

# Council Assembly

## Budget and council tax setting meeting

Wednesday 22 February 2023

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.

#### **Babysitting/Carers allowances**

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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: 10 February 2023



# Council Assembly

## Budget and council tax setting meeting

Wednesday 22 February 2023  
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.</b>	<b>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.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>	1 - 21
	To approve as a correct record the open minutes of the council assembly meeting held on 23 November 2022.	

**2. REPORTS FOR DECISION FROM THE CABINET**

**2.1. POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2023-24 - REVENUE BUDGET**

To follow

**2.2. SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX 2023-24**

To follow

**2.3. CAPITAL STRATEGY AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023-24**

To follow

**3. 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**



## Council Assembly (Ordinary meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary meeting) held on Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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### PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2022-23, Councillor Sunil Chopra (Chair)

Councillor Evelyn Akoto	Councillor Alice Macdonald
Councillor Jasmine Ali	Councillor James McAsh
Councillor John Batteson	Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Rachel Bentley	Councillor Kimberly McIntosh
Councillor Cassandra Brown	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Maggie Browning	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Victor Chamberlain	Councillor Portia Mwangangye
Councillor Stephanie Cryan	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Ellie Cumbo	Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Sam Dalton	Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE	Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Esme Dobson	Councillor Reginald Popoola
Councillor Sabina Emmanuel	Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Natasha Ennin	Councillor Bethan Roberts
Councillor Sam Foster	Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Ketzia Harper	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Jon Hartley	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Esme Hicks	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Emily Hickson	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Adam Hood	Councillor Emily Tester
Councillor Laura Johnson	Councillor Chloe Tomlinson
Councillor Nick Johnson	Councillor Joseph Vambe
Councillor Sarah King	Councillor Irina Von Wiese
Councillor Sunny Lambe	Councillor David Watson
Councillor Richard Leeming	Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Maria Lincorth-Hall	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Richard Livingstone	

## 1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

### 1.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Suzanne Abachor, Naima Ali, Helen Dennis (on maternity leave), Gavin Edwards, Barrie Hargrove, Cleo Soanes, and Kieron Williams.

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

The Mayor announced that the Council wished to express our sadness at the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, and the meeting took a minute's silence in her memory.

The Mayor then welcomed His Majesty King Charles III, and wished him a successful reign.

The Mayor announced the Spectacular Commonwealth Ball on 18 November 2022, which was a great success.

Councillor Jasmine Ali, deputy leader and cabinet member for children, young people, education and refugees, announced that Ofsted has given Children's Services a Good grade.

### 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
19:00 – 19:10	<b>1. Preliminary business and announcements</b>
19.10 – 19.20	<b>2.2 Public question</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shade Abdul</li> </ul>
19:20 – 20:20  (20 minutes – 4 minutes' speech)	<b>Themed debate</b>
	<b>3.1 Community Evidence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Akinkunmi Mojeed Raji</li> <li>• Ina Negoita, Chair, Homeowners' Forum</li> <li>• Alicia Kennedy, Generation Rent</li> <li>• Tim Clark, Citizens' Advice Southwark</li> </ul>
	<b>3.2 Motion on the Theme</b>
(7 minutes)	1. Councillor Darren Merrill, Council Homes and Homelessness, and Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, Community Safety
(5 minutes)	2. Councillor Emily Tester, Deputy Leader of the Opposition
	3. Themed debate open to all other councillors

(25 minutes) (3 minutes)	4. Cabinet member's right of reply to the debate
<b>20:20 – 20:45</b> (5 minutes' speech, question to the cabinet; no questions from members)	<b>4. Deputation requests</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotherhithe Residents say #LetVimalStay (Vimal Pandya)</li> <li>• Community land trust homes (Scylla Road Community Land Trust)</li> <li>• Food aid organisations in Southwark</li> </ul>
<b>20:45 – 21:20</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>21:20 – 22:00</b>	<b>5.2 Motions</b>
	Motion 1 – Council funding crisis: We need a general election now
	Motion 4 – Hot Meals for Every Household
	Motion 3 – Free school meals for all primary school children
	Motion 2 – Councils for Proportional Representation
	Motion 5 – Care leaver as a protected characteristic
	Motion 6 – Free Period Products in Southwark Council Buildings
	Motion 7 – Supporting insourcing of cleaning staff at our anchor institutions including University of the Arts London (UAL)
	Motion 8 – The Home Office and the unacceptable backlog of visa cases
<b>22:00*</b>	<b>6. Reports</b>
	6.1 Waiver of six month rule
	6.2 Re-appointment of independent persons
	6.3 Treasury Management - Outturn 2021-22 and Mid-year Update 2022-23

\* 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 1.3 – Notification of any items of business the Mayor deems urgent**

To accept item 6.3 Treasury Management - Outturn 2021-22 and Mid-year Update 2022-23 as late and urgent.

**Item 3 - Themed debate**

**Community Evidence Submissions**

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

- Akinkunmi Mojeed Raji
- Ina Negoita, Chair, Homeowners' Forum
- Alicia Kennedy, Generation Rent
- Tim Clark, Citizens' Advice Southwark

### **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:

- Rotherhithe Residents say #LetVimalStay (Vimal Pandya)
- Community land trust homes (Scylla Road Community Land Trust)
- Food aid organisations in Southwark

(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.

To vary the order of motions to hear Motion 4 – Hot Meals for Every Household in the place of Motion 2 – Councils for Proportional Representation and vice versa.

## **1.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

Councillor Laura Johnson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Motion 3 and Motion 4, as she works for the National Education Union.

Councillor Natasha Ennin declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Motion 3, as she works for Citizens' Advice Southwark.

## **1.5 MINUTES**

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of council assembly held on 13 July 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

*(See page 1 of supplemental agenda 2 and additional papers circulated at the meeting)*

There was one question from the public, the answer to which had been circulated before the meeting. The public questioner asked one supplemental question.

## 3. THEMED DEBATE

### 3.1 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

The meeting agreed to receive submissions from the following:

#### **Akinkunmi Mojeed Raji**

The representative spoke to the meeting for four minutes. The cabinet member for council homes and homelessness thanked the representative.

#### **Homeowners' Forum**

The representative spoke to the meeting for four minutes. The cabinet member for council homes and homelessness thanked the representative.

#### **Generation Rent**

The representative spoke to the meeting for four minutes. The cabinet member for council homes and homelessness thanked the representative.

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

The representative spoke to the meeting for four minutes. The cabinet member for council homes and homelessness thanked the representative.

### 3.2 MOTION ON THE THEME

Councillor Darren Merrill, cabinet member for council homes and homelessness, and Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, cabinet member for community safety, 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 Bethan Roberts, Victor Chamberlain (during whose speech Councillor Ian Wingfield made a point of order as he indicated that Cllr Chamberlain's speech was not restricted to the matter under discussion),



Cassandra Brown, Emily Hickson, Adam Hood, Leo Pollak, James McAsh, Nick Johnson, and Richard Livingstone), Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle 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:**

### **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.

- I. 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.

#### **4. DEPUTATIONS**

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

##### **Rotherhithe Residents say #LetVimalStay**

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for five minutes and thereafter asked a question of the deputy leader and cabinet member for children, young people, education and refugees.

##### **Scylla Road Community Land Trust**

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

##### **Pecan/Food aid organisations in Southwark**

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for five minutes and thereafter asked a question of the cabinet member for health and wellbeing.

#### **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 before the meeting. There were two supplemental questions.

There were 29 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated before the meeting. There were 11 supplemental questions.

##### **5.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

###### **Motion 1: Council funding crisis: We need a general election now**

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor John Batteson moved the motion. Councillor Esme Hicks seconded the motion.

There was one amendment to the motion. Councillor Graham Neale moved Amendment B. Councillor David Watson seconded Amendment B.

At this point, Councillor Victor Chamberlain moved that the question be now put and to proceed to the next business, which was seconded by Councillor Jane Salmon.

The motion that the question be now put and to proceed to the next business was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

After debate (Councillors Sam Dalton, Stephanie Cryan), John Batteson responded to the debate.

Amendment B 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. 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.

### **Motion 2: Councils for Fair Democracy**

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 as amended 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. Many people feel excluded from our Parliamentary democracy.
  - b. The 2022 Elections Act will raise significant barriers to political participation, due to the introduction of the need for 'Voter ID'. Many residents may not have a drivers licence or passport, the most commons forms of the ID required. This change to the law will disenfranchise many of our communities.
  - c. The removal of a permanent postal votes, will raise further barriers to political

participation.

- d. MPs and Parliaments should reflect the age, gender and protected characteristics of local communities and the nation.
  - e. MPs should reflect their communities, leading to improved decision making, wider participation and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.
  - f. Good Government should open up pathways to democracy, not close them down
  - g. The most recent Labour Government introduced the Devolution Act, which created regional and national assemblies to devolve powers to a more local level.
2. Council therefore resolves to:
- a. Campaign for a Labour Government that will defend democracy, including scrapping the new voter ID legislation, as this recent change in the law represents the biggest threat to democracy in the UK right now.
  - b. Campaign for a Labour Government that will explore progressive constitution reform; such as lowering the Voting age to 16, political literacy education, and potential changes to the electoral system.
  - c. Campaign for a Labour Government that will explore reforms for the House of Lords, including abolition of the Lords and the introductions of an elected second chamber.

### **Motion 3: Free school meals for all primary school children**

This motion was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

There were no amendments to the motion.

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. 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.

#### **Motion 4: Tackling food poverty**

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Victor Chamberlain moved the motion. Councillor Adam Hood seconded the motion.

There was one amendment to the motion. Councillor Sarah King moved Amendment D. Councillor Sunny Lambe seconded Amendment D.

Councillor Victoria Mills made a point of personal explanation.

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

The substantive motion as amended 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 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 continue to provide support for residents who are struggling financially, with radical and innovative policies like the council's Cost of Living Fund and Southwark Emergency Support Scheme (SESS).
  - f. Southwark Cost of Living Fund provides low-income residents with extra income support to pay for food, energy, or other essentials in the context of the Cost of Living crisis. Some vulnerable households in need of support are identified and given support from the fund automatically, others may be



referred to the fund by community partners, and from January any resident will be able to apply for help from the fund.

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, extended free school meals over the school holidays.

3. Council assembly further notes that:

- a. The council continue at pace, the work across departments, with schools, and other London local authorities to ensure children aged 11 -16 do not go hungry.
- b. Southwark had a meals on wheels service which provided hot meals to vulnerable residents, but it was ended in 2015 after 5 years of cuts of local government grant funding by the Conservative and Lib Dem Government'.
- c. Charities providing food for vulnerable people throughout the borough will see their costs rise. The council is applying the same principals it did when supporting residents during the Covid pandemic. Providing emergency financial support and advice 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. Continue to invest in quality of our Free School Meals, for all nursery and primary school children, 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 6 Day' project, and follow up the school survey, 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.
- e. Ensure housing staff and landlords are aware of when and where they can direct people for emergency financial support, for white goods or for affordable cooking appliances (such as electric hotplates, slow cookers, rice cookers and microwaves), via charities such as 'Glasspool', and other national funds, including specific funding for working professionals, that are included in Southwark's cost of living support booklet.
- g. Continue to champion the work of the Southwark Community Support Alliance, who organise foodbanks, shopping help and can link residents to help and support in the community.
- h. Provide support via Southwark Emergency Support Scheme (SESS) that help Southwark residents facing a crisis, emergency or disaster and need help. The scheme provides food vouchers, or help with bills.
- i. Support residents to access Community fridges, Pantry schemes and Age UKs Shopping help for the over 50s.

#### **Motion 5: Care leaver as a protected characteristic**

This motion was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

There were no amendments to the motion.

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. 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.

### **Motion 6: Free Period Products in Southwark Council Buildings**

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 carried.

The substantive motion as amended 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. 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. Explore the cost and practicalities of providing free period products in all of the council's public toilets and buildings including the town hall, libraries and community centres that do not already have these available. 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. Contact state-maintained schools and education institutions in Southwark asking them to participate in the UK government's period product scheme.
  - e. Call for the UK government to make period products free and available to all who need them.

**Motion 7: Supporting insourcing of cleaning staff at our anchor institutions including University of the Arts London (UAL)**

This motion was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

There were no amendments to the motion.

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. 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.

### **Motion 8: The Home Office and the unacceptable backlog of visa cases**

This motion was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

There was one amendment to the motion.

Amendment F 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. 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.

## **6. REPORTS FOR DECISION**

### **6.1 WAIVER OF SIX MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE - SECTION 85 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

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).

### **6.2 RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS**

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

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

### **6.3 TREASURY MANAGEMENT - OUTTURN 2021-22 AND MID-YEAR UPDATE 2022-23**

After debate (Councillor Stephanie Cryan), the recommendations of the report were put to the vote and declared Carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly note the 2021-22 treasury management outturn report and the 2022-23 mid-year treasury management update report and in particular;
  - the update on the Economic Background and implications for the Treasury Management Strategy in 2023-24 (para. 7-21),
  - that all treasury management activity was undertaken in compliance with the approved treasury management strategy and within the council's prudential indicators, attached at appendices A (2021-22) and

B (2022-23),

- that the balance outstanding on all external debt as at 30 September 2022 was £888m,
- That the balance of investments at 30 September 2022 stood at £198m.

## **7. AMENDMENTS**

The amendments are set out in supplemental agenda 3.

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

The decision for this item is listed in item 6.2.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**



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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

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<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>	12	<p><b>Press</b></p> <p>Southwark News South London Press</p> <p><b>Group Offices</b></p> <p>Jack Beddoe, Labour Group Office Euan Cadzow-Webb, 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> February 2023</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>