures such as the benefit cap, the cap to the local housing

allowance, child benefit caps, and a bedroom tax which the previous Liberal Democrat MP for Bermondsey and Old Southwark voted for 8 times.

- c. It also includes the Conservative's and Liberal Democrat's failed economic policies, which have delivered the worst decade for wages our country has seen since the Napoleonic wars. Working families' pay is now falling by £1,300.
  - d. As a result, many of the gains made before 2010, including lifting 1 million children out of poverty, have sadly been reversed in the past decade.
  - e. That Rishi Sunak, who reportedly owns three homes in the UK, will receive £1,200 of help through the government's cost of living schemes, whilst many in Southwark with far greater needs will receive only £400. Analysis suggests that £620 million will go to people who own two or more homes.
3. Council assembly welcomes:
- a. Southwark Labour's success in maintaining the Southwark Emergency Support Scheme after the coalition government ended ring-fenced funding for Council Tax Support in 2013.
  - b. That Southwark Labour will support our most vulnerable households with over £5m of funding in the new Southwark Council Cost of Living Fund which brings together the Household Support Fund, the Discretionary Council Tax Rebate Fund and the Council's own contribution of £471,000.
  - c. The Mayor of London's announcement of a £43m warmer homes fund to further support residents.
  - d. The national Labour Party's successful campaign for a windfall tax on energy companies to fund support for people hit hardest by the cost of living crisis (resisted by the Conservatives for weeks, which led to the announcement of a package of measures announced on 26 May 2022).
4. Council Assembly also welcomes Southwark Labour's 10 point plan to tackle the cost of living crisis by:
- a. Creating of a new Cost of Living fund with over £5 million of critical funding that will support families who are struggling to make ends meet.
  - b. Launching a Southwark Energy Savers Service, so residents can access the best advice to keep gas and electricity bills down while prices continue to spiral.
  - c. Continuing our free healthy school meals provision for all primary and nursery school children and our holiday food programme for children during the summer period.
  - d. Making Southwark a Right to Food Borough. This means working with local

businesses, community groups and schools to ensure everyone in Southwark has access to healthy, affordable food within a short walk of their home. Meanwhile the council will do all it can to campaign for the national action needed to end food poverty for good.

- e. Delivering more homes at truly affordable rents. Building on our success starting 2,500 new council homes, by starting 1,000 more new council homes by 2026 and ensuring that new development delivers at least 35% truly affordable homes including at least 25% at social rents.
  - f. Strengthening Southwark's network of community-led hubs, continuing to invest in our local voluntary sector, including independent advice services, so wherever you live you can access free advice on money matters and find free local activities.
  - g. Helping reduce energy bills for residents with a commitment to making our council homes warmer and greener with better insulation and modern heating.
  - h. Creating a new Southwark Living Wage Unit to double the number of London Living Wage employers in our borough and make work pay for more of our residents.
  - i. Delivering 2,000 new apprenticeships and 3,000 new training opportunities and free support to get a job for people who face the most barriers, so local people can take up careers in our borough's growth industries. We'll also create 250 paid internships for young people from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.
  - j. Keeping council tax low. Despite ongoing cuts to our budgets, we have kept council tax low and will continue to do so, only raising it to protect services for the most vulnerable.
5. Council Assembly also recognises that after a decade of Conservative and Liberal Democrat cuts to local government funding, the council does not have sufficient resources to alleviate the impact of the cost of living for every resident in need. Therefore council resolves to:
- a. Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to demand:
    - i. An above inflation increase in the government's National Living Wage, to lift millions of people out of poverty
    - ii. A Great Homes Upgrade, to save on energy bills now and in the longer term by insulating millions of homes, whilst cutting carbon emissions too.
    - iii. A fair benefits system that ensure everyone in our country can afford the basics in life including enough food to eat, a warm home and a roof over their head. Including; reversing the Conservative Party's £20 cut to universal credit, ending the two child limit which now impacts nearly a million children and has forced many thousands families into poverty, and uplifting the Local Housing Allowance which is currently set so low that it does not cover the cost of renting a home in the private sector in

- Southwark.
- iv. Better targeted approach to support people hardest hit by the cost of living crisis, rather than the Government's current system that disproportionately benefits second homeowners.
  - v. A new national industrial strategy, to ensure we buy, make and sell more in Britain. Ending the Conservative Party's failed economic policies that have delivered the worst decade for wages in two centuries and replacing them with a new national plan to invest in our industries and infrastructure to deliver good jobs and real social and environmental benefits. Including an ambitious green new deal.
  - vi. Increased investment in council house building and the building of other social rent homes, given the transformative impact of having a truly affordable home in lifting people out of poverty.
  - vii. Increased funding for all public bodies and services, so public sector workers, from the nurses to the refuse collectors, who have supported our country through the pandemic can receive a fair pay rise.
- b. Ask Cabinet to work with the Community Support Alliance and other voluntary and statutory partners in our borough to alleviate the cost of living crisis for residents and to lobby for the changes that the Government needs to make to ensure we can end this cost of living crisis.

#### 4. DEPUTATIONS

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

##### **Robert Johnson Camberwell Bus Depot**

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for five minutes and thereafter asked a question of the leader of the council.

##### **Kay Beaumont, Dulwich Residents**

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for five minutes and thereafter asked a question of the cabinet member for parks, streets and clean air.

#### 5. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

##### 5.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

There was one late question to the leader from Councillor Victor Chamberlain, the written response to which was circulated by email before the meeting. There were two supplemental questions, responded to by the cabinet member for parks, streets and clean air.

There were 27 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated by email before the meeting. There were 16 supplemental questions.

## 5.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

### Motion 1: Saving South London Buses

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen. This motion was debated as a single debate with Motion 2: Save Southwark Buses.

Councillor Victor Chamberlain moved the motion. Councillor Emily Tester seconded the motion.

There was one amendment to the motion. Councillor Reginald Popoola moved Amendment B. Councillor Emily Hickson seconded Amendment B.

After debate (Councillors Marina Linforth-Hall, Catherine Rose, Nick Johnson, Richard Livingstone and Graham Neale), Amendment B was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

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

1. Council assembly notes that:
  - a. The current proposal to cut bus services by up to a fifth as a result of the Conservative government's financial decisions will have profoundly negative impacts on the residents of Southwark.
  - b. At a time where the use of buses is actually increasing in the UK, Investment in affordable and sustainable public transport is more important than ever:
    - i. Buses offer an affordable means of transport for vulnerable residents struggling with the cost of living crisis.
    - ii. Petrol has risen to over an average of £100 a tank meaning driving is no longer an affordable option for residents.
    - iii. Public transport offers a sustainable transport option for residents as we continue to tackle the climate emergency.
  - c. Reductions in bus services will increase the need for interchanges, making journeys more difficult for those with mobility issues, who heavily rely on direct routes for travel.
  - d. The reduction of night bus routes will adversely affect key workers across London and will have a negative impact on people's safety.
  - e. The Conservative party is imposing deep cuts to Transport for London's funding.
    - i. In 2015, they agreed to remove £1bn a year of government funding

- from TfL and since the pandemic they have forced through hundreds of millions of further cuts
- ii. None of the £500m raised every year from Londoners paying Vehicle Excise Duty collected by central Government is used to fund TfL's maintenance of London's roads. Instead, London's roads are effectively being cross-subsidised from fare-paying bus and tube passengers.
2. Council assembly further notes that:
    - a. Southwark is already poorly served by public transport, with much of the borough relying purely on buses for travel.
    - b. By May 2022, bus use had returned to 81% of pre-pandemic levels in Southwark, showing investment in our bus network is vital as we continue to recover.
    - c. 25% of the routes being cut entirely are routes that serve Southwark.
    - d. These cuts will completely withdraw four routes currently serving Southwark residents: routes 12, 45, 78 and 521.
    - e. The four routes set for withdrawal connect residents to London Bridge Hospital, Guy's Hospital, St Thomas's Hospital, Evelina Children's Hospital and King's College Hospital. The withdrawal of three of these routes will make it harder for people to access healthcare services.
    - f. A further 17 routes serving Southwark residents will be affected by the proposed cuts, which will lead to a reduced service across a borough already inadequately served by public transport.
  3. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:
    - a. Commission a robust detailed expert investigation on impacts of bus cuts in Southwark, the findings of which will form the basis of a Southwark response to TfL's proposals.
    - b. Campaign with the Mayor of London for the Conservative government to:
      - i. Agree a long term funding settlement for TfL that ensures there can be continued investment in sustainable and affordable public transport in London, including the funding necessary to maintain current bus routes, so TfL can immediately halt any plans to reduce bus services in London.
      - ii. Invest in maintaining and enhancing the existing public transport options, such as buses and step-free access at stations, that Londoners need.
      - iii. Invest in alternative public transport options for South London including a river-crossing at Rotherhithe, reopening Camberwell station and the Bakerloo Line extension.
    - c. Ask TfL to:
      - i. Explore all options to prevent the need for reductions to bus and other public transport services
      - ii. Hold public meetings before reducing the frequency of any bus



routes.

- iii. Extend the length of the consultation until the end of the summer to reflect the potential severity of the proposed cuts and ensure as many voices are heard as possible.

## **Motion 2: Save Southwark Buses**

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen. This motion was debated as a single debate with Motion 1: Saving South London Buses.

Councillor Jon Hartley moved the motion. Councillor Gavin Edwards seconded the motion.

After debate (as set out in Motion 1 above), the substantive 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. The Council notes that:
  - a. Southwark is facing unprecedented and damaging cuts to its public transport. Across the city, seventy eight of London's bus routes will be affected by recent proposals, with seventeen of the affected routes serving our borough, representing 22% of the changes across the capital.
  - b. Of the sixteen routes to be cut in their entirety, four are in Southwark, representing one in four bus routes. These routes included the 12 bus, a much-loved bus route which many Southwark residents use to get to and from the West End.
  - c. These cuts to services make it harder for our residents to get around the city, make journeys longer and often more expensive.
  - d. Transport for London (TfL) is still recovering from the huge financial damage caused by the pandemic. It reports that, in the latest funding settlement, the Government is asking TfL to cut the bus network by 4% by 2025.
  - e. These cuts are a political choice, forced on TfL by a government making an active decision to level down our city. London is one of the only transport systems in the world that does not receive any significant regular subsidy from its national government. Moreover, London generates £500m of vehicle licensing excise money that goes straight to Government. This means that in recent years, over 70% of TfL costs

have been paid for by fares.

- f. These regressive cuts will affect many of our lowest income residents during the cost of living crisis, impacting shift workers, keyworkers and those who need to travel early or late in order to get to work. Hard working people who keep the city running will now need to break their journey and wait for multiple buses as they try to get to work, making their working day even longer.
  - g. Southeast London's public transport is already less well-served than other parts of London and has weathered previous cuts. Our small number of tube stations means buses are the backbone of our transport network. If we are to build the homes and town centres people want and need, we have to have a public transport system that can serve them.
  - h. Southwark Labour councillors have made a difference by creating pop up street stalls and supporting a local petition to Save Southwark Buses, however more can be done to put pressure on the Government to provide TfL with an adequate settlement that London needs in order to run an efficient public transport system, in line with other major cities across the world.
2. Council Assembly further notes the impact on key resident groups, including:
- a. Users with mobility issues who may struggle to use other forms of transport or may not have access to alternatives locally.
  - b. School communities, parents and carers who may struggle to get children to school without adequate local buses.
  - c. Women, as transport hubs have been highlighted as a potential risk of increased violence against women and girls, therefore increased interchanges pose greater risks.
  - d. Worsening health inequalities by making it more challenging for people without access to either a car or alternative forms of transport to and from hospital or doctor appointments. This is also likely to disproportionately affect older people for the same reasons.
  - e. People living in social housing or those in private rented accommodation already dealing with fuel poverty who are far less likely to be able to absorb any additional costs of having to take alternative routes.
  - f. Local businesses who heavily rely upon people getting across the borough to increase footfall on our high streets.

3. Council Assembly therefore resolves to:
  - a. Continue to make the case to the Department for Transport for a better funding settlement for TfL on behalf of all Southwark residents, particularly those disadvantaged most by these changes.
  - b. Work with TfL to mitigate any changes to the Southwark bus network to ensure that disadvantaged groups in Southwark can still travel to and from work, school, town centres and key services.
  - c. Call for further engagement and meetings with key community groups in Southwark so TfL better understands the impact of the proposals put forward in Southwark.

### **Motion 3: A plan for Southwark's Housing Repairs**

This motion was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

There was one amendment to the motion.

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

The substantive 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 notes that:
  - a. In 2010, an incoming Labour administration inherited one of the poorest standards of housing stock in London from the previous Liberal Democrat and Conservative administration. Only half of council homes met the decent homes standard, with 18,000 homes in disrepair.
  - b. By 2020 Southwark's labour run council had nearly doubled this number with 95% of homes meeting the decent homes standard.
  - c. In 2014, Labour also began a programme of replacing old kitchens and bathrooms in all our council homes. By 2020, more than 5,000 council homes were fitted with a new kitchen and/or bathroom.
2. Council also notes that:
  - a. The Covid-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown had a severe impact on services.
  - b. Southwark is one of the largest council housing landlords in the country, therefore the proportional impact of the pandemic in terms of the number of repairs that were delayed (with officers not able to visit

residents apart from essential repairs) was substantial. Residents report an average of 4,500 repairs requests per month.

- c. Furthermore, the pandemic continues to affect repair staff, with staff testing positive for Covid (and therefore unavailable to visit residents).
  - d. That over £1 billion is required to fully decarbonise and replace inefficient heating systems and increase the insulation of homes to a modern energy efficient and low carbon standard.
  - e. The impact of the Conservative party's hard Brexit which has had a catastrophic impact on supply chains in the construction industry, with waiting times for many essential repairs materials having increased from days to months.
3. Council assembly thanks members of the repairs services for
- a. the role they played getting support to vulnerable people during the peak of the pandemic, delivering food and support to thousands of Southwark residents
  - b. the work they have done to clear the whole backlog of repairs from the pandemic, that had been accumulated during the period when non urgent repairs had to be suspended.
4. Council resolves to
- a. Ask cabinet to bring forward the repairs improvement plan to ensure an effective and efficient repairs services, that gets repairs right first time
  - b. Ask cabinet to bring forward a housing asset management plan which aims to bring every council home up to a decent standard, including within this an updated damp and mould strategy.
  - c. Welcome the pilot of a dedicated repairs task team comprising of specialist operators such as electricians, wet traders and decorators, with the view to roll services out where they are effective in terms of value for money and efficiency of service.
  - d. Publish an updated damp and mould strategy and make the council's specialist leaks team permanent.
  - e. Implement the heat networks strategy which aims to replace old heating systems with new, reliable, affordable and greener alternatives. This forms part of the commitment to decarbonise council housing stock.
  - f. Ask Cabinet to lobby the Government for the national investment needed to deliver a Great Homes Upgrade to bring homes in the UK, including all council homes, up to a modern highly energy efficient and green standard, with upgraded insulation and low cost zero carbon heating.

#### **Motion 4: Standing Up for Responsible Tax Conduct**

This motion was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

The substantive 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 pressure on organisations to pay their fair share of tax has never been stronger.
- b. Polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that “corporate tax avoidance” has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct.
- c. Two thirds of people (66%) believe the Government and local councils should at least consider a company’s ethics and how they pay their tax, as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when awarding contracts to companies.
- d. Around 17.5% of public contracts in the UK have been won by companies with links to tax havens.
- e. It has been conservatively estimated that losses from multinational profit-shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK some £17bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues.
- f. The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct, and has been secured by a wide range of businesses across the UK, including FTSE-listed PLCs, co-operatives, social enterprises and large private businesses.
- g. That Southwark Labour have a nationally recognised track record on procurement which builds on the aims of this motion. Our Fairer Future Procurement policy ensures that companies must demonstrate social value through a range of measures including requiring companies to pay London Living Wage and excluding companies who break the law by blacklisting.

2. Council Assembly believes that:

- a. Paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn’t be.
- b. Tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies.

- c. As recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.
  - d. Where councils hold substantive stakes in private enterprises, influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned.
  - e. More action is needed, however, as current and proposed new UK procurement law significantly restricts councils' ability to either penalise poor tax conduct (as exclusion grounds are rarely triggered) or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services.
  - f. UK cities, counties and towns can and should stand up for responsible tax conduct - doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice.
3. Council Assembly resolves to:
- a. Approve the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration.
  - b. Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities.
  - c. Ensure IR35 is implemented robustly and contract workers pay a fair share of employment taxes.
  - d. Not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.
  - e. Undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately by suppliers as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates.
  - f. Demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers UK and overseas and their consolidated profit & loss position, given lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing.
  - g. Promote Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.
  - h. Support Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax

contribution made by responsible businesses are proud to promote responsible tax conduct and pay their fair share of corporation tax.

- i. Support calls for urgent reform of UK procurement law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.

### **Motion 5: Making Cycle Storage Accessible for All**

This motion was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

There was one amendment to the motion.

Amendment D was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

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

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

1. Council assembly notes that:
  - a. Southwark needs more cycle storage
  - b. As we tackle the cost of living crisis and the climate emergency it is vital that we ensure cycling is accessible and affordable for all residents.
  - c. The Labour administration delivered over 500 cycle hangars since 2020. It has also already created 2,616 secure bike hangar spaces, the third highest of all London boroughs.
  - d. A comprehensive exercise has been undertaken by the council to identify many more residents who require cycle storage, with a website where people can request new cycle hangars.
  - e. Local ward councillors have access to funding streams such as Local Community Infra Structure Levy, Cleaner Greener Safer funds and Devolved Highways Funding which they can prioritise to deliver more cycle hangars. Wards with Liberal Democrat councillors delivered the lowest level of cycle hangars since 2020.
  - f. That the Labour administration's investment in cycle hangars and cycle lanes has led to Southwark having one of the highest cycling rates in London
  - g. That the council plans to bring cycle hangar provision in-house, meaning that we can roll out more at a faster pace.
2. Council assembly calls on cabinet to:
  - a. Make Southwark a Cycle Friendly Borough by:
    - i. Offering free cycle lessons for all Southwark residents

- ii. Doubling the number of cycle hangars so you can store your bike close to your home, stations and in town centres.
  - iii. Rolling out more segregated cycle lanes,
  - iv. Extending cycle hire
  - v. Creating new ways for residents on low incomes to access an affordable bike.
  - vi. work with local communities to design safer, greener and healthier streets for walking and cycling, including safer junctions and crossing.
  - vii. ensure no group is left behind as we change all our streets for the better. Ensuring older and younger people, women and our Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities all have a full say, so we design streets that works for everyone.
- b. Identify and collaborate with local and London-wide organisations (such as Transport for London and Business Improvement Districts) to improve cycle storage provisions.

### **Motion 6: Equal Pavements Pledge**

This motion was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

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

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

1. This Council notes:
  - a. the campaign of Transport for All calling on councils and transport authorities to sign an Equal Pavements Pledge (appended below)
  - b. 95 per cent of roads are the responsibility of London boroughs and only 5 per cent belong to the TfL network.
  - c. the majority of disabled people polled recently by Transport for All are worried that streets remain inaccessible with many streets still lacking even dropped kerbs to enable level access along pavements or to cross the street.
  - d. disabled people are concerned at the risk of further barriers being presented – either from the way in which changes to streets are delivered, or from al-fresco dining being delivered without consideration for the need for clear access on pavements.
  - e. Islington's people-friendly pavements programme, created following feedback from local people and engagement with a range of organisations representing disabled people in Islington, including Disability Action in Islington and Transport for All
  - f. That people-friendly pavements is a key element of the people-friendly



- streets programme and will help the Council make Islington a better place for all
- g. The programme will include measures such as footway repaving, additional dropped kerbs and street clutter removal, and more
  - h. That our borough continues to need investment and progress in making pavements fully accessible.
2. This Council notes that the Transport for All Equal Pavements Pledge outlines a need to:
    - a. Listen to disabled people, and act
    - b. Keep pavements clear
    - c. Cut pavement clutter
    - d. Reduce the impact of waste removal
    - e. Audit pavements and install dropped kerbs where they are missing
    - f. Protect blue badge parking, with relocation kept to a minimum
    - g. Work with disabled experts, committing to co-production of schemes.
  3. This Council resolves to:
    - a. support the Transport for All Equal Pavements Pledge
    - b. engage directly with organisations representing people with specific accessibility requirements
    - c. call upon the Mayor of London through Transport for London (TfL) to respond to the Equal Pavements pledge with a comprehensive programme of support to boroughs to be delivered in this current term
    - d. Call on central Government to fully fund TfL to support London Boroughs to deliver people-friendly Equal Pavements.

### **Motion 7: Patients not Passports**

This motion was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

The substantive 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 NHS was established after the Second World War at a time when there were high numbers of refugees and displaced people and general social chaos. It was founded on the principle of being free to everyone who needed it, regardless of their ability to pay, but has now become part of the Hostile Environment.

- b. The Government is demanding that NHS Trusts check patients' ID before giving them treatment. If they don't have the right documents, they are forced to pay. If patients get into debt their details are sent by the Trust to the Home Office, creating fears about visa status or immigration claims and deterring many people from accessing healthcare.
  - c. This policy has had a devastating impact on those who are unable to pay, such as those from the Windrush generation. The impact of the hostile environment on migrants has become even more acute during the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly as it is known there is a higher mortality rate in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.
2. Council Assembly notes the impact of this system which:
- a. embeds racial profiling because people have their entitlement to care challenged on the basis of their appearance, their name or their accent;
  - b. discourages those who are often already vulnerable from seeking help, including women needing maternity care, and their children;
  - c. normalises discrimination in institutions that are set up to care for the most vulnerable.
3. Council Assembly resolves to:
- a. Work with Lambeth and Southwark Patients Not Passports campaign to raise awareness of migrant charging in the NHS and the climate of fear that surrounds it
  - b. Write to every GP surgery in Southwark to ask them to become a Safe Surgery to improve migrants' access to healthcare
  - c. Work with our hospitals to support migrant rights and access to healthcare.

### **Motion 8: The closure of St Francesca Cabrini Primary School**

This motion was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

There was one amendment to the motion.

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

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

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

1. Council Assembly notes:
  - a. That St Francesca Cabrini Primary School is a brilliant local school in Peckham Rye ward which has served our local community for over 100 years.
  - b. That the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus have made the decision to leave London and the UK and as a result are withdrawing their sponsorship of the school from September 2023.
  - c. That like many Southwark and London schools, the school has seen declining pupil numbers in recent years. This means the school's financial viability is increasingly difficult.
  - d. That the school's governing body has explored with both the London Borough of Southwark and the Archdiocese of Southwark merging with another school on the school site. However, this proved not to be possible as the land and buildings are not owned by the Archdiocese or Southwark Council and the nearest other Roman Catholic School is some distance away.
  - e. That ward councillors, parents and the wider community were therefore saddened to learn the governing body is now consulting on a proposal to close the school from September 2023.
2. Council Assembly recognises the excellent support that council officers and the Cabinet Member for Children and Schools have already offered to the school and school community as they navigate this very difficult process.
3. Council Assembly calls on the Council to:
  - a. Continue to work closely with the school and governing body to explore all possible options that might allow the school to stay open and ensure its future financial viability.
  - b. Continue to explore with the Archdiocese of Southwark all possible options for amalgamation with other schools across the area including exploring whether any Catholic secondary or specialised provision could be offered at the site.
  - c. Ensure that the children at the school remain the absolute priority during this unsettling time and, if the proposal to close moves forward, ensure that the Council offers all possible support to children and families as

they transition to other schools.

- d. Additionally ensure that the pre-school children and families that have been allocated Reception places at the school for September 2022 have all information available to them as they make decisions about what might be best for their children given the school's uncertain future.
- e. That should the proposal move forward, to work closely with the Archdiocese to offer support and assistance to staff to find new employment. Given the location of the school this should include working with neighbouring local authorities to ensure all staff are fully aware of vacancies within local schools.

## 6. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION

### 6.1 MEMBER ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2022-2023 - AMENDMENT TO MEMBERS' ENTITLEMENT TO MATERNITY, ADOPTION AND SHARED PARENTAL LEAVE AND RELEVANT ALLOWANCES

There was one question on the report. Councillor Graham Neale asked a supplemental question of the Leader of the Council.

There was one amendment to the report. Councillor Graham Neale moved amendment F. Councillor Jane Salmon seconded amendment F.

After debate, (Councillors Victoria Mills, Kieron Williams), Amendment F was put to the vote and declared Lost.

It was proposed that the recommendations for this report be dealt with by a recorded vote. This proposal was put to the vote and declared Lost.

The recommendations of the report were put to the vote and declared Carried.

#### RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly agreed the amendments to the Member Allowances Scheme in the Constitution as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, setting out members' entitlement to maternity, adoption and shared parental leave and relevant allowances.
2. That council assembly noted that a notice of motion signed by 16 councillors has been received, as per council assembly procedure rules 1.11.1.

## 7. AMENDMENTS

The amendments are set out in supplemental agenda 1.

The meeting closed at 10.20 pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**

<b>Item No.</b> 3.2	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 23 November 2022	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Motion on the Theme: Good quality housing is a human right: the plan for Southwark	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Proper Constitutional Officer	

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The theme for this meeting is Good quality housing is a human right: the plan for Southwark

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 Darren Merrill, Cabinet Member for Council Homes and Homelessness, and Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, Cabinet Member for Community Safety**

#### **Good quality housing is a human right: the plan for Southwark**

1. Council assembly notes:
  - a. The government's rash economic experiments in recent months, followed up by multiple U-turns have created a confidence crisis and worsened the current economic situation.
  - b. The country faces a cost of living crisis with food bills rising, fuel bills rising wages stagnating, this has created a huge fall in the standard of living.
  - c. The disastrous mini-budget in September mortgage spiked the interest rates, making it harder for people to pay their own mortgage and raised the barrier even higher for first time buyers.
  - d. Private rental costs in London are up a staggering 14% on last year.

- e. Those in private rented accommodation now spend on average 52% of their median monthly income on housing costs.
  - f. 1/3 of our residents live in privately rented homes; that is why Southwark Council introduced the Gold Standard Charter (GSC) which is a voluntary scheme that rewards landlords and managing agents who provide a professional level of service and good practice to their tenants in the private rented sector.
  - g. Council housing is the way to tackle the housing crisis and that good quality homes change people's lives. That is why, since 2014, Southwark has completed or started on site building of 2,561 new council homes and approved 1,000 more. This is a huge achievement in delivering affordable homes for our residents and Southwark stands out as one of the most prolific council house builders in the last 5 years.
  - h. Since 2014-15, the council has been proactive in working with external partners to ensure that social rent homes are delivered as part of every major schemes. This has led, directly, to a net increase of 3,618 approved social rent homes in Southwark.
2. Council assembly believes:
- a. Good quality housing is a human right.
  - b. Private rented homes have their place but we believe that social rented homes are the best way to create long term secure housing for residents and good quality social housing can set the standard of housing across both the public and private sector.
  - c. Resident involvement is vital to brings residents, leaseholders together to find a way forward in these challenging times.
  - d. The rental market is not working; we need a rental system that works for Southwark. Until we have enough affordable homes, we need to control rent levels. Families are being priced out of Southwark and London.
3. Council assembly resolves:
- a. To call for increased regulation in the private rented sector to protect renters and would lobby a future Labour government to introduce these.
  - b. Join voices with the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, in calling on the government to grant City Hall powers to set fair limits on private

sector rents rises, a move that City Hall have shown would save families an average of £2,988 during the next two years.

- c. Build 500 homes for keyworkers at rents that nurses and teachers from our local hospitals and schools and other key workers can afford.
- d. Build new council homes for older people, designed so residents can live independently for longer.
- e. Use our planning powers to robustly require new social rent homes in private developments alongside other types of genuinely affordable homes.
- f. Back local people to build genuinely affordable homes, supporting them to establish Community Land Trusts, housing co-operatives and partnerships with faith groups that deliver homes that stay affordable forever.
- g. Launch a Good Lettings Agency that makes it easy for landlords who have empty homes to let them at affordable rents to essential workers, homeless families and refugees
- h. Guarantee support to everyone who is on the street in Southwark to access a home of their own and campaign for the government action needed to end rough sleeping for good.
- i. Roll out more protections and support for private renters, extending the council's licensing scheme so landlords have to meet higher standards
- j. Fund free advice services so support is there if your landlord is acting unfairly.
- k. Improve services for council tenants and leaseholders. Strengthening our Great Estates Guarantee and ensuring repairs to council homes are done right first time.
- l. Take a zero tolerance approach to rogue landlords and empty homes, using all the powers available to the council to tackle the worst offenders and campaigning for the resources and powers to bring more long-term empty homes back into use.

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**



<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Cabinet members Motion	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team <a href="mailto:Constitutional.Team@southwark.gov.uk">Constitutional.Team@southwark.gov.uk</a>

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services
<b>Report Author</b>	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer
<b>Version</b>	Final
<b>Dated</b>	4 November 2022

<b>Item No.</b> 5.1	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 23 November 2022	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Members' Question Time	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		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 MARIA LINFORTH-HALL**

With Southwark's schools facing a closure crisis, how many schools in Southwark are at risk of closure? Does the council recognise the role that the persistent and worsening lack of affordable housing has played in pricing families out of the borough and leaving schools at risk of closure? What steps are being taken to mitigate this issue and reduce the disruption to children's lives and educational prospects?

**2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU**

We have had three prime ministers since this council assembly last met. What is your message to the new prime minister?

**3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR NICK JOHNSON**

After over 250 days of devastating conflict, it is imperative that we, as a council, show unwavering support to supporting Ukraine. Will Labour publicly call upon Veolia, a major contractor of the council, to cut all ties with Russia and stop all operations in Russia? Does every single Labour councillor in Southwark back UK military support to Ukraine? Does every single Labour councillor in Southwark agree with the Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer that the Stop the War Coalition is, at best, naïve and, at worst, supporting authoritarian leaders?

**4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH KING**

Can the leader tell us about the council's recent cost of living summit?

**5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR IRINA VON WIESE**

Will the council commit to making scrutiny effective in Southwark by reforming the call-in requirements and offering chair of scrutiny to the opposition?

**6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR PORTIA MWANGANGYE**

Can the Leader let the council know about OFSTED's finding in their recent inspection of our schools and the work to support our schools?

**7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR EMILY TESTER**

Is the council planning to, or are officers considering, pulling down Maydew House after nearly a decade of standing empty? Is there a timescale for this and its replacement? How will the council ensure that local residents are meaningfully consulted around its replacement?

**8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR CASSANDRA BROWN**

The cost of living crisis is getting worse by the day; please let the council know the support for families that are struggling?

**9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RACHEL BENTLEY**

What funds were raised by the K-Pop festival in Southwark Park this year? In light of the Bermondsey Carnival and Southwark Fireworks being cancelled due to a lack of funding, how is the money from the K-Pop festival being used? Does the council not agree that free community events are important in times of crisis?

**10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE**

Last month Southwark was named the most caring borough. What work is being done to ensure we maintain this reputation and support our residents through what increasingly looks like will be a very difficult winter?

**11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID WATSON**

In the cost-of-living crisis we are facing, responsible use of public money is of paramount importance. What will the council do to ensure it will never again waste millions on poorly planned and consulted projects such as the £3m rooftop developments project? What are the conditions for the paused rooftop developments to be continued?

**12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH**

In September, the Council was named Parks for London's top performing borough. During the cost of living crisis, having well maintained, safe and relaxing public places for all of our residents to enjoy, at no cost, is vital. How do we ensure we keep the standards of our parks high?

**13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HOOD**

London's private rental market is in chaos. Demand for housing means private landlords and letting agents are raising rents with impunity, putting people at risk of being priced out of their homes. What will the council do to protect private renters from these rent increases and help residents stay in their homes?

**14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR REGINALD POPOOLA**

Now more than ever free schools meals are simply vital for families during the cost of living crisis. What work has the council done to expand the free school meals programme?

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

How many cargo bikes does the council currently use? If the council does not use any, is the council looking into the use of cargo bikes in its service delivery?

**16. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR EMILY HICKSON**

Serious work has to be done in decarbonising our borough, we must use our influence to convince organisations in the borough to decarbonise. What work has been done in recruiting schools to schemes such as the 'Let's go Zero' schools network, a national campaign uniting teachers, pupils, parents and their schools as they all work together to be zero carbon by 2030?

**17. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH MCCALLUM**

In March 2022 Southwark paid out £60,000 to a group of leaseholders after a 4 year tribunal case over unlawful service charges. How much did the council spend fighting this legal case?

**18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS, BUSINESS AND TOWN CENTRES FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN**

During covid, Southwark provided grants and made £2m available through the business hardship fund to save local businesses. During the current crisis, local businesses are again facing closure, this time due to unprecedented rising costs of goods and energy. Why has the council not provided the same support it did during covid for businesses now struggling in the cost of living emergency?

**19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS, BUSINESS AND TOWN CENTRES FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON**

Laundrettes provide a vital service to our most vulnerable communities, where people may lack either the space or funds to access their own washing machine. They remain a key part of our high streets and local economy but are now under threat from rising energy prices. Will the council commit to supporting Southwark's laundrettes so all residents have access to proper washing and drying facilities?

**20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS, BUSINESS AND TOWN CENTRES FROM COUNCILLOR ELLIE CUMBO**

A good start in a person's working life can shape their entire professional career and allow people to fulfil their potential. What work is the council doing to give Southwark residents access to a good quality apprenticeship?

**21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS, BUSINESS AND TOWN CENTRES FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS**

Much of the cost of living crisis is due to wage stagnation in the last 12 years. how is the council encouraging more Southwark businesses to become Living Wage employers?

**22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS, BUSINESS AND TOWN CENTRES FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD**

With the UK facing labour shortages, and people's wages being stretched further and further, it is more important now than ever that we support our residents into well paid and skilled jobs. What investment has the council undertaken to help residents gain new skills and enter high skill professions?

**23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS, BUSINESS AND TOWN CENTRES FROM COUNCILLOR NAIMA ALI**

The Conservative government has shown that their farcical trickle down economics ideology is nothing more than fantasy. It is clear that the way to growth is by investing and building a fairer, more inclusive and greener economy. What steps have the council taken to promote the green economy?

**24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS, BUSINESS AND TOWN CENTRES FROM COUNCILLOR SAM DALTON**

What steps are being taken by the council to keep wealth within the local community, and put the control and benefits of the economy in the hands of local people? What further plans does the council have to promote this community wealth building approach, and what is the council doing to work with others and influence national change, so that more economic power is transferred to local communities across the country?

**25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LEEMING**

What can the cabinet member tell us about the progress on the Land Commission?

**26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR KIMBERLY MCINTOSH**

At the October Cabinet the Local Development Scheme was agreed. How can residents use this to shape planning policy?

**27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JASON OCHERE**

Adaptation should be an important part of any Climate Emergency Strategy. What long-term plans are in place to deal with the impacts of climate change such as the extreme heat we saw over the summer, and how does our strategy compare to similar plans in other boroughs?

**28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM**

To what extent will the introduction of a Local List affect development in the borough?

**29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES, EQUALITIES AND FINANCE FROM COUNCILLOR MAGGIE BROWNING**

The Royal British Legion East Dulwich branch is a fantastic organisation in Dulwich Hill ward that does brilliant work to highlight the work of the Royal British Legion to support veterans, and is also a fantastic community asset. They were founded in 1921 and in November 2021, they celebrated their centenary year on Remembrance Sunday. Does the cabinet member agree with me that the Royal British Legion East Dulwich Branch deserves a blue plaque to commemorate their centenary year, and can they can update me on the status of their blue plaque application?

<b>Item No.</b> 5.2	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 23 November 2022	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Members' Motions	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		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 minutes<sup>1</sup>. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9)



**1. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN BATTESON (Seconded by Councillor Esme Hicks)**

**Council funding crisis: We need a general election now**

1. Council assembly notes:
  - a. Local councils and public services have faced 12 years of damaging cuts imposed by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Governments since 2010.
  - b. £142 million has already been cut from Southwark's government grant funding since 2010. This represents 63% of our central funding, which must be made up from other sources.
  - c. During that time we have taken incredibly difficult decisions to ensure we can deliver our core services to our residents.
  - d. While global factors have contributed to the inflation crisis, the Conservative government's decision, particularly the fallout from the chaotic 'mini budget', have hugely damaged the economic stability in the United Kingdom.
  - e. Paul Sculley MP's comments at the Conservative party conference suggesting there 'there was still fat to trim' regarding council budgets is disgraceful, and show how detached the Conservative Party are from the realities of delivering public services.
  - f. The new Chancellor (Jeremy Hunt at the time of writing) was a high profile cabinet member in the Conservative/Liberal Democrat government responsible for the destructive austerity programme that hugely damaged the nation's public services.
  - g. Councillor Kieron Williams wrote to the Chancellor on 21 October 2022 outlining extreme concerns over the impact of further cuts to local government funding.
2. Council assembly believes:
  - a. Ordinary working people must not be made to pay for the failed economic game playing of the chaotic Conservative Party, who are now onto their third Prime Minister in a matter of months.
  - b. The current economic crisis cannot be solved by a return to even harsher austerity measures that we saw introduced by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition governments since 2010.

- c. Further reduction in local government funding will mean that we simply cannot deliver vital services; there is nothing left to cut.
- d. Rishi Sunak has no mandate and no idea what working people need. We need a general election now so the public get a say on the future of Britain – and the chance for a fresh start with a competent and responsible Labour government in touch with the needs of working people.

3. Council assembly resolves to:

- a. Renew calls on the new Prime Minister and Chancellor to not make working people pay for the mistakes made by the government. The funding gap must be filled by progressive means.
- b. Make every effort to protect our residents and work to deliver vital services even in the face of the public spending cuts the Chancellor announced on Monday 17 November 2022.
- c. Continue to call for an immediate general election so that the country can decide its priorities.

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

2. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID WATSON (Seconded by Councillor Nick Johnson)**

**Councils for Proportional Representation**

1. Council assembly notes that:

- a. First Past the Post (FPTP) originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men.
- b. In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use archaic single-round FPTP for general elections. Meanwhile, internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries. Those countries tend to be more equal, freer and greener.
- c. PR ensures all votes count, have equal value, and those seats won match votes cast.

- d. Under PR, MPs and Parliaments better reflect the age, gender and protected characteristics of local communities and the nation.
- e. MPs better reflecting their communities leads to improved decision-making, wider participation and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.
- f. PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. PR also prevents 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.
- g. PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. So why not Westminster?

2. Council therefore resolves to:

- a. Write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for general elections.

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

3. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JASON OCHERE (Seconded by Councillor Chloe Tomlinson)**

**Free school meals for all primary school children**

1. Council assembly notes:

- a. Currently 3.9 million children in the UK – or 8 pupils in every class of 30 – are growing up trapped in poverty.
- b. Southwark Labour committed to providing Free Healthy School Meals (FHSMs) to all primary school children in Southwark in 2010 with the policy being successfully rolled out from 2011. The Labour administration have maintained this policy over the last decade and the policy was recommitted to in the 2022 Southwark Labour manifesto.
- c. In July 2019, Southwark Labour introduced Free Healthy Nursery Meals (FHNMs) for school nursery classes and maintained nursery schools. Evidence shows that the best time for setting healthy behaviours is during the early years, and we rightly recognised that FHNMs, just like FHSMs, could address food insecurity and reduce costs for parents and carers.

- d. These policies have been warmly welcomed by families the length of Southwark even before the current cost of living crisis.
  - e. We know that as the cost of living crisis spirals and more and more families reliant on food banks, FHSMs will become an even more highly valuable form of support.
  - f. Without urgent and immediate action, an additional 1.3 million adults and 500,000 children will be pushed into poverty next year.
  - g. Over eight in ten of respondents to a recent National Education Union survey told us that their students demonstrated fatigue (87%) and an inability to concentrate (81%) as a result of poverty. Almost three-quarters said their students were unable to complete homework and more than half said students had experienced hunger (57%) or ill health (55%).
  - h. By age 11, only around three quarters of children from the poorest fifth of families reach the government's expected level at Key Stage 2, compared to 97% of children from the richest fifth.
  - i. In April 2022, 7.3 million adults lived in households that said they had gone without food or could not physically get it in the past month, which includes 2.6 million children.
  - j. 800,000 pupils who are living in poverty are not receiving Free School Meals.
  - k. Last year saw the largest increase in obesity rates in both reception-aged and year 6 schoolchildren in a decade. Obesity rates amongst reception-aged and year 6 children rose by 4.5% to 14.4% and 25.5% respectively.
  - l. Rolling out Free School Meals to all children in primary school nationally would represent an £850 million investment in our children's futures.
2. Council assembly commits to:
- a. Continue to invest the quality of our Free School Meals so that every parent knows that their child will be able to enjoy a healthy meal every day they are at school.
  - b. Extend holiday meals for children on Free School Meals up until Easter 2023, in order to provide relief for families facing the worst cost of living crisis in a generation.
  - c. Write to all Southwark secondary schools, highlighting the research undertaken by the Child Poverty Action Group 'Cost of the School

Day' project and ask them whether their students eligible for Free School Meals can use their allowance at any time throughout the school day, and whether any unspent money is rolled over so that students can use this credit on the following or any subsequent day.

- d. Work with other councils across the country to lobby the government to bring in free healthy, school meals for every primary school child, as part of the current national campaign run by the National Education Union.

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

**4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN (Seconded by Councillor Adam Hood)**

**Hot Meals for Every Household**

1. Council assembly notes that:
  - a. The cost of living emergency is going to leave thousands in our borough struggling to afford to feed themselves and their families this winter.
  - b. In October, the Food Foundation released data showing that [one in four household with children \(25.8%\) have experienced food insecurity in the past month affecting an estimated 4 million children in the UK.](#)
  - c. The rising costs of energy and food will force families to choose between heating and eating.
  - d. 91% of food banks across the country have seen an increase in demand since July this year while the cost of a single food parcel has gone up by as much as £19. Food banks or community kitchens will need more support if they are to continue providing food for vulnerable people.
  - e. With a government in perpetual crisis, the council must step in wherever it can to provide hot, healthy meals for residents with radical and innovative policies.
2. Council assembly welcomes that:
  - a. Southwark has shown a commendable commitment to tackling food poverty.
  - b. During covid, the council distributed over £500,000 in emergency funding to organisations providing food to vulnerable people.

- c. In March 2022, our council unanimously committed to support the right to food campaign.
- d. Southwark offers universal free school meals for all primary school age children.
- e. In July, the council, following a campaign from the Liberal Democrat opposition, extended free school meals over the school holidays.

3. Council assembly further notes that:

- a. There is no reason we should not afford children aged 11-16, and their families, the same support we provide to primary school aged children.
- b. Southwark had a meals on wheels service which provided hot meals to vulnerable residents, but it was ended in 2015.
- c. Charities providing food for vulnerable people throughout the borough will see their costs rise. The council must take the same approach it did during covid, providing emergency financial support to ensure residents can still access these vital services.
- d. The council must, where possible, find policies that simultaneously save residents money on their energy bills and help them feed themselves and their families;
  - i. Slow cookers allow people to cook healthy meals whilst costing an average of £300 less per year than an electric oven.
  - ii. Many other councils have distributed slow cookers to vulnerable residents during covid and during the current cost of living crisis to help households cook healthy meals and save costs.

4. Council assembly resolves to:

- a. Expand universal free school meals to all secondary school pupils in Southwark.
- b. Work in partnership with Southwark schools to guarantee that free school meals will be extended over every school holiday.
- c. Identify and provide emergency funding to any organisation providing food to vulnerable people in Southwark.
- d. Restore the meals on wheels service for vulnerable residents in the borough.

- e. Work with local charities to purchase and distribute slow cookers to vulnerable residents in Southwark.

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

**5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOSEPH VAMBE (Seconded by Councillor Cassandra Brown)**

**Care leaver as a protected characteristic**

1. Council assembly notes:
  - a. Care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives;
  - b. Despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account;
  - c. Care experienced people often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system;
  - d. Care experienced people often face a postcode lottery of support;
  - e. As corporate parents, councillors have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us as an authority;
  - f. All corporate parents should commit to acting as mentors, hearing the voices of looked after children and young people, and considering their needs in any aspect of council work;
  - g. Councillors should be champions of our looked after children and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society;
  - h. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics;
  - i. In March 2021 the Independent Review into Children's Social Care began its work.
2. Council assembly believes that:

- a. Care experienced people are an oppressed group who face discrimination;
  - b. Councils have a duty to put the needs of oppressed people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration;
  - c. Services and policies should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience.
3. Council assembly resolves:
- a. To formally support the Show Us You Care Too campaign which calls for care experience to be made a protected characteristic as part of the Independent Review into Children's Social Care;
  - b. For the council to proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views;
  - c. To continue to build on the existing ring-fenced apprenticeship opportunities for care experienced people by committing to an agreed number of apprenticeships places each year delivered through the council's levy funding;
  - d. To take an intersectional approach and commit to tackling the systemic discrimination and disproportionality faced by specific groups of care experienced people.

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

**6. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR RACHEL BENTLEY (Seconded by Councillor Graham Neale)**

**Free Period Products in Southwark Council Buildings**

- 1. Council Assembly notes that:
  - a. In June 2022, a Plan International UK survey found that nearly one in four girls in London were unable to afford period products since the start of the year, which was higher than the national rate.
  - b. The charity found that girls across the country were cutting down on food and school spending in order to afford period products.
  - c. Scotland was the first country in the world to make period products free for all.



- d. Surrey County and Oxford City Council have both set up or agreed to schemes to provide free period products.
2. Council Assembly believes that:
- a. No-one should experience period poverty.
3. Council Assembly resolves to:
- a. Provide free period products in all of the council's public toilets and buildings including the town hall, libraries and community centres. This would include all female, male, disabled and gender-neutral toilets.
  - b. Where possible, provide sustainable period products for free.
  - c. Ensure there are sanitary waste bins in all of the council's toilets.
  - d. Regularly communicate to residents that free period products are available in council property.
  - e. Monitor whether state-maintained schools and education institutions in Southwark participate in the UK government's period product scheme.
  - f. Call for the UK government to make period products free and available to all who need them.

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

**7. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR SAM FOSTER (Seconded by Councillor Laura Johnson)**

**Supporting insourcing of cleaning staff at our anchor institutions including University of the Arts London (UAL)**

1. Council assembly notes:
- a. One of our Council Delivery Plan commitments is to “Deliver a major public awareness campaign to make sure Southwark residents know their rights at work and the benefits of trade union membership”
  - b. Many universities and public sector employers are now insourcing cleaners and other auxiliary staff. Keeping staff in-house is shown to be more cost-effective, representing better value for tax-payer money and providing better forms of employment to workers.

- c. UAL is a valuable part of our community. Ranked as second in the world for art and design, the University provides world-class creative education and enriches students, residents, visitors, businesses, and local stakeholders with public exhibitions and local partnerships.
- d. UAL currently outsources its cleaning contract and the UAL cleaning staff are currently engaged in an ongoing industrial dispute with UAL about this, including a pending strike ballot for an all-out strike.
- e. Some of the benefits of a directly employed workforce include:
  - Sick pay and pension
  - Trade Union recognition
  - Protection against dismissal, harassment and unsafe working conditions.
  - Equalities relating to race, sex and nationality.

2. Council assembly believes:

- a. Insourcing can help create more careers and jobs within Southwark's big employers for local residents, including in our council, NHS, big businesses and universities
- b. The benefits of insourcing include commitments to the wellbeing and prosperity of all of an organisations staff, including the eradication of discrimination and inequality among the workforce.
- c. Many universities and public sector employers are now insourcing cleaners and other auxiliary staff. Keeping staff in-house is shown to be more cost-effective, representing better value for tax-payer money and providing better forms of employment to workers engaged in notoriously unregulated sectors such as commercial facilities management.
- d. Insourcing should always be the first consideration when procuring services and services should always be insourced where it is possible to do so.

3. Council assembly resolves:

- a. To encourage the President and Vice-Chancellor of UAL to directly employ cleaners currently outsourced on the same terms and conditions as other staff
- b. To support the aims of UAL: End Outsourcing and the unions representing outsourced cleaners
- c. To support and campaign for an end to outsourcing of staff at anchor institutions and public bodies within the borough

- d. To ask the Council's Cabinet to continue the successful work the council has been taking forward to bring council services back in house, publicly reporting progress every year.

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

**8. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BETHAN ROBERTS (Seconded by Councillor Jane Salmon)**

**The Home Office and the unacceptable backlog of visa cases**

1. Council assembly notes:
  - a. The unacceptable backlog of Home Office visa cases where people living in this country are kept in a state of limbo for years at a time, unable to work and move on with their lives.
  - b. For example, the case of a Rotherhithe resident who is being threatened with deportation after more than eleven years in London, and being hailed locally as a 'lockdown hero' for his extensive work ensuring vulnerable people had access to food during the pandemic.
  - c. The dreadful No Recourse to Public Funds policy, which prevents those affected by the policy from working or claiming support as needed, often leading to poverty and destitution
  - d. The maladministration of the Home Office under Suella Braverman, and her predecessor Priti Patel, which continues to cause misery to thousands of people under the government's inhumane hostile environment policy.
2. Council assembly resolves:
  - a. To call on the government to resolve the unacceptable backlog of visa cases, including that of local residents.
  - b. To call on the government to immediately end the dreadful No Resource to Public Funds policy, so that those affected by this policy in Southwark and across the country are able to work and claim support as required.
  - c. To oppose the hostile environment policies and to campaign for a general election now, so that the Home Office can be brought under control of a new government with human rights and humane policies at its core.

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

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Member Motions	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team <a href="mailto:Constitutional.Team@southwark.gov.uk">Constitutional.Team@southwark.gov.uk</a>

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services
<b>Report Author</b>	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer
<b>Version</b>	Final
<b>Dated</b>	4 November 2022

<b>Item No.</b> 6.1	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 23 November 2022	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Waiver of six month councillor attendance rule – Section 85 of Local Government Act 1972	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Monitoring Officer	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, council assembly approves Councillor Helen Dennis’ non-attendance at meetings until 1 April 2023 on the grounds of parental responsibility (maternity leave).

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The extension would not prevent Councillor Dennis from returning to meetings at any time, but would give flexibility and prevent further recourse to the council before the end of the extension period.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Councillor Dennis last attended a meeting on 14 June 2022 when she was present at a Cabinet meeting. She has been on maternity leave from 20 July 2022 and wishes to remain on maternity leave for 35 weeks, which is a period up to 22 March 2023. 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.
6. 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 December 2022. Councillor Dennis is on maternity leave and will not

able to attend this council assembly meeting scheduled for Wednesday 23 November 2022 and so a report has been submitted to approve an extension of the usual six moth rule.

7. Councillor Dennis' ward and constituency casework is and would continue to be co-ordinated by her ward colleagues.
8. Councillor Dennis' cabinet portfolio 'the Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development' is currently covered by Councillor James McAsh. The intention is for this or a similar arrangement to continue.
9. Councillor Dennis' special responsibility allowance has been assessed in accordance with the maternity leave arrangements in the council's member allowances scheme within the constitution.

#### **Policy framework implications**

10. None in the context of this report.

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

##### **Community impact statement**

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

##### **Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement**

12. 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**

13. None in the context of this report.

##### **Climate change implications**

14. None in the context of this report.

##### **Resource Implications**

15. None in the context of this report.

##### **Consultation**

16. None in the context of this report.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

##### **Director of Law and Governance**

17. 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: <a href="mailto:constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk">constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk</a>

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
<b>Report Author</b>	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	3 November 2022	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Incorporated in report
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	3 November 2022	

<b>Item No.</b> 6.2	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 23 November 2022	<b>Committee:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Re-appointment of independent persons	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Director of Law and Governance	

### RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly approves the re-appointment of the independent persons named in the closed report for the periods stated.

### 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 committee or its sub-committees, who are responsible for determining the outcome of any complaints and remedial action. The independent person will therefore be required to attend relevant committee meetings as and when they are called.
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 two independent persons. They were appointed by the council assembly at its meeting on 28 November 2018 for a period of 4 years. These appointments will continue until 30 November 2022.



7. One of these appointees is willing to stand for a further period of three years. The other wishes to stand down but is willing to continue for a further 4 months whilst the council makes arrangements for additional appointments.
8. The monitoring officer is currently conducting a recruitment process with a view to the council making additional appointments in February 2023. Members of the audit governance and standards committee have been appointed to an interview panel to assist in this process.
9. 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**

10. 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**

11. 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.

#### **Health impact statement**

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

#### **Climate change implications**

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

#### **Resource implications**

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

#### **Legal implications**

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

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Council Assembly previous report and decision: 28/11/2018	Constitutional Team, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Chidilim Agada 020 7525 7225

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Director of Law and Governance	
<b>Report Author</b>	Allan Wells, Specialist Governance Lawyer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	25.10.2022	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Incorporated in report
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	25 October 2022	

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MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/23**

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

<b>ONE COPY TO ALL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED</b>	Copies	To	Copies
<p><b>Councillors</b> (1 each) Councillor Jasmine Ali Councillor Sunil Chopra Councillor Renata Hamvas Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall Councillor Darren Merrill Councillor Leo Pollak Councillor Sandra Rhule Councillor Martin Seaton Councillor Andy Simmons Councillor Cleo Soanes Councillor Kath Whittam Councillor Kieron Williams</p> <p><b>Electronic Versions (No hard copy)</b> All other councillors</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Press</b></p> <p>Southwark News South London Press</p> <p><b>Group Offices</b></p> <p>Jack Beddoe, Labour Group Office Pavle Popovic, Liberal Democrat Group Office</p> <p><b>Officers</b></p> <p>Althea Loderick Duncan Whitfield Doreen Forrester-Brown Chidilim Agada Caroline Bruce David Quirke-Thornton Michael Scorer Sangeeta Leahy</p> <p><b>Constitutional Team</b></p> <p>(Copies to Virginia Wynn-Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hub 2, Tooley Street)</p> <p><b>Others</b></p> <p>Matt Dean, Grant Thornton Ground floor audit office, Tooley Street</p> <p><b>Total:</b></p> <p><b>Last updated:</b> July 2022</p>	<p>by email by email</p> <p>by email by email</p> <p>by email by email by email by email by email by email</p> <p>8</p> <p>by email</p> <p><b>20</b></p>