

Cabinet

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 13 June 2023 at 11.00 am at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Kieron Williams (Chair)
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Martin Seaton

1. APOLOGIES

All members were present.

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

The chair gave notice of the following late items:

Item 11: Policy and Resources Strategy: Capital Monitoring report outturn 2022-23

Item 12: Policy and Resources Strategy: Revenue Monitoring Report Outturn 2022-23 and an addendum report.

Reasons for urgency and lateness will be specified in the relevant minutes.

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

No representations were received.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENT - COUNCIL HOMES BUILT IN SOUTHWARK

The leader was pleased to announce the success of council home building in Southwark and expressed his thanks to the cabinet member for council homes, the council housing staff and to local residents/groups who have had a role to play in this success.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 7 March 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

1. Question from Linda Bird

When will council leader, Councillor Williams take action about the Lime bikes and other rental bikes and scooters which litter our roads and pavements, blocking access and creating dangerous conditions for other road users?"

Response by the Leader and Councillor James McAsh, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Clean Air and Streets

Councillors Kieron Williams and James McAsh responded to the question at the meeting, highlighting the actions being taken by the council, including working closely with Transport for London and writing to the providers of these bicycles in the borough. Additionally, action was set against the need to encourage more environmentally friendly forms of transport and accessible streets for all.

The following public questions were also received:

2. Jane Lyons

Given Sadiq Khan's recent comments about LTNs, in particular that 'they are not permanent or fixed in stone' and that 'good councils will try to ameliorate any unintended consequences', is Southwark planning to review the Dulwich LTN and remove it if the known harmful consequences cannot be ameliorated?

3. Lindsay Chathli

Can the new cabinet member for streets please confirm that, going forward, Southwark's consultations will give residents a genuine opportunity to reject the council's proposals, for instance relating to road closures and CPZs, and will in each case honour the result?

4. Clive Rates

The cabinet member for streets has recently restated Southwark's target of 100% CPZ coverage by 2024. What is the democratic mandate for this, and what assurances can he give that parking charges will not rise further, or that available parking spaces will not be reduced once CPZs are in place?

5. Alex Hamilton

Given that Southwark's objectives regarding Turney Road and the Dulwich Village junction were roundly rejected in both the recent consultation and the earlier consultations, how can Southwark justify the continuing closure of the junction at Calton Avenue - Court Lane, even to Blue Badge holders and other vulnerable road users?

6. Tristan Honeyborne

The recent consultation relating to the proposed closure of Turney Road and the Dulwich Village junction demonstrated a clear lack of support for Southwark's objectives of 'safety, community and connection'; why do you think that was, as these seem to be objectives that should attract a lot of support?

7. Jean Cary-Elwes

Why is Southwark Council ignoring residents' concerns and complaints about the dangerous state of the Dulwich Village junction where there are now no safe crossing places where there used to be three, and where cyclists ride through at speed on pavements and pedestrianised area?

8. Charles Cary-Elwes

Southwark Council marketed the Dulwich LTN as being to 'help tackle the Climate Emergency, reducing carbon emissions from vehicles in Southwark'. When will Southwark Council provide the evidence that the Dulwich LTN has reduced emissions and journey miles in the Dulwich area?

As the questioners were not in attendance, the leader confirmed that arrangements would be made for responses to be sent after the meeting.

7. DEPUTATION REQUESTS

None were received.

8. KEEPING EDUCATION STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS

Kate Wooder, executive headteacher, Snowsfields and Tower Bridge primary schools and Sarah Beard, executive headteacher of Bessemer Grange were in attendance to provide their comments.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following next steps be agreed:
 - a. That the council continues to have discussions with the schools, MATs or Diocesan bodies concerned for the following schools about reducing their published admission number (PAN):
 - i. Bessemer Grange Primary School
 - ii. Goose Green Primary School
 - iii. Grange Primary School
 - iv. Rye Oak Primary School
 - v. St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School
 - vi. St Joseph's Camberwell Catholic Infants School
 - vii. St Paul's Church of England Academy.

That it be noted, as regards changes to the published admission number of a school, these can be made by the relevant admission authority. For community schools this is the council. For other schools the council will need to discuss their proposals with the relevant admission authority. Where it is proposed to vary admission arrangements already in place, this will need the agreement of the schools adjudicator after consultation with any relevant school.

- b. That the council continues to have discussions with the schools, MATs or

Diocesan bodies about proposing a consultation on an amalgamation for the following schools:

- i. Harris Academy Free (Academy Free, PA3, Rye Lane) with Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park (Academy, PA3, Peckham)
 - ii. Comber Grove primary school with another Southwark primary school to be identified.
 - iii. St Mary Magdalene Church of England primary school with another Southwark primary school to be identified.
- c. That it be noted that statutory processes apply to any proposal to alter a maintained school. Where amalgamations are recommended that will include the closure of a maintained school any proposals will be subject to statutory consultation and publication under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, and in accordance with regulations and guidance issued under that Act.

Any decisions to close a maintained school will ultimately need to be made by the cabinet.

Decisions regarding academies will be made by the relevant academy trust in consultation with the Department for Education.

2. That the report and appendices be noted.

9. CLOSURE OF TOWNSEND PRIMARY SCHOOL

RESOLVED:

That the proposal for the closure of Townsend Primary School from 31 August 2023 be agreed.

10. SUSTAINABLE FOOD STRATEGY

RESOLVED:

1. That the sustainable food strategy as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.
2. That the actions highlighted in paragraphs 4 to 17 of the report taken to tackle food insecurity in Southwark be noted.
3. That the right to food action plan as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be approved.

**11. POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY: CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT
OUTTURN 2022-23**

It was not possible to circulate the report five clear days in advance of the meeting. The chair agreed to accept the item as urgent as the council were required to note the outturn capital position on the general fund and housing revenue account in June in order to provide necessary context to the revenue budget setting process for 2024-25 which will commence formally in July 2023. Estimates of capital expenditure in future years, and therefore potential borrowing requirements, will have an impact on revenue budgets.

RESOLVED:

1. That outturn and resources for 2022-23 and future years for both the general fund and housing investment programmes as detailed in Appendices A, B and D of the report be noted.
2. That the virements and variations to the general fund and housing investment capital programme as detailed in Appendix C of the report and the new capital bid contained within this report and summarised at Appendix E (further information at paragraphs 135 to 137 of the report) be approved.
3. That it be noted the significant funding requirement of £312m which needs to be identified for the general fund programme to be fully delivered over the remaining term of the programme, as detailed in Appendix A of the report.
4. That the borrowing requirement of at least £777m for the committed housing investment programme to be fully delivered over the remaining term of the programme, as detailed in Appendix B of the report be noted.
5. That the need to identify a further £1bn of funding to deliver the un-committed programme over the remaining term of the programme, as detailed in Appendix B of the report be noted.
6. That the significant contribution the capital programme is making towards the objectives of the council's climate change strategy (see paragraphs. 18-19, 81-83 of the report and throughout departmental narratives) be noted.

**12. POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY: REVENUE MONITORING REPORT
OUTTURN 2022-23**

It was not possible to circulate the report five clear days in advance of the meeting. The chair agreed to accept as urgent as the council were required to note the outturn revenue position on the general fund and housing revenue account in June in order to provide necessary context to the budget setting process for 2024-25,

which will commence formally in July 2023.

Additionally, an addendum report was circulated and published and contained a correction to Table 2: HRA Outturn 2022-23.

RESOLVED:

1. That the balanced general fund outturn position for 2022-23 after movements in reserves and application of planned contingency funds be noted.
2. That the key adverse variations and budget pressures underlying the outturn position be noted:
 - (i) The adverse variance of £2m on the DSG budget, bringing the accumulated deficit to £14.5m (net of Safety Valve funding received from Government)
 - (ii) Pay, energy and contractual inflation across all departments (mitigated through use of contingency and reserves)
 - (iii) The continuing budget pressures on temporary accommodation.
3. That the utilisation of £4m contingency to offset adverse variances be noted.
4. That the housing revenue account outturn for 2022-23 (Table 2 paragraphs 79-91 of the report) which is balanced following a £6.7m draw-down from reserves be noted.
5. That the movements and balances of general fund earmarked reserves as set out in paragraphs 97-106 and Appendix B of the report be noted.
6. That the interdepartmental budget movements that exceed £250k as shown in Appendix A of the report be approved.
7. That the interdepartmental general fund budget movements that are less than £250k as shown in Appendix A of the report be noted.

13. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDER FOR THE SOUTHWARK DISTRICT HEATING NETWORK (CONNECTED TO SELCHP)

RESOLVED:

1. That it be agreed to make a Local Development Order for the Southwark District Heating Network (Appendices A and B of the report).
2. That the equalities impact analysis which is in Appendix C and consultation report (Appendix D of the report) be noted.

3. That it be noted that the council has made an environmental impact assessment (EIA) screening opinion and has resolved that the Local Development Order does not comprise development, which requires EIA.

14. GATEWAY 2 - CONTRACT AWARD APPROVAL: MAIN CONTRACTOR FOR THE SCEAUX GARDENS ESTATE REDEVELOPMENT

RESOLVED:

1. That the award of the main contract for the Sceaux Gardens Estate redevelopment, to Wilmott Dixon Construction Ltd procured via the Scape Framework for a period of 160 weeks for a contract value not to exceed £47,001,717 be approved, noting this is broken down into two phases, with a break clause, for reasons set out in the financial implications at paragraphs 80-91 of the report:
 - Phase 1 delivering 58 new homes at Florian and Racine for a contract sum of £34,840,744
 - Phase 2 delivering 21 new homes at the Marie Curie Garage Site for a contract sum not to exceed £12,160,973 .
2. That the delegation to the strategic director of housing to proceed with phase 2 (Marie Curie garages) be approved, not exercising the break clause, for a not to exceed sum of £12,160,973, if instructed by 27 November 2023, or as adjusted in accordance with the agreed uplift business cost information service (BCIS) model if not instructed by that date, subject to there being sufficient budget available and alternative funding in place.
3. That it be noted that this scheme benefits from a £100k per unit grant subsidy from the Greater London Authority (GLA), which results in a total contribution of up to £7.9m for both phases.
4. That it be notes that the strategic director for housing gave approval to utilise the Scape framework for the appointment of Wilmott Dixon Construction for the pre-services agreement (PSA) in August 2022 and demolition / enabling works in February 2023 as set out in paragraph 10 and 11 of the report.

15. GATEWAY 1 - PROCUREMENT STRATEGY APPROVAL: ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS REFURBISHMENTS AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

RESOLVED:

1. That the procurement strategy outlined in the report to undertake a tender procedure for two electrical installations refurbishment and maintenance contracts be approved:

- Contract A - Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, Walworth and Borough and Bankside at an estimated annual cost of £4.26m
- Contract B – Camberwell, Dulwich, Peckham and Nunhead at an estimated annual cost of £4.06m.

each for a period of five years from October 2024 (at an estimated combined total cost £41.6m) with the option to extend up to a further two years (in increments at the council's sole discretion subject to performance) making an estimated total contract value for both contracts of £58.24m.

2. That it be noted that the procurement strategy in the report will result in bidders being required to bid as backup to each other on their tendered rates to ensure an efficient service delivery.
3. That the development of an in-house option as detailed in paragraphs 29, 70 and 84 of the report be noted.
4. That authority be delegated to the strategic director of housing in consultation with the cabinet member to approve the gateway 2 report for the two electrical installations refurbishment and maintenance contracts for the reasons detailed in paragraph 42 of the report.

16. REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY - CARE CONTRIBUTIONS

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations of the health and social care scrutiny commission: care contributions scrutiny review report, Appendix A, as set out on page 3 of the report be noted.
2. That the recommendations from the commission be considered and that the relevant cabinet member reports to cabinet on the recommendations, as set out in the report.
3. That it be noted that overview and scrutiny procedure rule 15.3 requires cabinet to consider and provide a written response to the report within two months.
4. That it be noted that it is for cabinet to decide whether or not to accept the scrutiny commission's recommendation.

17. REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMISSION - ACCESS TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations of the health and social care scrutiny commission: access to medical appointments scrutiny review report, Appendix A of the report, as set out on page 3 – 6 of the report be noted.
2. That the recommendations from the commission be considered and that the relevant cabinet member reports back to cabinet on the relevant recommendation, as set out in the report.
3. That it be noted that overview and scrutiny procedure rule 15.3 requires cabinet to consider and provide a written response to the report within two months.

18. REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMISSION - RESIDENT PARTICIPATION FRAMEWORK

Councillor Margy Newens, chair of the environment and community engagement scrutiny commission presented the report to cabinet.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations of the environment and community engagement scrutiny commission: resident participation framework mini scrutiny review report, Appendix A, as set out on pages 6 - 8 of the report be noted.
2. That the recommendations from the commission be considered and that the relevant cabinet member reports back to cabinet on the recommendations.
3. That it be noted that overview and scrutiny procedure rule 15.3 requires cabinet to consider and provide a written response to the report within two months.
4. That it be noted that it is for cabinet to decide whether or not to accept the scrutiny commission's recommendation.

19. REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMISSION - FINANCING SOUTHWARK'S GREEN TRANSITION SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORT

Councillor Margy Newens, chair of the environment and community engagement scrutiny commission presented the report to cabinet.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations of the environment and community engagement scrutiny commission: climate finance – financing Southwark's green transition scrutiny review report, Appendix A, as set out on pages 10 -13 of the report be noted.
2. That recommendations from the commission be considered and that the relevant cabinet member reports back to cabinet on the recommendations.
3. That it be noted that overview and scrutiny procedure rule 15.3 requires cabinet to consider and provide a written response to the report within two months.
4. That it be noted that it is for cabinet to decide whether or not to accept the scrutiny commission's recommendation.

20. REPORT OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMISSION: HOUSING REPAIRS SERVICE, COUNCIL LEASEHOLDERS AND EMPTY HOMES

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations from the housing and community safety scrutiny commission arising from the scrutiny review of housing repairs service, council leaseholders and empty homes in the Borough of Southwark, paragraphs 6 to 15 of the report be noted.
2. That that the relevant cabinet member reports back to cabinet on the recommendations within two months.

21. REPORT OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMISSION: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG), HATE CRIME AND DOMESTIC ABUSE

RESOLVED:

1. That cabinet note the recommendations from the housing and community safety scrutiny commission arising from the scrutiny review violence against

women and girls, hate crime and domestic abuse, paragraphs 6 to 8 of the report.

2. That that the relevant cabinet member reports back to cabinet on the recommendations within two months.

22. REPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMISSION: REVIEW OF MITIGATING FALLING PUPIL NUMBERS IN SCHOOLS

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations from the education and local economy scrutiny commission arising from the scrutiny review mitigating falling pupil numbers in schools in the London Borough of Southwark, paragraphs 14 to 21 of the report be noted.
2. That the recommendations from the education and local economy scrutiny commission be considered and that the relevant cabinet member reports back to cabinet within two months.

23. REPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMISSION - SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS ON BUSINESSES

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations from the education and local economy scrutiny commission arising from the scrutiny review Impact of the cost-of-living crisis on businesses in the London Borough of Southwark, paragraphs 12 to 22 of the report be noted.
2. That the recommendations from the education and local economy scrutiny commission be considered and that the relevant cabinet member reports back to cabinet within two months.

24. MOTIONS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY 22 MARCH 2023

RESOLVED:

Safer Southwark Communities

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

1. This council notes:

- a. That Southwark Council thanks Baroness Casey for her independent review into the standards of behaviour and internal culture of the Metropolitan Police Service ('the Met').
- b. Southwark residents and all Londoners expect and deserve a police service they can trust, not fear, which responds to the needs of the communities it serves and is accountable to the community for the decisions it makes. The fundamental principle of policing by consent requires the Met to both earn and maintain this public trust in everything it does.
- c. We are therefore appalled by the findings of the review, including the finding of institutional racism, sexism, misogyny and homophobia in the Met and the failure to implement much needed operational, cultural and systemic change, despite numerous opportunities to do so over several decades.
- d. Our community have been let down by a longstanding failure within the Met to fully accept that policing can also attract predators and bullies. The Met needs to be alive to this very serious risk. It needs to keep them out when they try to get in, to root them out where they exist, and to guard against the corrosive effects that their actions have on trust, confidence and the fundamental Peelian principles of policing by consent.
- e. We are deeply concerned that our residents' trust and confidence in the Met has fallen even more than in other areas of London. Trust and confidence in the Met fell by 10% in Southwark in the last year alone. Less than half of Southwark residents feel the Met is doing a "good job". Our borough had the lowest number of residents in London who felt well informed about the activity of their local police. People from Black and mixed ethnic groups have the lowest trust and confidence in the Met of all racial groups.
- f. We welcome the fact that the new Met Commissioner has committed to major reform of the Met and to rebuild Londoners' confidence in their Police Service.
- g. However to rebuild trust and confidence in the police the Metropolitan Police Service must go further and must follow the full recommendations of the Casey report and work with our communities and the council in a genuine and meaningful way to deliver them.
- h. Southwark Council has written to Sir Mark Rowley, to seek a joint meeting with our basic command unit (BCU) partners, Lambeth Council, to discuss how these vital changes can best be taken forward in our two boroughs.

- i. The failures highlighted in the Casey review are overwhelmingly due to a longstanding failure of culture within the force. However, the review also highlights that government cuts to funding for the Met have exacerbated some problems, putting children and women in particular at greater risk and leading to a situation where London no longer has a functioning neighbourhood policing service.

2. This council resolves to:

- a. Send a joint letter from all Southwark councillors calling on the Met to fully implement the recommendations Baroness Casey has set out in her report
- b. Ask the Leader and Cabinet to:
 - i. Consistently and constructively challenge the Met to work with our community and especially women, Black, Asian, minority ethnic, young people and LGBTQ+ residents to restore trust and confidence in policing
 - ii. Maintain and strengthen the work of the Youth Independent Advisory Group – young people who train Met officers on the fair and respectful use of stop and search – and the work of our pilot Police Encounter Panels, who review body worn video footage.
 - iii. Build on the work of the Youth Independent Advisory Group, to create the opportunity for other groups to review and challenge policing practices constructively including work with our women and our Black, Asian, minority ethnic and LGBTQ+ communities.
 - iv. Write to the Home Secretary asking her to urgently take action to amend the law so that failing police officers can be dismissed where needed.
 - v. Work with colleagues in London Councils, as well as with our local London Assembly Member, Marina Ahmad, to challenge and support the Met to deliver these vital reforms.
- c. Request that the council's overview and scrutiny committee and housing and community safety scrutiny commission consider how they can proactively work with our community to hold the Met to account for their progress against Baroness Casey's recommendations, and use the full powers of Southwark's Overview and Scrutiny function to summon relevant senior members of the Metropolitan Police Service to give regular updates on progress made in relation to implementing the recommendations of Baroness Casey's report.

- d. Campaign with other local authorities and the Greater London Authority (GLA) to fully reverse the government's damaging police cuts.

Tackling second homes with council tax premiums

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

1. Council assembly notes that:
 - a. The UK is in the midst of a housing crisis.
 - b. As of 1 February 2023, Southwark had 17,509 residents on the housing waiting list. This is a national issue, and we as a council are determined to tackle it. Figures compiled by London Councils suggest there are currently 166,000 homeless Londoners living in temporary accommodation within the capital. Out of these, 81,000 are children, meaning one in every 23 children in London is homeless.
 - c. While thousands in our borough wait years for decent accommodation, those with means continue to buy up properties, reducing the housing supply even further and exacerbating housing inequality.
 - d. To the detriment of ordinary residents, London has become fertile ground for the development of 'investment properties' – destined to be second homes for, or left empty by, the lucky few who can afford them. In response, Cabinet approved the Southwark Empty Homes Action Plan in October 2021 to bring empty homes back into use and increase the supply of homes for homeless households in Southwark.
 - e. Our two best means to tackle the housing crisis are through our own council home delivery programme and through the planning process. Since 2010, Southwark has delivered, or started on site, 3,020 new council homes. Through the planning process, we demand at least 25% social housing in all new developments, as part of our overall commitment to 35% affordable housing, and this target has been exceeded in every quarter this year.
 - f. Southwark has one of the most clear and direct requirements for private developers, to ensure they build social rent homes, and since 2010 this had led directly to 5,024 new social rent homes being delivered or under construction in Southwark.
 - g. Investment properties contribute the housing crisis. The council welcome the work already done to encourage developers to market new homes locally first, and the work to encourage developers in signing up to the Mayor of London's initiative to offer Londoners 'first dibs' on new homes in the capital.

- h. These are important steps, and more robust legislation is needed from central government to make it easier for local authorities to ensure that house builders market locally first.
 - i. However, local authorities like Southwark cannot tackle the housing crisis alone. We need action from central government. Instead, the housing crisis has been made worse by 12 years of government failure. Notably, in 2010 the Liberal Democrat and Conservative coalition slashed funding for subsidised housing by 60%.
 - j. By contrast, the Labour Party has committed to building a “new generation of council housing.” Under a Labour government, the country would deliver more than 400,000 social homes, by building and bringing homes back into the ownership of local councils and communities.
2. Council assembly further notes that:
- a. The council currently applies the maximum allowable premium on council tax for empty homes.
 - b. Thanks to lobbying from the Labour Party and local government, councils will be granted additional powers by central government to tackle second homes.
 - c. Clauses 73 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill will allow councils to charge an additional 100% council tax premium on second homes.
 - d. These additional powers will discourage purchase of second homes and bring in additional revenue for the council.
 - e. Southwark must ensure residents now that it will use these new powers to the full effect as soon as they are implementable.
 - f. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill does not go far enough in granting new powers to local authorities. The council has been lobbying for additional powers to tackle empty homes and to simplify the existing powers to make them easier and cheaper to use, such as empty dwelling management orders (EDMO) and compulsory purchase orders (CPO).
 - g. Thanks to lobbying and campaigning from the Labour Party, there has been some movement from the government on this issue, with potential changes to the application of council tax premiums to empty but substantially furnished properties, and potentially reducing the vacant period to one year from two before a premium can be applied. The council will continue to push for these new powers as the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill progresses.

- h. Further powers are needed to tackle this issue. The government must introduce:
 - i. Simpler, swifter and more cost effective enforcement powers, such as simplifying EDMO and CPO procedures and allowing for community impact and housing need to be accepted reasons to seek enforcement actions.
 - ii. New planning powers to allow local authorities to revert property to local authority's affordable housing supply where it remains empty following completion. Current planning powers do not allow for planning consent to require homes to be occupied. If new powers are introduced the council would quickly implement these new powers.
 - iii. Greater flexibility over council tax premiums on empty homes – government should allow unlimited council tax premiums on empty homes and greater flexibility to enable local authorities to charge the premium on homes empty for less than 2 years. We will also seek further flexibilities to charge premiums on second homes and other furnished empty properties.
 - iv. Increased resources for grants and loans
 - i. The current council tax receipt revenue is all allocated into the general fund, and is assigned to spending that was agreed by the Labour group and the Liberal Democrat group of councillors at last month's budget and council tax setting Council Assembly.
3. Council assembly resolves to:
- a. Continue to charge the highest possible rates of council tax on empty homes and second homes, and continue to lobby for the inclusions of clause 73 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.
 - b. Carefully consider how best to use any additional revenue from the premium to improve the lives of Southwark residents and to tackle the housing crisis.
 - c. Lobby central government to introduce further legislation allowing councils to impose higher council tax premiums on empty and second homes.
 - d. Support the election of a Labour Government at the earliest opportunity that would tackle the housing crisis through an expansion of council houses, and has committed to building a "new generation of council housing" and tackle the housing crisis.

This council commits to being a diverse council

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

1. Council Assembly notes:
 - a. Councillors represent their community and it is important that they reflect the diversity within their communities, particularly those with protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).
 - b. Diversity in representation makes for good decision making.
 - c. The work of Baroness Debbie Wilcox of Newport and the Co-operative Party in developing a Declaration for councils aimed at increasing diversity in local government.
 - d. The council has already adopted a parental leave policy setting out members' entitlement to maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoption leave and relevant allowances.
2. This Council resolves to:
 - a. Provide a clear public commitment to improving diversity in democracy by signing up to the Co-operative Party's Diverse Councils Declaration.
 - b. Demonstrate an open and welcoming culture to all, promoting the highest standards of behaviour and conduct.
 - c. Set out a local Diverse Council Action Plan ahead of the next local elections. Including:
 - i. Encourage each political group to appoint Diversity Ambassadors to work with each other and local party associations to encourage recruitment of candidates from under-represented groups.
 - ii. Encourage and enable people from under-represented groups to stand for office through the provision of activities such as mentoring and shadowing programmes and information and learning events for people interested in standing as official candidates.
 - iii. Proactive engagement and involvement with local community groups and partner organisations supporting and representing under-represented groups

- iv. Encourage each political group to ensure that all members and candidates complete a candidates' and councillors' survey distributed at election time.
- v. Encourage each political group to set ambitious targets for candidates from under-represented groups at the next local elections.
- d. Work towards the standards for member support and development as set out in the LGA Councillor Development Charter and/or Charter Plus.
- e. Demonstrate a commitment to a duty of care for councillors by:
 - i. providing access to counselling services for all councillors having regard for the safety and wellbeing of councillors whenever they are performing their role as councillors.
 - ii. taking a zero-tolerance approach to bullying and harassment of members including through social networks.
- f. Provide flexibility in council business by:
 - i. regularly reviewing and staggering meeting times
 - ii. encouraging and supporting remote attendance at meetings, where physical attendance is not a legal requirement
 - iii. agreeing recess periods to support councillors with caring or work commitments.
- g. Encourage all members take up the allowances and salaries to which they are entitled, particularly any reimbursement for costs of care, so that all members receive fair remuneration for their work and that the role of member is not limited to those who can afford it.
- h. Ensure that councillors from under-represented groups are represented whenever possible in high profile, high influence roles.

One year on, Southwark stands with Ukraine

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

- 1. Council assembly notes that:
 - a. On 24 February 2022, Vladimir Putin commenced his illegal invasion of the sovereign state of Ukraine.

- b. Within this unprecedented humanitarian crisis, over 8,000 people have died and more than 8,000,000 have been forced to flee their country as refugees.
 - c. The whole United Kingdom, from local authorities to central government, must continue to stand in unwavering support of Ukraine and in explicit condemnation of Vladimir Putin's illegal invasion.
2. Council assembly welcomes that:
- a. One year ago, a cross-party motion expressed Southwark's support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression.
 - b. Southwark is a borough of sanctuary for refugees and has welcomed nearly 500 refugees since the invasion began
 - c. Southwark council provides tailored support to refugee's living in Southwark; providing regular welfare checks for guests, help with school places for children, registering with GPs, advice and support as needed on employment, benefits, access to housing in the PRS, opening bank account, referrals to other agencies for support where that is required including health and mental health.
 - d. Southwark Council also support refugee families with any other integration support that is needed, deal with any safeguarding issues that arise, arrange emergency financial support prior to people accessing benefits or employment, deliver support in finding new hosts or moves into other forms of accommodation where relationships with the original host do not work out. Alongside this, every individual or family has a named caseworker.
 - e. The Council is fully supporting host families in Southwark, ensuring quality accommodation and supporting families to make any changes needed, making thank you payments to hosts of £350 per month, and offering advice and support as required to hosts through the named caseworkers.
3. Council assembly further notes that:
- a. Southwark council fully supports and carefully observes the economic sanctions brought against the Russian federation following its brutal invasion of Ukraine.
4. Council assembly resolves to:
- a. Continue to support and carefully observe the economic sanctions brought against the Russian federation following its brutal invasion of

Ukraine.

2. Unilaterally condemn, on behalf of all elected members of Southwark Council, the cruel, criminal and unprovoked aggression of Vladimir Putin and Russia against Ukraine.

RSPCA: Pets as prizes

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

1. This Council:
 - a. Is concerned about the number of cases reported to the RSPCA each year, regarding pets given as prizes via fairgrounds, social media and other channels in England – and notes the issue predominantly concerns goldfish.
 - b. Is concerned for the welfare of those animals that are being given as prizes.
 - c. Recognises that many cases of pets being given as prizes may go unreported each year.
 - d. Supports a move to ban the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, in Southwark.
2. The Council agrees to:
 - a. Ban outright the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Southwark land.
 - a. Write to the UK Government, urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land.

Southwark green finance

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

1. Council assembly notes that:
 - a. The commitment to ‘launch Southwark Green Finance, to create new ways for local people and businesses to invest in making our borough net zero and expanding community energy’ was a key commitment in the recent Southwark Labour manifesto. Southwark Green Finance can be a vital part in tackling the climate emergency.

- b. The council's delivery plan sets out a timeline to scope out this project and consider different options, including climate bonds.
 - c. The Environment and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission is also considering climate finance this year and will issue recommendations to the council in coming months, based on evidence and testimonials from leading experts.
 - d. Southwark Council must prioritise tackling the climate emergency, dedicating sufficient funding and investment in positive policies that reduce emissions, improve air quality and promote biodiversity protection in Southwark and across the globe.
 - e. The Southwark Citizen's Jury on Climate showed us all the pivotal role the local community can and must take in the council's climate strategy.
 - f. 'Southwark Green Finance' can further engage residents in Southwark's approach to tackling the climate emergency.
 - g. Schemes like 'Southwark Green Finance' will allow residents, from Southwark or elsewhere, to invest their money in specific income generating projects that benefit the local community and have a positive climate impact.
 - h. Investors can choose to give back the interest on their investments to fund smaller, non-income generating projects such as wildflower meadows.
 - i. Our climate change agenda across the whole council is hugely ambitious and we are spending many millions of pounds across every part of the council to tackle the climate emergency. Climate action bonds may play a role in raising the capital for the project, but it is worth noting that a 1 million pound fund would represent a relatively small part of the funding needed to tackle climate change.
2. Council assembly further notes that:
- a. The UK's first Community Municipal Investment in West Berkshire raised £1m which was used in part to fund solar panel installation on public buildings.
 - b. Neighbouring Labour Council Lewisham has just launched a Climate Action Bond, aiming to raise £1m for local climate initiatives.
 - c. Labour-run councils Islington, Camden and local authorities around the UK have funded similar projects through launching Community Municipal Investment using the 'Abundance Investment' platform.

3. Council assembly resolves to:
 - a. Launch 'Southwark Green Finance' in the next financial year, as a means to use community investment to tackle climate change.
 - b. Determine which projects would bring the most benefit to each local community and reduce the most carbon emissions, ensuring decision making is both guided by science and informed by resident consultation via multi-ward forums, Southwark 2030 events and events such as the recent Southwark Climate Day.
 - c. Reinvest any returned interest in socially and environmentally positive schemes around Southwark.
 - d. Support the election of a Labour Government, at the earliest opportunity that would make Britain a clean energy superpower to create jobs, cut bills and boost energy security with zero-carbon electricity by 2030, accelerating to net zero.

25. NOMINATIONS TO PANELS, FORUMS AND BOARDS FOR 2023-24

RESOLVED:

That the allocation of places to panels, boards and forums set out in Appendix A of the report be agreed as follows:

Joint Partnership Panel (Trade Union consultation)

Cllr Kieron Williams
Cllr Stephanie Cryan

Homeowners Service Charge Arbitration Tribunal

Cllr Charlie Smith
Cllr Renata Hamvas
Cllr Sunny Lambe
Cllr Sandra Rhule
Cllr Margy Newens
Cllr Kath Whittam
Cllr Sabina Emmanuel
Cllr Suzanne Abachor
Cllr Maria Linforth-Hall
Cllr Jane Salmon

Tenancy and Leaseholder Arbitration Tribunal

Cllr Charlie Smith

Cllr Renata Hamvas
Cllr Sunny Lambe
Cllr Sandra Rhule
Cllr Margy Newens
Cllr Kath Whittam
Cllr Sabina Emmanuel
Cllr Suzanne Abachor
Cllr Maria Linforth-Hall
Cllr Jane Salmon

Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board

Cllr Evelyn Akoto
Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE

Southwark Safeguarding Children's Board

Cllr Jasmine Ali

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Cllr Laura Johnson
Cllr Maggie Browning
Cllr Margy Newens
Cllr Graham Neale

Southwark Tenant Management Organisation Committee

Cllr Darren Merrill (cabinet member)
Cllr Barrie Hargrove
Cllr Esme Hicks
Cllr Jane Salmon

26. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2023-24

RESOLVED:

That appointments to the outside bodies listed in Appendix A of the report for the 2023-24 municipal year be agreed as follows:

Better Bankside Board

Councillor Helen Dennis

Blue Bermondsey BID Board

Cllr Martin Seaton

Board of Southwark College Corporation

Cllr Martin Seaton

Browning Estate Management Association

Cllr Martin Seaton

Canada Water Consultative Forum

Cllr Helen Dennis
Cllr Kath Whittam
Cllr Bethan Roberts
Cllr Jane Salmon

Capital Letters (Boroughs' Representative Body (BRB))

Cllr Darren Merrill

Central London Forward

Cllr Kieron Williams

Centre London Forward (Employment and Skills Board)

Cllr Martin Seaton

Centre for Literacy in Primary Education

Cllr Jasmine Ali

Cross River Board

Cllr Helen Dennis

Crystal Palace Community Development Trust

Cllr Catherine Rose

Greencoats Studios (UAL, Wilson Road Steering Group)

Cllr Sabina Emmanuel
Cllr Natasha Ennin

Groundwork London, Local Authority Strategic Input Authority

Cllr Catherine Rose

Guys and St Thomas NHS Foundation (Council of Governors)

Cllr Emily Hickson

Kings College Hospital NHS (Council of Governors)

Cllr Renata Hamvas

London Bridge Improvement District BID

Cllr Martin Seaton

London Road Safety Council (LRSC)

Cllr James McAsh
Cllr Richard Livingstone

London Youth Games Limited

Cllr Catherine Rose
Cllr Jasmine Ali (deputy)

Millwall for All

Cllr Sunny Lambe

Mountview

Cllr Portia Mwangangye

Newable Limited (formerly Greater London Enterprise Limited)

Cllr Martin Seaton

North Southwark Environment Trust

Cllr Naima Ali

Oru Space (20 – 22 Lordship Lane) Steering Group

Cllr James McAsh
Cllr Charlie Smith

Peckham Levels Steering Group

Cllr Reggie Popoola
Cllr Chloe Tomlinson

Peckham Palms Steering Group

Cllr Sabina Emmanuel

Potters Fields Park Management Trust

Cllr Martin Seaton

Caroline Bruce, strategic director, environment, neighbourhoods and growth

Plastic Free East Dulwich

Cllr Charlie Smith

Shared ICT Services Joint Committee

Cllr Stephanie Cryan

Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE

South Bank and Waterloo Partnership (previously South Bank Partnership)

Cllr Martin Seaton

Cllr David Watson

Cllr Irina Von Wiese

Cllr Victor Chamberlain

South Bank Business Improvement District Ltd

Cllr Martin Seaton

Cllr Irina Von Wiese

South Bermondsey Big Local Partnership Steering Group

Cllr Richard Livingstone

Cllr Sunny Lambe

South London Gallery Trustee Limited

Cllr Richard Leeming

Cllr Reggie Popoola

Cllr Cleo Soanes

South London and Maudsley (SLaM) NHS Trust Members Council

Cllr Suzanne Abachor

Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee (SLAEC)

Cllr Richard Leeming
Mr Bob Skelly (deputy)

Southwark Construction Skills Centre (“the Centre”)

Cllr Martin Seaton

Safer Neighbourhood Board (Southwark)

Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE

WeAreWaterloo BID (Business Improvement District)

Cllr Victor Chamberlain

Walworth Group

Cllr Natasha Ennin

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

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

27. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the closed section of the meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

28. GATEWAY 2 - CONTRACT AWARD APPROVAL: MAIN CONTRACTOR FOR THE SCEAUX GARDENS ESTATE REDEVELOPMENT

The cabinet considered the closed information relating to this item. Please see item 14 for the decision.

The meeting ended at 1.15pm

CHAIR:

DATED:

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE 2023.

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