



Council Assembly (Annual and Mayor Making meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Annual and Mayor Making meeting) held on Saturday 17 May 2025 at 11.00 am at Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London SE1 9DA

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for ,

Councillor Suzanne Abachor
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor John Batteson
Councillor Rachel Bentley
Councillor Cassandra Brown
Councillor Maggie Browning
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Sunil Chopra
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Ellie Cumbo
Councillor Sam Dalton
Councillor Mohamed Deen
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Esme Dobson
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Sabina Emmanuel
Councillor Sam Foster
Councillor Renata Hamvas
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Ketzia Harper
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor Esme Hicks
Councillor Emily Hickson
Councillor Laura Johnson
Councillor Nick Johnson
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Sunny Lambe

Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Portia Mwangangye
Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Reginald Popoola
Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Bethan Roberts
Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Emily Tester
Councillor Joseph Vambe
Councillor Irina Von Wiese
Councillor David Watson
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR

The Mayor of Southwark, Councillor Naima Ali, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Mayor announced that the leaders of each political group wished to make a statement.

Thereafter, Councillors Kieron Williams and Victor Chamberlain paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor.

The Mayor asked for nominations for Mayor for the ensuing municipal year 2025-26.

Councillor Kieron Williams, seconded by Councillor Cassandra Brown, moved that Councillor Sunny Lambe be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Southwark for the municipal year 2025-26.

The nomination was put to the vote and it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Sunny Lambe be elected Mayor for the 2025-26 municipal year.

Councillor Sunny Lambe accepted the office of Mayor. The clerk declared that Councillor Sunny Lambe was duly elected Mayor of Southwark for 2025-26.

The new Mayor signed the declaration of acceptance of office and took the chair.

The new Mayor stated that he appointed his wife, Jean Galley-Lambe, as his Mayoress.

The new Mayor appointed Councillor Sabina Emmanuel as Deputy Mayor.

The new Mayor gave his incoming speech and announced that his chosen charities would be Bizzie Bodies CIC and United Hearts CIC. He will be also working to promote the 'Kings College Hospital Wellbeing Initiative'.

2. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

2.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Jasmine Ali, Natasha Ennin, Youcef Hassaine, Adam Hood, Richard Leeming, David Parton and Jane Salmon.

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

2.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

2.5 MINUTES

The minutes of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of council assembly on 19 March 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

3. REPORTS

3.1 EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS 2025-26

1. That council assembly received a report from the leader on the following executive issues for the coming municipal year 2025-26:
 - Noted the appointment by the leader of cabinet members
 - Noted the appointment of deputy cabinet members
 - Noted the establishment and appointment of any cabinet committees
 - Noted the leader's report on the delegation of executive functions to the full cabinet, cabinet committees, individual cabinet members, chief officers and other delegations.

Appointment of the cabinet

2. That the leader reported to council assembly on the appointment of members of the cabinet and determination of their executive functions:

Cabinet Portfolio	Cabinet Member
Leader of the council	Councillor Kieron Williams
Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Refugees	Councillor Jasmine Ali
Health & Wellbeing	Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Climate Emergency, Jobs & Business	Councillor John Batteson
Equalities, Democracy & Finance	Councillor Stephanie Cryan
New Homes & Sustainable Development	Councillor Helen Dennis
Community Safety & Neighbourhoods	Councillor Natasha Ennin
Council Homes	Councillor Sarah King
Clean Air, Streets & Waste	Councillor James McAsh
Leisure, Parks & Young People	Councillor Portia Mwangangye

3. That the leader reported to council assembly on the appointment of deputy cabinet members and determination of their duties and responsibilities.

Deputy cabinet portfolio	Deputy cabinet member
Supported Housing	Councillor Sam Dalton

A Cleaner Southwark	Councillor Margy Newens
Landlord Services	Reginald Popoola
Neighbourhoods	Councillor Joseph Vambe

4. That the leader reported on the establishment of the cabinet committees:
 - Cabinet (Livesey Trust) Committee
 - Better Placed Joint Committee
 - Joint IT Committee (Brent, Lewisham and Southwark).
5. ***That the leader reported on the delegation of executive functions between full cabinet, individual decision makers, chief officers and any other delegations.***
6. ***That council assembly noted the leader's report on any changes to the delegation of executive functions to the full cabinet, cabinet committees, individual cabinet members, chief officers and any other delegations.***
7. ***That council assembly noted that as a consequence of recommendation 6, the proper constitutional officer will update Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the leader's report on the delegation of executive functions.***

3.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES, PANELS, AND RELATED MATTERS 2025-26

The nominations for chairs and vice chairs of committees and the nominations to the Local Government Association General Assembly were circulated.

There were five contested positions.

The position of chair of overview and scrutiny committee was put to the vote, and it was agreed that Councillor Ian Wingfield be appointed chair of overview and scrutiny committee.

The position of vice chair of planning (major applications) committee A was put to the vote, and it was agreed that Councillor Kath Whittam be appointed vice chair of planning committee A.

The position of vice chair of planning (major applications) committee B was put to the vote, and it was agreed that Councillor Kath Whittam be appointed vice chair of planning committee B.

The position of neighbourhood champion for North-west multi-ward area was put to the vote, and it was agreed that Councillor Emily Hickson be appointed neighbourhood champion for North-east multi-ward area.

The position of neighbourhood champion for North-east multi-ward area was put to the vote, and it was agreed that Councillor Bethan Roberts be appointed neighbourhood champion for North-east multi-ward area.

The substantive motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly noted the appointment of political group leaders, deputies and whips.

LABOUR GROUP

Leader	Councillor Kieron Williams
Deputy Leader	Councillor Jasmine Ali
Chief Whip	Councillor Maggie Browning

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP

Leader	Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Deputy Leader	Councillor Rachel Bentley
Chief Whip	Councillor David Watson

2. That council assembly noted the political balance of the council as follows:

Group	Members	%
Labour	52	82.54
Liberal Democrat	11	17.46
Total	63	100.00

3. That council assembly noted that there is no change to proportionality and the allocation of seats on committees and panels as agreed by council assembly on 22 May 2024.
4. That council assembly established the following committees for the coming municipal year 2025-26.

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
Committee 1: Appointments Committee	7	6	1
Committee 2: Planning Committee (Major Applications) A	7	6	1
Committee 3: Planning Committee (Major Applications) B	7	6	1
Planning Committee (Smaller Applications)	7	5	2
Committee 4: Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	7	6	1
Committee 5: Corporate Parenting Committee	7	6	1

Total	42	35	7
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Table 3: Other committees - Total number of seats 26

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11	9	2
Licensing Committee	15	12	3
Total	26	21	5

Table 4: Neighborhood areas (formerly Multi-ward areas)

1.	Borough and London Bridge
2.	Bermondsey
3.	Rotherhithe
4.	Walworth
5.	Old Kent Road
6.	Camberwell
7.	Peckham
8.	Nunhead and Peckham Rye
9.	East Dulwich
10.	Dulwich

Note: The composition of neighborhood areas is set out in Article 8 of the constitution (see paragraph 41 of the report).

5. That the health and wellbeing board be established as a committee of the council under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 with the membership set out in paragraph 39 of the report.
6. That it be noted that the leader of the council nominates the local authority membership. In accordance with committee procedure rules, the leader chairs the board unless he or she nominates another member to chair the board. The cabinet member for health and wellbeing currently chairs the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Appointment of chairs and vice chairs

7. That council assembly appointed chairs and vice chairs for the following committees:

Committees

- Appointments committee
Chair: Councillor Kieron Williams
Vice-chair:

- Planning (major applications) committee A
Chair: Councillor Richard Livingstone
Vice-chair: Councillor Kath Whittam
- Planning (major applications) committee B
Chair: Councillor Richard Livingstone
Vice-chair: Councillor Kath Whittam
- Planning small applications committee
Chair: Councillor Cleo Soanes
Vice-chair: Councillor Jane Salmon
- Audit, governance and standards committee
Chair: Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Vice-chair: Councillor Nick Johnson
- Corporate parenting committee
Chair: Councillor Jasmine Ali
- Overview and scrutiny committee
Chair: Councillor Ian Wingfield
Vice-chair: Councillor Irina von Wiese
- Licensing committee
Chair: Councillor Renata Hamvas
Vice-chair: Councillor Jane Salmon

Note:

All outstanding appointments are referred to the first meeting of the respective committees in the 2025-26 municipal year.

Appointment of neighbourhood champions

8. That council assembly appointed neighbourhood champions for the following neighbourhood areas:

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHAMPIONS

	Councillor	Neighbourhood area
1.	Emily Hickson	North-west
2.	Bethan Roberts	North-east
3.	Dora Dixon-Fyle	West-central
4.	Michael Situ	East-central
5.	Andy Simmons	South

9. That council assembly established the following council panels (see

paragraph 52 of the report):

Table 5: Panels - Total number of seats 16

Panel	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
Council assembly business panel	4	3	1
Constitutional steering panel	4	3	1
Pensions advisory panel	3	2	1
Voluntary bodies appointments panel	5	4	1
Total	16	12	4

Note: This table is based on the panels established in 2024-25.

Appointments of chair to constitutional steering panel and voluntary bodies appointments panel

10. That council assembly appointed a chair to the following panels:

- Constitutional steering panel: Councillor Maggie Browning
- Voluntary bodies appointments panel: Councillor Stephanie Cryan

Urgency committee

11. That the role of the urgency committee between a municipal election and the annual meeting of council assembly, as agreed by council assembly on 26 March 2014, be noted as set out in paragraphs 54 and 55 of the report.

Appointments to Local Government Association (LGA) General Assembly

12. That council assembly appointed three representatives and allocated the seven votes to representatives to attend the LGA General Assembly (see paragraphs 56 and 57 of the report).

Councillor Kieron Williams	3
Councillor Jasmine Ali	3
Councillor Victor Chamberlain	1

Other appointments to joint committees/outside bodies

13. That council assembly noted the cabinet and other committees will make appointments to all other outside committees and bodies for the municipal year 2025-26 as required by part 3Q of the constitution.

3.3 NOMINATIONS TO LONDON COUNCILS COMMITTEES, GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM, BOROUGH LEAD MEMBERS, LONDON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS) COMMON INVESTMENT VEHICLE (CIV) LTD AND LONDON COUNCILS LIMITED 2025-26

1. LONDON COUNCILS LEADERS' COMMITTEE (S101 JOINT COMMITTEE)

Note: Council Assembly may only nominate cabinet members as representatives or deputies to this joint committee.

1 representative and up to 2 deputies

Labour nomination Councillor Kieron Williams

Deputies

Labour nominations Councillor Jasmine Ali

2. LONDON COUNCILS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (S101 ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE)

Note: Council Assembly may only nominate cabinet members as representatives or deputies to this joint committee.

1 representative and up to 4 deputies

Labour nomination Councillor Kieron Williams

Deputies

Labour nominations -

3. LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE (ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE)

Note: Council Assembly may only nominate cabinet members as representatives or deputies to this joint committee

1 representative and up to 4 deputies

Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan

Deputies

Labour nominations -

4. GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM

1 representative and 1 deputy

Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan

Deputy

Labour nomination -

5. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ARTS/CULTURE, TOURISM, SPORT AND LEISURE

Labour nomination Councillor Portia Mwangangye

6. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – COMMUNITIES/ ASYLUM AND LICENSING

Labour nomination Councillor Jasmine Ali

7. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE/SAFEGUARDING, SCHOOLS, EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

Labour nomination Councillor Jasmine Ali

8. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CRIME AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

Labour nomination Councillor Natasha Ennin

9. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/BUSINESS

Labour nomination Councillor John Batteson

10. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan

11. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INCLUDING ADULT SERVICES

Labour nomination Councillor Evelyn Akoto

12. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HOUSING AND REGENERATION

Labour nomination Councillor Helen Dennis

13. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – PLANNING/ INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT LICENSING

Labour nomination Councillor Helen Dennis

14. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

Labour nomination Councillor John Batteson

15. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES/CLIMATE CHANGE, FLOODING

Labour nomination Councillor John Batteson

16. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – DIGITAL AND INNOVATION

Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan

17. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – DEVOLUTION

Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan

18. LONDON COUNCILS LIMITED

1 representative

Labour nomination Councillor Kieron Williams

3.4 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

The report was deemed to be formally moved. After debate (Councillor Ian Wingfield, Councillor Irina von Wiese), it was put to the vote and

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly noted the scrutiny activity for the 2024-25 municipal year as detailed in paragraphs 7 - 46 of the report.

4. AMENDMENTS

There were none.

The meeting closed at 1.00 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: