

Council Assembly

Annual and Mayor Making meeting

Saturday 17 May 2025

11.00 am

Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London SE1 9DA

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

Althea Loderick
Chief Executive

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information

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Contact

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Date: 9 May 2025



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Annual and Mayor Making meeting

Saturday 17 May 2025
11.00 am
Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London SE1 9DA

Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
1.	ELECTION OF THE MAYOR	
	PART A - OPEN BUSINESS	
2.	PRELIMINARY BUSINESS	
	2.1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
	2.2. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE	
	To receive any announcements from the Mayor, members of the cabinet or the chief executive.	
	2.3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT	
	In special circumstances an item of business may be added to an agenda within seven working days of the meeting.	
	2.4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS	
	Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
	2.5. MINUTES	1 - 23
	To approve as a correct record the open minutes of the ordinary and extraordinary council assembly meetings held on 19 March 2025.	

Item No.	Title	Page No.
3.	REPORTS	
3.1.	EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS 2025-26	24 - 29
3.2.	ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES, PANELS, AND RELATED MATTERS 2025-26	30 - 43
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	44 - 47
3.4.	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25	To follow

4. 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

Date: 9 May 2025



Council Assembly (Ordinary meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary meeting) held on Wednesday 19 March 2025 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2024-25, Councillor Naima Ali (Chair)

Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor John Batteson
Councillor Rachel Bentley
Councillor Cassandra Brown
Councillor Maggie Browning
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Sunil Chopra
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Sam Dalton
Councillor Mohamed Deen
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Esme Dobson
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Sabina Emmanuel
Councillor Renata Hamvas
Councillor Esme Hicks
Councillor Emily Hickson
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 David Parton
Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Reginald Popoola
Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Bethan Roberts
Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Emily Tester
Councillor Joseph Vambe
Councillor Irina Von Wiese
Councillor David Watson
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Suzanne Abachor, Ellie Cumbo, Natasha Ennin, Sam Foster, Barrie Hargrove, Ketzia Harper, Jon Hartley, Youcef Hassaine, Adam Hood, Laura Johnson, and Richard Leeming.

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

Announcements were made by Councillor Evelyn Akoto, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, about new funding; by Councillor Kieron Williams, encouraging council assembly to support the “Back the Bakerloo” project, and to welcome William Hougbo to the meeting; and by Madam Mayor Councillor Naima Ali to welcome Deputy Mayor Councillor Sunny Lambe to the dais.

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 were agreed as follows:

Time	Business
19:00 – 19:05	1. Preliminary business and announcements
19:05 – 19:10	2.2 Public questions One public question
19:10 – 20:10 (20 minutes – 4 minutes’ speech) (7 minutes) (5 minutes) (25 minutes) (3 minutes)	Themed debate 3.1 Community Evidence - TailTies - Trevor Austin - Leona Ross - Latin Elephant 3.2 Motion on the Theme - Portia Mwangangye, leisure, parks and young people - Councillor Rachel Bentley, opposition spokesperson - Themed debate open to all other councillors - Cabinet member’s right of reply to the debate
20:10 – 20:15	Recess
20:15 – 20:25	4. Deputations SHAPE (Southwark Housing and Planning Emergency)

20:25 – 21:00 (5 minutes) (15 minutes) (15 minutes)	5.1 Members' Question Time • Late questions • Members' questions to the leader • Members' questions to the cabinet
21:00 – 22:00	5.2 Motions
	Motion 1 – Scrap the Two Child Cap
	Motion 2 – Extension of the Franchise
	Motion 3 – A Fair Deal for Southwark's Carers
	Motion 4 – A National Care Service for England
22:00*	6. Reports
	6.1 Constitutional changes: Neighbourhoods programme
	6.2 Pay Policy Statement 2025-26
	6.3 Member Allowances Scheme 2025-2026 and adjustment of member allowances in line with the national local government officer pay settlement
	6.4 Special Urgency and Urgent Implementation Decisions – Annual Report 2025
	6.5 The Gambling Act 2005 – renewal of the Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy 2025-2028
	6.6 Calendar of meetings 2025-26

* subject to the guillotine rule; maximum 15 minutes debate per item.

Note: Any time left remaining on any item will be rolled into the next items.

That the meeting be conducted as follows:

Item 3 - Themed debate

Community Evidence Submissions

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

- TailTies
- Trevor Austin
- Leona Ross
- Latin Elephant

Format

A four minute presentation from the groups.

3.1 Motion on the theme

Themed debate

To run as listed in the timings above.

Item 5.2 General motions:

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

Movers and seconders:

To update the movers and seconders of the following motions and amendments:

Motion 3 – A Fair Deal for Southwark’s Carers:**Moved: Nick Johnson**

Seconded: Maria Linforth-Hall

Amendment D:

Moved: David Watson

Seconded: Maria Linforth-Hall**Amendment F:****Moved: Jane Salmon**

Seconded: Graham Neale

Alteration of motions and amendments**Amendment C:**

To amend Amendment C under CAPR 1.14.15:

To replace "Delete sections 3-5" with "Delete sections 3-7."

1.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Gavin Edwards made a disclosable pecuniary interest in Motions 3 and 4, as he works for UNISON. He left the room for these motions.

Councillor Victoria Mills made a disclosable pecuniary interest in Motions 3 and 4, as her partner works for UNISON. She left the room for these motions.

1.5 MINUTES

The minutes of the ordinary and extraordinary council assembly meetings held on 26 February 2025 were approved as a correct record.

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

No petitions were received for this meeting.

2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

One public question was received. There was one supplemental question.

3. THEMED DEBATE

3.1 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

The meeting agreed to receive submissions from the following:

TailTies

The representatives spoke to the meeting for four minutes.

Trevor Austin

The representative spoke to the meeting for four minutes.

Leona Ross

The representative was not present for the meeting.

Latin Elephant

The representative spoke to the meeting for four minutes.

3.2 MOTION ON THE THEME

Councillor Portia Mwangangye, cabinet member for leisure, parks, and young people, presented the motion in the themed debate.

Councillor Rachel Bentley, the opposition spokesperson, responded to the motion and proposed Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Michael Situ, Bethan Roberts, Jane Salmon, Sunil Chopra, James McAsh, Victor Chamberlain, Evelyn Akoto, Reginald Popoola, Ian Wingfield, David Parton, Kieron Williams) Councillor Portia Mwangangye 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:

Creating healthy green and leisure spaces for the whole community

1. Council Assembly believes:

a. In order to create good lives for the whole community, we must ensure

that our leisure spaces and green spaces are as healthy as they can be. This includes parks and green spaces, leisure centres and sports facilities, playgrounds, libraries and biodiversity corridors.

2. Council Assembly agrees:

- a. That fourteen years of cuts to local government by Conservative and Liberal Democrat governments has made it harder for councils across the country to deliver high quality, healthy green and leisure spaces.
- b. That despite this context, Southwark's Labour administration has excelled in delivering for our borough's residents, establishing Labour as the only party able to deliver a greener and healthier Southwark, including:
 - i. The hugely successful in-sourcing of Southwark's leisure centres, providing a Free Swim and Gym offer for all Southwark residents, opening Southwark's first open-water swimming facility and decarbonising leisure centres across the borough.
 - ii. Achieving 30 Green Flag Awards including Burgess Park, Peckham Rye Park and Warwick Park on Rye Lane, the opening of a brand new park at Elephant Park and completing Southwark Labour's manifesto commitment to be the first inner London borough to have over 100,000 trees.
 - iii. Expanding Southwark's network of community gardens, with 21 community gardens and over 250 growing plots established since 2021 and adopting Incredible Edible's Right to Grow.
 - iv. This administration's investment in playgrounds, including the opening of the newly refurbished Ellen Brown Adventure Playground in South Bermondsey and Fredrick Playground in Newington.
 - v. The opening of two new libraries on the Aylesbury and Kingswood estates, despite austerity forcing councils to close local libraries across the country.

3. Council Assembly also welcomes:

- a. Improvements made to our much-loved green spaces including Cossall Park, Burgess Park and Victory Park, refurbishments to 19 council-managed tennis courts across the borough and support provided for residents to set up community gardens across Southwark.
- b. Revamping sports facilities and expanding activities, including St Paul's

Sports Ground, Burgess Park Sports Centre and Southwark Park Sports and Athletics Centre, as well as £1.3 million paid or committed to local sports clubs and organisations.

- c. The £8 million upgrade of our leisure centres and £2 million spent on refurbishing our gyms, including cleaner facilities and upgraded changing rooms and the state of the art e-gyms at Peckham Pulse and Camberwell Green leisure centres.
 - d. This administration's continued work with residents and local councillors in Nunhead & Queen's Road in making Nunhead Green and Brayards Community Garden thriving community spaces for all ages.
 - e. The opening of health kiosks at Camberwell, Una Marson, Canada Water and Dulwich libraries, used by over 14,000 uses since they were installed.
 - f. The raising of over £1 million for nature projects through the Community Investment Scheme and renewed focus on biodiversity following the recommendations of our Citizens' Jury on Climate Change, with the £500,000 Southwark Biodiversity Fund.
4. Council Assembly asks that Cabinet:
- a. Continue to deliver an ambitious programme of investing in and expanding our parks and green spaces, by bringing forward a new Green Spaces Plan to:
 - i. Deliver major improvements to our parks and green spaces across the borough, including Bramcote, Elephant, and Guy's parks, and creating more parkland and Dr Harold Moody and Consort Parks in Rye Lane.
 - ii. Work with local people to create more opportunities to be involved in planting and establish an action plan for Right to Grow, mapping new opportunities for community gardens and potential growing spaces.
 - iii. Support Southwark's thriving arts and culture sector through events held in parks across our borough.
 - iv. Continue to make our parks and green spaces safer by tackling crime and antisocial behaviour, strengthen community initiatives around safety in our parks and co designing plans to make our parks safe.
 - b. Continues to invest in leisure and sports facilities and activities for children and young people across our borough, including:

- i. Delivering a brand new, state of the art leisure centre at Canada Water in Rotherhithe.
 - ii. Improving outdoor gyms and sports facilities, so they enable more people to have better health and wellbeing and help to reduce health inequalities, including through major upgrades to Marlborough Gardens, Burgess Park and Brimington Park sports centres.
 - iii. Continuing to deliver a free and low-cost holiday food and fun programme for the children who need it most, so every child can access positive activities and be well fed during school holidays.
 - iv. Provide high quality and targeted leisure provision to improve accessibility and improve health.
- c. Continues to deliver fantastic play facilities for our children and young people, including:
 - i. A major revamp of Alexis St Park.
 - ii. Upgrade playgrounds across the borough so wherever you live you have a local high quality, inclusive and fun playground, including:
 - I. Upgrading Peckham Rye Park Adventure Playground and Dulwich Village playground.
 - II. Upgrading playgrounds on our housing estates, including at the Kirby Estate, Rye Hill Estate and Bells & Lindley.
- d. Expands the fantastic offer in our libraries, including:
 - i. New health kiosks, building on their success to date and finding new opportunities to open health kiosks in other local libraries in Southwark, seeking opportunities to use our library spaces to offer wellbeing services.
 - ii. Upgrades to Dulwich and Brandon libraries, a second Library of Things to help residents reduce bills on household tools and cut carbon emissions and investment in green space around Nunhead Library.
- e. Continue to deliver a community-led approach to boosting biodiversity, including:
 - i. Boosting biodiversity, including work at Moreton Gate nature garden,

Burgess Park habitat restoration and Belair Wood meadow, and delivering on the recommendations of the Land Commission to deliver a network of biodiversity corridors.

- ii. Ensuring neighbourhoods across the borough benefit from more tree canopy cover and working with local people to create more nature sites, woodlands and urban planting.

4. DEPUTATIONS

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

Southwark Housing and Planning Emergency (SHAPE)

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

5. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

5.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

The leader of the opposition asked a late question. There was one supplemental question.

There were 24 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated before the meeting. There were 18 supplemental questions.

5.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion 1: Scrap the Two Child Cap

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Victor Chamberlain moved the motion. Councillor Rachel Bentley seconded the motion.

There was one amendment to the motion. Councillor Jasmine Ali moved Amendment B. Councillor Cleo Soanes seconded Amendment B. After debate (Councillors Catherine Rose, Emily Tester, Irina von Wiese) Councillor Victor Chamberlain responded to the debate.

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

The amended 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 dire impact of austerity on children and families in Southwark and across the country instigated by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition, undoing all of the work of the previous Labour Government that lifted 2 million children out of poverty
- b. The £22 billion black hole in the national finances inherited by the government and the responsible handling of the economy since Labour were elected in 2024.
- c. The Labour Party's commitment to tackling child poverty, including the upcoming Child Poverty Strategy.
- d. The Free Breakfast Clubs pilot rolled out by the government, already benefitting two schools in Southwark and set to give every child in the country a healthy breakfast when fully rolled out.
- e. The additional 3,000 nurseries with 100,000 places committed in Labour's 2024 manifesto.
- f. Labour's New Deal for Working People and uplift to the living wage, set to benefit working people across our borough and have a material impact on child poverty.
- g. The government's plan for 100,000 urgent child dental appointments and major new supervised toothbrushing programme, helping children have the best start in life.
- h. The commitment of the Mayor of London to fund free healthy school meals for primary school children across London.

2. Council Assembly further notes:

- a. The work of Southwark's Labour administration to support children and families in our borough and help alleviate poverty, including:
 - i. Over £53million of cost of living support provided to thousands of families.
 - ii. The most comprehensive free healthy school meals offer for children in the country, which has improved reading skills, reduced childhood obesity and increased financial support to households.
 - iii. Free healthy school meals during the holidays.
 - iv. Holiday food and fun programmes.
 - v. Support for low income families with school uniform costs.
 - vi. Help with energy costs and free advice on reducing bills.
- b. This administration's submission to the Child Poverty Taskforce, which outlined the impacts of child poverty in Southwark and describing the work we are doing with partners to ameliorate its affects.
- c. This administration's continued work with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and other government ministers in finding and working through long

term solutions to child poverty.

- d. The council's work with the Living Wage Foundation to lift Southwark residents out of poverty pay, which so far has benefitted over 7,000 working people in the borough.

3. Council Assembly resolves to:

- a. Ask that the council continue to provide support to children and families in Southwark, putting money back in our residents' pockets wherever possible. This includes:
 - i. Continuing providing free healthy school meals for Southwark children.
 - ii. Continuing to provide holiday school meals.
 - iii. Continuing the council's Holiday Food and Fun schemes for families in the school holidays.
 - iv. Continue with a cash first approach to our cost of living support.
 - v. Continue to expand the number of registered Living Wage employers in the borough to lift residents out of poverty pay.
- b. Support the government in the establishment of the Child Poverty Strategy, providing expertise on the pressures facing families in Southwark and working to end child poverty in this country.

Motion 2: Extension of the Franchise

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Sam Dalton moved the motion. Councillor Joseph Vambe seconded the motion.

There were no amendments to the motion. After debate (Councillors Maria Linforth-Hall, Charlie Smith, Maggie Browning, Irina von Wiese, Jasmine Ali) Councillor Sam Dalton responded to the debate.

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. Southwark have given a welcome and a home to migrant communities across the ages, from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. Our culture, cuisine, community, and spirit have been enriched a thousandfold by citizens and families from all over the world. In 2024 we were recognised by the wonderful Charity City of Sanctuary as a Borough of Sanctuary for welcoming, supporting opportunities to our sisters and brothers from overseas.
- b. The Elections Act is a major piece of national legislation with local implications for the residents of this local authority, including the use of mandatory photographic voter ID at the polling station, changes to overseas voting and voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens.

- c. According to the 2021 census, [one in six usual residents of England and Wales were born outside the UK](#). They live, work, study, make use of public services, and call the UK their home. Many foreign-born residents of this local authority from EU and Commonwealth countries can vote in our local elections. However, over 1 million residents across England and Northern Ireland do not have a right to vote.
 - d. Scotland and Wales implemented residence-based voting rights where all residents with lawful immigration status have the right to vote in local and devolved national elections.
 - e. According to a poll by Opinium Research, over [50% of people agree that every resident, no matter where they are from, should have the right to vote at least in local elections](#).
2. Council Assembly welcomes:
- a. That all our residents, no matter their nationality, call this local authority their home and bring significant value to our area.
 - b. That the voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens with pre-settled and settled status who entered the UK before 2021 will be maintained through the Elections Act.
 - c. That [15 local authorities across England have passed motions asking for the right to vote to be extended to all residents in local elections](#).
3. Council Assembly expresses concern that:
- a. EU citizens who enter the UK from the 1st of January 2021 and are not covered by bilateral voting rights treaties (currently only active with Poland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain, and Denmark) will lose voting and candidacy rights in local elections when the Elections Act is fully implemented. This will create an unequal situation where some EU citizens will have the right to vote where others will not.
 - b. The complexity in voting eligibility will cause confusion and will reduce voter turnout in local elections amongst migrant voters, a group already under-registered compared to British voters.
 - c. This is particularly pertinent in Southwark, where more than 40% of our residents were born outside of the UK – over 121,000 people.
 - d. Furthermore, a burden will be placed on Local Authorities managing the removal of a significant number of EU citizens from the electoral register. This may result in some being wrongfully removed from the electoral register.
4. The Council commits to:
- a. Request that the relevant cabinet member writes to the Minister of State at the

Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the relevant shadow frontbencher requesting that the franchise for local elections be extended to all qualifying foreign nationals in England and Northern Ireland in line with eligibility criteria in Scotland and Wales. This would ensure a UK-wide and fair approach to voting rights so that all our residents, who are also our council taxpayers, are enfranchised.

- b. Delivering a training to councillors and relevant officers on the changes brought by the Elections Act so that residents can be accurately informed about their voting rights.
- c. Work collaboratively with voluntary sector organisations in our local authority to reach residents about voter eligibility rules and how to vote.
- d. Ensure council officers have a strategy in place to ensure that the implementation of the Elections Act, including the removal of some EU citizens from the register, does not wrongfully remove eligible voters from the register.
- e. Continue promoting voter registration and photo ID requirements to residents at citizenship ceremonies, events, and other communication channels.

At this point, Councillors Gavin Edwards and Victoria Mills left, as they have disclosable pecuniary interests in Motions 3 and 4 (see Declarations of Interests).

Motion 3: A Fair Deal for Southwark's Carers

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Nick Johnson moved the motion. Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall seconded the motion.

The guillotine fell at this point.

There were two amendments to the motion.

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

The amended 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 Carers Trust estimates that there are at least one million young carers aged 17 and under in the UK and over 600,000 young adult carers between the ages of 18 and 25.
- b. In Southwark, 407 young carers are supported by the council, but the true number of young carers in the area is likely to be far higher.

- c. Young carers miss an average of 23 school days per year and young adult carers are four times more likely to drop out of college or university.
- d. Caring responsibilities can affect young carers' readiness to engage fully in school life, adding barriers to punctuality, their capacity to complete homework, and their ability to focus and participate effectively in lessons.

2. Council Assembly further notes:

- a. That the NHS and social care system face multiple crises of access, staff retention, long waiting times, missed targets and poor outcomes as a direct result of 14 years of cuts from Conservative and Liberal Democrat governments.
- b. That people across Southwark are struggling to access health and care services, and that much of the strain on the NHS is caused by a dire lack of funding and support for social care inherited from the Conservative government.
- c. the Labour government has initiated and is actively working on holding cross-party talks to achieve meaningful social care reform, recognising the positive vision for social care in Southwark and nationally.
- d. That difficulty accessing services increases pressure on acute care such as Accident & Emergency (A&E) as well as undermining overall population health
- e. That the new Labour government struck a fair pay deal with doctors and nurses within months of running the country.
- f. That the Labour government has also already met its target of 2 million new NHS appointments, after just 8 months in office.
- g. The Labour government has set out immediate investment and reforms to improve adult social care and support the workforce, including helping to keep older people out of hospital and living at home independently for longer, and improved technology and data sharing between NHS and social care.
- h. That Baroness Louise Casey is chairing an independent commission into adult social care to build a national consensus around a new national care service able to meet the needs of older and disabled people into the 21st century.
- i. That the Southwark Labour administration has shown leadership in investing in the care workforce – paying the London Living Wage, Travel time, Enhancements for unsocial Hours, Occupational Sick Pay and much more to staff that are employed by local services who are signed up to Southwark's Ethical Care Charter and the more recently Southwark's Residential Care Charter.
- j. The positive efforts by Southwark's health partners to increase GP access, with Southwark GPs conducting an additional 23,971 appointments in Q3 2024/25 compared to Q3 2023/24, reflecting a 6.5% increase. Efforts to

promote the NHS App in Southwark have also led to a significant rise in registrations from 5.4% in January 2024 to 60.1% by January 2025.

3. Council Assembly welcomes:

- a. The government's plans for reforming the NHS and building an integrated health service, with health and social care services delivered locally and in coordination with one another.
- b. The great work in Southwark to bring together key partners from Health, VCS and Council to collectively design and implement plans to improve health and care services for Southwark residents and patients through partnership Southwark and Health and Wellbeing Board.
- c. The Council's collaboration with partners continues to facilitate timely discharges from hospitals, enabling residents to return home. This involves commissioning community-based reablement services in partnership with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust and a home care agency, as well as bed-based reablement services at the Avon Unit located within Waterside Care Home.
- d. The Council's commitment to enhancing support for carers by redesigning services and embedding them in the Health and Wellbeing Board's strategy. We value unpaid carers for their role in keeping residents safe and well and aim to support their health.
- e. The commitment made in the Labour Party's 2024 general election manifesto to "undertake a programme of reform to create a National Care Service, underpinned by national standards, delivering consistency of care across the country".
- f. This Labour-run council's 'Health on the High Street' programme, bringing vital services into local areas for our residents to access.

4. Council Assembly therefore pledges its support for a National Care Service, with health and social care delivered locally, and encourages the new government to carry out this reform.

Motion 4: A National Care Service for England

This motion was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

There was one amendment to the motion.

Amendment D was put to the vote and declared to be 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. This council believes adult social care should enable people to live the life they want

to live.

2. But despite the previous government's commitment to "fix social care", buck-passing and intransigence by the previous national government has broken this vital public service.
3. The problems in social care are particularly evident in the workforce. Many care staff are paid minimum wage or less for a difficult and skilled job. Some domiciliary care employees do not get paid for their travel time between care visits, while care workers are paid significantly less than the minimum wage for overnight sleep-in shifts. Most care workers do not even have access to an adequate occupational sick pay scheme, which means they lose significant sums in wages when they are unwell or need to self-isolate. Meanwhile, this country has been shamed by the exploitation of many migrant care staff, who are forced to work excessive hours or pay huge amounts for their training or equipment.
4. Figures from Skills for Care show there are 131,000 vacancies in the care sector, one of the highest rates in the entire economy. Workforce shortages; poor pay and conditions; and a lack of national direction on social care mean too many people cannot access the care they need.
5. But there is hope. This council notes the campaign by UNISON, the lead trade union in social care, for a National Care Service (NCS) in England, for a service which will:
 - a. improve the quality of care for everyone who needs it.
 - b. support independent living and take a 'home first' approach which enables people to recover outside hospital and care homes with the right help.
 - c. promote public sector and non-profit delivery of care services.
 - d. have national partnership working, bringing together employers, unions, and government in a national partnership.
 - e. implement a Fair Pay Agreement in adult social care.
6. This council also welcomes the commitment made in the Labour Party's 2024 general election manifesto to "undertake a programme of reform to create a National Care Service, underpinned by national standards, delivering consistency of care across the country".
7. This council acknowledges the commendable efforts made in the borough to invest in the workforce through the implementation of both the Ethical and Residential Care Charter, inspired by UNISON's charter. These charters are designed to enhance care standards for vulnerable residents and improve working conditions for care workers. By offering the London Living Wage, compensating travel time, providing occupational sick pay, and remunerating staff for training hours, the borough has effectively attracted and retained staff, resulting in relatively low vacancy and turnover rates.

8. This council further notes that the Fabian Society has published a comprehensive plan for building a NCS in England, with empowered local authorities at its core, called *Support Guaranteed: The Roadmap to a National Care Service*. The report states: "Councils should remain in charge [of social care]. But our firm view is that more nationwide rights, standards and functions are needed for local government to fulfil its adult social care mission
9. This council believes that building a NCS can also help drive wider economic growth. The 2023 Future Social Care Coalition report *Carenomics* demonstrates the contribution that social care makes to the UK economy, with the sector generating in England alone £51.5 billion in gross value added to the economy.
10. This council pledges its support for a NCS and encourages the new government to carry out this reform.

6. OTHER REPORTS

6.1 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES: NEIGHBOURHOODS PROGRAMME

Councillor Gavin Edwards returned to the meeting at this point.

There was one amendment to this report. Amendment E was moved by Councillor Emily Tester. Amendment E was seconded by Councillor David Watson.

After debate, (Councillors Joseph Vambe, Kieron Williams) Amendment E was put to the vote and declared Lost.

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council Assembly agreed the proposal to replace the current community champions and multi ward area geography with 10 neighbourhood areas.
2. That Council Assembly approved the creation of five neighbourhoods champions.
3. That Council Assembly noted that the proposed changes will require changes to Article 8 and Part 3H of the Constitution and any other consequential constitutional changes.
4. That Council Assembly noted that executive functions for the Neighbourhood Fund, Cleaner, Greener, Safer, and Devolved Highways funding will sit with Neighbourhood Community meeting.
5. That Council Assembly noted that wards are still able to discuss and meet on issues that affect them and that this proposal retains the opportunity for

residents to present funding proposals for their local area.

6.2 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2025-26

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly agreed the annual pay policy statement at Appendix A of the report.

6.3 MEMBER ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2025-2026 AND ADJUSTMENT OF MEMBER ALLOWANCES IN LINE WITH THE NATIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICER PAY SETTLEMENT

There was one amendment to this report. Amendment F was moved by Councillor Jane Salmon. Amendment F was seconded by Councillor Graham Neale.

After debate, (Councillors Stephanie Cryan, Gavin Edwards) Amendment F was put to the vote and declared Lost.

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly approved with immediate effect the adjustment of member allowances in line with the national local government officer pay settlement and allowances for officers as detailed in paragraphs 20 to 23 of the report.
2. That council assembly approved, with effect from 1 April 2025, the member allowances scheme for 2025-2026 as detailed in paragraphs 20 to 29 and Appendix 2 of the report, having had regard to the advice of the London Councils Independent Remuneration Panel Report 2023, published January 2024 (see Appendix 1 of the report).

6.4 SPECIAL URGENCY AND URGENT IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS - ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly noted the schedule of special urgency and urgent implementation decisions (set out in Appendix 1 of the report) taken in accordance with access to information procedure rules 19 and 20.

6.5 THE GAMBLING ACT 2005 - RENEWAL OF THE STATEMENT OF GAMBLING LICENSING POLICY 2025-2028

After debate (Councillor Renata Hamvas), the recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly agreed to the publication of the Southwark Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy for 2025-2028 (Appendix A of the report) from 24 March 2024.

6.6 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2025-26

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly agreed the following dates for meetings of council assembly be fixed in the council calendar for the 2025-26 municipal year:

Council Assembly	Type of Meeting
Saturday 17 May 2025	Mayor Making/Annual meeting
Wednesday 9 July 2025	Ordinary meeting
Wednesday 12 November 2025	Ordinary meeting
Wednesday 25 February 2026	Budget and council tax setting meeting
Wednesday 18 March 2026	Ordinary meeting
Wednesday 20 May 2026	Mayor Making/Annual meeting

2. That council assembly noted the agreement in May 2023 for the date of the annual/mayor making meeting for 2027 as set out below:
 - Saturday 15 May 2027 11am
3. That council assembly noted the calendar of council meetings for the 2025-26 municipal year as shown at Appendix 1 of the report.

7. AMENDMENTS

The amendments were listed in supplemental agenda no. 1.

The meeting closed at 10.25 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:



Council Assembly (Extraordinary meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Extraordinary meeting) held on Wednesday 19 March 2025 at 10.20pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2024-25, Councillor Naima Ali (Chair)

Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor John Batteson
Councillor Rachel Bentley
Councillor Cassandra Brown
Councillor Maggie Browning
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Sunil Chopra
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Sam Dalton
Councillor Mohamed Deen
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Esme Dobson
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Sabina Emmanuel
Councillor Renata Hamvas
Councillor Esme Hicks
Councillor Emily Hickson
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 Portia Mwangangye
Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor David Parton
Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Reginald Popoola
Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Bethan Roberts
Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Emily Tester
Councillor Joseph Vambe
Councillor Irina Von Wiese
Councillor David Watson
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies have been received from Councillors Suzanne Abachor, Ellie Cumbo, Natasha Ennin, Sam Foster, Barrie Hargrove, Ketzia Harper, Jon Hartley, Youcef Hassaine, Adam Hood, Laura Johnson, Richard Leeming, and Victoria Mills.

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

There were no announcements.

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

The mayor agreed to accept the updated closed report for item 2.2, Freedoms of the Borough 2025, in supplemental agenda no. 1 as late and urgent.

1.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

2. OTHER REPORTS

2.1 FREEDOMS OF THE BOROUGH 2025

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly considered and agreed the nominations for the award of Freedom of the Borough as set out in closed supplemental agenda no. 1.

2.2 FREEDOMS OF THE BOROUGH 2025

The decision for this item is set out in item 2.1.

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly (Annual Meeting)
Date:	17 May 2025
Report title:	Executive Functions 2025-26
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not Applicable
From:	Proper Constitutional Officer

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Appointment of the cabinet

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

- Note:
1. The leader will report on appointments to the cabinet and on individual portfolios.
 2. The leader can appoint between two and nine members to form a cabinet.
 3. The leader must appoint a deputy leader.

Appointment of deputy cabinet members

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

- Note:
- The leader will report on any changes to deputy cabinet members and on individual responsibility for specific tasks designated by the leader, following consultation with the monitoring officer.

Establishment and appointment of cabinet committees

4. That the leader reports on the establishment of any cabinet committees.

Note:

1. The leader to establish any cabinet committees, set terms of reference and nominate cabinet members to serve on the committees, including appointing a chair and vice-chair.
2. There are three cabinet committees: Cabinet (Livesey Trust) Committee, Better Placed Joint Committee and Joint IT Committee (Brent, Lewisham and Southwark).

Delegation of executive functions

5. That the leader reports on the delegation of executive functions between full cabinet, individual decision makers, chief officers and any other delegations.
6. That council assembly notes 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 notes 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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

8. The constitution is updated as and when changes are required. The recommendations in this report are based on the current constitution.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Leader and cabinet

9. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 required the council to make changes to its governance and decision making arrangements. At an extraordinary meeting of council assembly on 4 November 2009, the council agreed that the current executive leader and cabinet model be adopted. The new arrangements commenced immediately after the elections in May 2010.
10. Under the executive "leader and cabinet" model, there is a leader of the council and a cabinet of at least two but no more than nine other councillors. The leader is responsible for all executive functions and decides which of these functions are going to be delegated to other cabinet members, local committees or council officers. The cabinet is appointed by the leader.
11. Councillor Kieron Williams was first elected as leader of the council, by council assembly on 16 September 2020. On 21 May 2022, council assembly re-elected Councillor Williams as leader of the council and his term of office

commenced from that date and shall end at the start of the first annual meeting of the council following the next ordinary election¹.

Report of the leader of the council and delegation of executive functions

12. Each year the elected leader must appoint their cabinet. In accordance with the constitution, this can consist of a minimum of two and up to a maximum of nine nominated members, whose portfolios are determined and allocated by the leader. The leader must appoint a deputy leader.
13. The leader will be invited to report on the delegation of executive functions, appoint a deputy leader and appoint other cabinet members and determine their portfolios.
14. The leader will report on any further delegations including:
 - The extent of any authority delegated to cabinet members individually, including details of the limitation on their authority
 - The terms of reference and membership of any cabinet committees
 - The nature and extent of any delegation of executive functions, any other authority or joint arrangement
 - The nature and extent of any delegation to officers with details of any limitation on that delegation.
15. The leader may also decide to delegate executive functions to the health and wellbeing board. During the year the leader may vary the executive scheme of delegation by giving notice to the monitoring officer. A variation may be permanent or relate to a particular decision.

Deputy cabinet members

16. The leader will also report on the appointment of any deputy cabinet members and determine their roles. Deputy cabinet members may hold responsibility for specific tasks designated by the leader, in consultation with the monitoring officer. Deputy cabinet members cannot take part in any formal decision making.
17. The role description and parameters of deputy cabinet members is attached as Appendix 1.

Role of council assembly

18. Following receipt of the leader's report, council assembly will note as a consequence that the proper constitutional officer will update Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the leader's report on the delegation of executive functions.

¹ Article 6.3 of the Constitution

Appointments to panels, boards and forums

19. The cabinet will consider appointments to panels, boards and forums where the function falls within the responsibility of the executive (e.g. housing, education, social services, regeneration, etc.).

Policy framework implications

20. This report is not considered to have direct policy implications.

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

21. There are no specific impacts on the community from this process.

Climate change implications

22. There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

Legal implications

23. There are no specific legal implications.

Financial implications

24. There are no direct resource implications in the context of this report.

Consultation

25. There are no specific consultation requirements arising from this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Appointment of Leader and Executive Functions 2024-25 Council Assembly May 2024 report.	Online: Report (southwark.gov.uk)	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055
The Council's Constitution: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=425&Info=1&bcr=1		

APPENDICES

Appendix	Title
Appendix 1	Deputy cabinet members role description

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional and Member Services		
Report Author	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional and Member Services		
Version	Final		
Dated	2 May 2025		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer Title		Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance		Yes	Yes (included in body of report)
Strategic Director, Resources		No	No
Cabinet Member		No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team			2 May 2025

Deputy Cabinet Member Role Description

Deputy Cabinet Members (DCMs) will be appointed by the Leader and assigned specific portfolio areas that they will drive forward on behalf of the Leader and Cabinet.

For matters within their portfolio Deputy Cabinet Members will be responsible for providing political oversight to ensure that:

- Council Delivery Plan Commitments are being delivered
- Council services are working well for our residents
- That the council is effectively identifying the innovative things we should do next to improve our work and outcomes for residents
- That the council is working well with our community to develop our policies and design and deliver our services
- That the council has strong relationships with key stakeholders and partners
- The Cabinet Member who hold responsibility for matters within the DCM's portfolio is fully briefed on the above, and that where appropriate the Leader and full Cabinet are also briefed.

In order to meet these responsibilities Deputy Cabinet Members will:

- Hold regular briefings with departments
- Oversee the drafting of Cabinet reports and Individual Decision Maker (IDM) Reports by relevant officers
- Attend and present reports to Cabinet meetings as required
- Answer questions relating to their portfolio at Council Assembly
- Attend and report to relevant meetings of Scrutiny where their portfolio is under discussion
- Be the council's spokesperson on issues related to their brief and ensure good public-facing communication of the activities and achievements within the portfolio
- Represent the council at external meetings and meetings with residents

Key parameters of DCMs:

- DCMs **are not decision-makers**. They will be responsible for the drafting of Cabinet and IDM reports and will present to Cabinet meetings as required, however, the formal decision maker will be listed as a full member of Cabinet and each report will require their final sign-off before publication.
- Whilst a DCM may be a member of a committee, scrutiny committee or scrutiny commission, they will not be permitted to take decisions or scrutinise anything that falls within their own portfolio.
- DCMs shall not be the chair or vice-chair of a committee or sub-committee which takes decisions or scrutinises matters relating to their portfolio.

The chairs of the licensing and planning committees shall not be DCMs. For audit, governance and standards committee, no more than one member of the cabinet or deputy may be a member of the committee.

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly (Annual Meeting)
Date:	17 May 2025
Report title:	Establishment of Committees, Panels and Related Matters 2025-2026
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not Applicable
From:	Proper Constitutional Officer

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That council assembly notes the appointment of political group leaders, deputies and whips (information to be circulated separately).
2. That council assembly notes 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 notes 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 establishes the following committees for the coming municipal year 2025-26.

Table 2: Ordinary Committees - Total number of seats 42

Note: The political balance rules require that the political groups represented on council have proportionate representation on council committees. A political group must comprise at least two members. Councils can allocate seats on committees to members not aligned to a group but are under no statutory obligation to do so.

The below tables are based on the committees as agreed by council assembly (and the council as licensing authority, for the licensing committee) on 22 May 2024.

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

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 this report).

Health and wellbeing board

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 considers whether it wishes to appoint chairs and vice chairs for the following committees:

Committees

- Appointments committee
- Planning Committee (Major Applications) A
- Planning Committee (Major Applications) B
- Planning Committee (Smaller Applications)
- Audit, governance and standards committee
- Corporate parenting committee [see note 1 below]
- Overview and scrutiny committee
- Licensing committee

Notes:

1. In 2024-25, the cabinet member responsible for children's services chaired the corporate parenting committee. Council assembly is asked to formally approve this appointment in 2025-26.
2. All outstanding appointments will be referred to the first meeting of the respective committee in the 2025-26 municipal year.

Appointment of neighbourhood champions

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

Neighbourhood areas

- North-west
- North-east
- West-central
- East-central
- South

Establishment of the council's panels

9. That council assembly establishes the following council panels (see paragraph 52):

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

Panel	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
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 appoints a chair to the following panels:

- Constitutional steering panel [see note 1 below]
- Voluntary bodies appointments panel.

Notes:

1. The group whip of the majority group chaired the constitutional steering panel in 2024-25. Council assembly is asked to formally approve this appointment in 2025-26.
2. That it be noted that the Mayor chairs the council assembly business panel.

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.

Appointments to Local Government Association (LGA) General Assembly

12. That council assembly appoints up to three representatives and allocates the seven votes to representatives to attend the LGA General Assembly (see paragraphs 56 and 57).

Other appointments to joint committees/outside bodies

13. That council assembly notes 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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

14. The constitution is updated as and when changes are required. The recommendations in this report are based on the current constitution and previous decisions of the council.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Proportionality – the legal position

15. The size and composition of the council's regulatory and other committees are established in accordance with the number of seats each political group has on the council as a whole – this is known as “proportionality”.
16. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 covers the allocation of seats to political groups. It makes no provision for single independent councillors so they do not form part of the proportionality considerations. The political balance rules require the council to ensure that the political groups represented on council have proportionate representation on the committees of the council. Political groups have to constitute two or more members and be actively constituted as a group in accordance with the above regulations.
17. Seats on committees and sub-committees must be allocated in accordance with the four principles of proportionality contained in sections 15, 16 and 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. There is a duty to give effect to the following principles, as far as is reasonably practicable:

- (i) That not all the seats on a committee or sub-committee are allocated to the same political group
- (ii) That the majority group must have the majority of seats on each committee or sub-committee

Note: As the Labour Group has an overall majority on the council, this principle has been applied.

- (iii) Subject to (i) and (ii) above, it must be ensured that the proportion of each political group's seats of the total number of seats on “ordinary committees” reflects, as closely as possible, their proportion of seats on full council.

Notes:

1. The ordinary committees are: appointments; planning; audit, governance and standards; corporate parenting (see also paragraphs 19 to 22).
 2. The licensing committee is appointed under the Licensing Act 2003, the overview and scrutiny committee is appointed under section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 and the health and wellbeing board is appointed under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and is to be treated as if appointed under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 (subject to modifications of the effect of section 102 made by the Secretary of State). None of the aforementioned committees is treated as an ordinary committee.
- (iv) Subject to (i) to (iii) above, the proportion of each political group's seats on each committee and sub-committee/commission reflects as closely as possible their proportion of seats on full council.

Note: This rule applies to all committees, sub-committees/commissions and joint committees, except for the licensing committee.

18. Council assembly can agree an allocation that is disproportionate, provided no member votes against this.

Appointments to seats

19. Section 16(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides that it is the duty of an authority or committee to exercise its power to make appointments in such a way as to give effect “to such wishes about who is to be appointed to the seats on that body which are allocated to a particular political group as are expressed by that group”.

Ordinary committees

20. The regulatory and other committees are the “ordinary committees” of the council. In 2024-25 the annual meeting established the following:
 - Appointments committee
 - Planning Committee (Major Applications) A
 - Planning Committee (Major Applications) B
 - Planning Committee (Smaller Applications)
 - Audit, governance and standards committee
 - Corporate parenting committee.
21. The proportionality is based on the total number of seats compared to the overall allocation of seats each political group has on the council. As the Labour Group has an overall majority on the council, it has been allocated a majority on each committee.
22. Council assembly is exercising a matter reserved to it in Part 3A(4) of the constitution to establish committees. It is for council assembly to agree the committees it wishes to establish, to set the total number of seats and allocate them to the committees numbered 1 to 4 in the Table 2 in paragraph 4 above.

Appointments committee

23. The appointments committee determines appointments to posts of chief officers, chief finance officer and monitoring officer and also acts as a panel for the purpose of advising council assembly on matters relating to the dismissal of the head of paid service, the chief finance officer or the monitoring officer as prescribed by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (as amended).
24. At least one member of the cabinet shall serve on the appointments committee.

Audit, governance and standards committee

25. The audit, governance and standards committee provides independent assurance of the adequacy of the council's governance arrangements, independent scrutiny of the council's financial and non-financial performance, has oversight of the financial reporting process of the council and ensures that its members and co-opted members maintain high standards of conduct and requires such authorities to adopt a code of conduct for their members.
26. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA's) guidance (Audit Committees Practical Guidance for Local Authorities, 2005) states that although audit committees are not mandatory, "Audit committees are an essential element of good governance". It goes on to say, "Good corporate governance requires independent, effective assurance about the adequacy of financial management and reporting. These functions are best delivered by an audit committee, independent from the executive and scrutiny functions."
27. No more than one member of the cabinet may be a member of the audit, governance and standards committee and no cabinet member may chair the committee. The chair may be a deputy cabinet member, as this role does not include the exercise of any delegated powers.
28. No more than one member of the overview and scrutiny committee may be a member of the audit, governance and standards committee and no member of the overview and scrutiny committee may chair the committee. In 2024-25, no members of the cabinet sat on the audit, governance and standards committee.

Overview and scrutiny committee

29. The overview and scrutiny committee (OSC) is the coordinating scrutiny body and appoints a number of scrutiny commissions. They review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the council's functions.
30. OSC co-ordinates councillor calls for action and scrutiny of health, crime and disorder, considers requests for scrutiny reviews and approves scrutiny work programmes.
31. The committee can also appoint joint committees with other local authorities.
32. The overview and scrutiny committee is not an ordinary committee, but it is one to which the proportionality requirements apply. Scrutiny commissions will be established by the overview and scrutiny committee at its first meeting and it will consider the allocation of places on the commissions including members who are not part of any political group.
33. Council assembly can agree an allocation that is disproportionate, provided no member votes against this.
34. The overview and scrutiny procedure rules provide that the overview and scrutiny committee will consist of the chair, vice chair and the chairs of the

scrutiny commissions provided that the proportionality rules are not compromised. Each political group is permitted to nominate members who are not cabinet members should it be necessary to maintain proportionality and/or if there are fewer chairs of scrutiny commissions than places on the overview and scrutiny committee.

35. The overview and scrutiny committee and any commission which scrutinises the council's education functions will contain in its membership four voting education representatives in addition to its councillor members, comprising one Church of England, one Roman Catholic Church and two parent governor representatives.
36. No member of the cabinet shall serve on any scrutiny committee.

Health and wellbeing board

37. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 enables the local authority to arrange for any of its functions to be exercised by the board should it so wish. The health and wellbeing board was first constituted by council assembly on 27 March 2013. The board will not have the power to perform any of the functions given to the health overview and scrutiny committee, and it will itself be subject to overview and scrutiny as a committee of the council. Members of the scrutiny committee who are members of the health and wellbeing board should not be involved in the scrutiny process if the health and wellbeing board undertakes executive functions, which is then subject to scrutiny, as this may create a conflict of interests. The proportionality requirements do not apply to the health and wellbeing board.
38. It will be for the leader of the council under the 'strong leader' model to decide whether any executive functions should be delegated to the board. Until such a decision is taken, the board will operate in accordance with the council's existing decision-making framework and normal council budget setting processes.
39. The health and wellbeing board must include six statutory members which are:
 - At least one councillor, who will be (or be nominated by) the leader
 - The director of adult social services of the local authority
 - The director of children's services of the local authority
 - The director of public health of the local authority
 - A representative of local healthwatch
 - A representative of the Integrated Care Board.

Note: The health and wellbeing board general membership is reviewed periodically. This is to ensure that the right partners are represented on the board. Any proposed change to the membership will be put forward to the health and wellbeing board for agreement.

40. All members of the health and wellbeing board are subject to Southwark's Code of Conduct for elected members when acting as a member of the board and will be subject to declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests. Consequently, it is

recommended that substitutes should not be permitted at meetings of the committee.

Neighbourhood areas

41. The boundaries of the neighbourhood areas reflect the borough's communities as far as possible. It will be for the leader of the council under the 'strong leader' model to decide whether any executive functions should be delegated to the neighbourhood areas.

Table 7: Neighbourhood areas divided by geographical areas

Neighbourhood	Electoral wards
Borough and London Bridge	Borough & Bankside, London Bridge & West Bermondsey, St George's and Chaucer
Bermondsey	North Bermondsey and South Bermondsey
Rotherhithe	Rotherhithe and Surrey Docks
Walworth	North Walworth, Faraday and Newington
Old Kent Road	Old Kent Road
Camberwell	Camberwell Green and St Giles
Peckham	Peckham and Rye Lane
Nunhead and Peckham Rye	Nunhead, Queens Road and Peckham Rye
East Dulwich	Goose Green, Champion Hill and Dulwich Hill
Dulwich	Dulwich Village and Dulwich Wood

Table 8: The table below sets out which of the areas will be represented by each neighbourhoods champion:

Neighbourhoods champion	Neighbourhoods
Neighbourhoods champion North-west	Borough & London Bridge
Neighbourhoods champion North-east	Bermondsey and Rotherhithe
Neighbourhoods champion West-central	Camberwell and Walworth
Neighbourhoods champion East-central	Old Kent Road, Peckham, Nunhead & Peckham Rye
Neighbourhoods champion South	Dulwich and East Dulwich

Licensing committee

42. Section 6 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires that each licensing authority must establish a licensing committee of at least 10, but no more than 15 members of the authority. The power to establish the committee rests with council assembly. Council agreed in December 2004 that the licensing committee should comprise 15 members in order to achieve maximum flexibility and provide a sufficient pool of members to ensure quorate sub-committees.
43. There is no requirement in the Licensing Act 2003 that the licensing committee should be proportionate. Council assembly agreed in December 2004 to establish the current committee on a proportionate basis.

44. The Licensing Act 2003 makes no provision to appoint reserve members.
45. In accordance with the constitution, a licensing sub-committee with delegated authority will be established to hear licence applications including Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005, street trading and other licensing responsibilities granted by statute. The sub-committee will include members of the licensing committee with a quorum of three members and a reserve. Sub-committees shall be summoned as required to deal with any business and the membership will be based on the allocation process agreed by the licensing committee on 6 December 2007.

Appointment of chairs and vice chairs

46. Chairs and vice chairs may be appointed directly by council assembly or the appointments may be delegated to the first meeting of the relevant committee.
47. In the case of the corporate parenting committee, it is proposed that the cabinet member with responsibility for children's services be appointed chair. This is in line with the decision of the annual meeting last year.
48. The leader of the council or his/her nominee, in accordance with committee procedure rule 8.13, chairs the health and wellbeing board.

Reserve members

49. Council assembly, committee, and overview and scrutiny procedure rules make provision for the appointment of reserve members to council committees and to scrutiny committees. There is no provision for reserves on the licensing committee and the health and wellbeing board.
50. Each political group can appoint reserve members. The number of reserve members a group can appoint is, with the exception of the overview and scrutiny committee, planning committees and audit, governance and standards committee, one less than the number of places the group holds on the committee or sub-committee. If a political group holds only one place on a committee or sub-committee, that group may appoint one reserve member (council assembly procedure rule 4.5(2)).
51. On the overview and scrutiny committee, planning committees and the audit, governance and standards committee, the number of reserve members that each political group can nominate is equal to the number of places each group holds on the committee.

Establishment of the council's panels

52. Council assembly will consider the establishment and composition of the following council panels. Panels are not required to be proportionate. This is a matter of local choice for the local authority.

- **Council assembly business panel** – The Mayor chairs the panel and consists of two representatives from the majority group (one of whom is the whip) and the whips of the other political groups represented on the council. The panel acts as an advisory panel to the Mayor on council assembly matters, including the setting of themes for debate.
- **Constitutional steering panel** – The panel is responsible for reviewing and recommending amendments to the constitution. It is also responsible for making recommendations to council assembly for the award of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough and Honorary Aldermen and to recommend changes to the members' allowances scheme. In 2024-25, the chief whip of the majority group chaired the panel.

In 2024-25, council assembly established a panel with a membership comprising the group whip and two other members from the majority group and the whips of the other political groups represented on the council. In accordance with current practice, groups can nominate a reserve to attend in the absence of a representative.

- **Pensions advisory panel** – The panel has a composition of three members, officers, independent advisors and a trade union representative. The purpose of the panel is to advise the chief finance officer when performing functions relating to the council's pension scheme.
- **Voluntary bodies appointments panel** – The panel has a composition of four Labour and one Liberal Democrat member. The panel will be responsible for recommending the appointment of charity trustees to specific Southwark charities.

Council assembly dates

53. A calendar of council assembly meetings for the 2025-26 municipal year was agreed at council assembly on 19 March 2025. This meeting agreed the council assembly dates, in accordance with the relevant statutory provision.

Urgency committee

54. On 26 March 2014, council assembly established the urgency committee, together with planning and licensing (urgency) sub-committees, to function during the interim period between a municipal election and the annual meeting of council assembly. The urgency committees will exercise the non-executive functions of the council, other than those reserved by law to council assembly for decision, in cases where in the opinion of the chief executive it was necessary to act urgently. The urgency committees have normally only met to consider issues that are time sensitive and cannot wait for the annual meeting to establish the decision-making arrangements. The leader shall exercise any urgent executive matters.
55. Council assembly on 26 March 2014 agreed that the urgency arrangements should be as follows:

- Urgency committee - The urgency committee will deal with non-executive functions only that are not reserved by law to council assembly and are not planning or licensing applications. The urgency committee arrangements comprise the leaders of the two largest political groups following the borough-wide elections.
- Executive arrangements – Executive decisions will be exercised by the leader (if personally re-elected or his nominee, a relevant cabinet member). If the leader (or relevant cabinet member) is required to take an executive decision, because the normal scrutiny arrangements would not have been established by the annual meeting, executive decisions would be treated in a similar way to urgent implementation decisions or an urgent decision outside the budget and policy framework. If the leader is not re-elected, the urgency committee shall exercise the executive functions.
- Planning and licensing – Separate arrangements exist for a planning (urgency) sub-committee and a licensing (urgency) sub-committee. Each licensing (urgency) sub-committee convened to hear an urgent application would comprise of three licensing members who will be selected using the current procedure from the pool of re-elected councillors who previously served on the licensing committee. The arrangements are set out in more detail in Part 3N of the council's constitution.

Appointments to Local Government Association (LGA) General Assembly

56. The Local Government Association informed the council in 2017 that it was entitled to seven votes and advised that votes can be allocated amongst the representatives as the local authority sees fit. The LGA encourages local authorities with three or four representatives to allocate at least one position and vote to a minority group representative. Council assembly can agree any combination of representatives and votes:
57. For 2024-25, council assembly appointed three representatives and allocated seven votes:

Representative	No. of votes	Group
Councillor Kieron Williams (Leader)	3	Labour
Councillor Jasmine Ali	3	Labour
Councillor Victor Chamberlain	1	Liberal Democrat

Establishment of sub-committees and overview and scrutiny commissions

58. Overview and scrutiny commissions and sub-committees of the audit, governance and standards committee will be established at a special meeting that immediately follows the conclusion of this annual meeting or can be established at the first meeting of the relevant parent committee. The division of seats will be included in the reports to the relevant committees.

The below tables are based on the commissions and sub-committees as agreed by the parent committees in May 2024.

Scrutiny Commissions	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
Scrutiny Commission 1 (Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission)	7	5	2
Scrutiny Commission 2 (Housing, Community Safety and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission)	7	5	2
Scrutiny Commission 3 (Environment Scrutiny Commission)	7	5	2
Scrutiny Commission 4 (Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission)	7	5	2
Total	28	20	8

Audit, governance and standards sub-committees	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
Audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee	4	3	1
Audit, governance and standards (standards) sub-committee	3	2	1
Total	7	5	2

Policy framework implications

59. This report is not considered to have direct policy implications.

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

60. This report is not considered to have direct community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts.

Climate change implications

61. There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

Legal implications

62. There are no specific legal implications.

Financial implications

63. There are no direct resource implications in the context of this report. The member expenditure budget makes provision for the special responsibility allowances for members. There are no additional costs arising from this report.

Consultation

64. There are no specific consultation requirements arising from this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Appointment of Leader and Executive Functions Report - Council Assembly 22 May 2024.	Southwark Council Constitutional team 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk
Establishment of committees and other constitutional issues 2024-2025 Report - Council Assembly 22 May 2024.		
Agenda and minutes for the following meetings: - Licensing Committee - 6 December 2007 - Council Assembly 2004 to 2024		

APPENDICES

Appendix	Title
Appendix 1	Political Group Leaders, Deputies and Whips (to be circulated separately)
Appendix 2	Nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs (to be circulated separately)

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services		
Report Author	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services		
Version	Final		
Dated	8 May 2025		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer Title		Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance		Yes	Yes (included in body of report)
Strategic Director, Resources		No	No
Cabinet Member		No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team			8 May 2025

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly (Annual Meeting)
Date:	17 May 2025
Report title:	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
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not Applicable
From:	Proper Constitutional Officer

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That council assembly consider and agree nominations to the London Councils committees, the Greater London Employment Forum, London Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Common Investment Vehicle (CIV) Ltd and London Councils Limited, details listed in Appendix 1 of the report.
2. That council assembly nominate borough lead members/relevant portfolio holders for the areas listed in paragraph 9 of the report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The council nominates representatives to serve on the London Councils committees on an annual basis. The nomination of representatives to the London Councils committees and forums fall within the terms of reference of the cabinet. Council assembly is being asked to agree the nominations for 2025-26 in order to appoint members prior to the London Councils Annual General Meeting (AGM).

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Joint committees

4. The Local Government Act 2000 and regulations enable local authorities to make use of joint arrangements with other authorities. Under these arrangements, a "joint committee" can be established in agreement with other local authorities to promote the economic, social or environmental well being of the area.

5. In this report the council is invited to make nominations to the following joint committees:
 - London Councils Leaders' Committee (s101 Joint Committee)
 - London Councils Transport and Environment Committee (Associated Joint Committee)
 - London Councils Grants Committee (Associated Joint Committee)
6. The council is also invited to make nominations to the London Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Common Investment Vehicle (CIV) Ltd.
7. Council assembly may only nominate cabinet members as representatives or deputies to the joint committees. The nominations need not reflect the political composition of the local authority as a whole. This is set out in Article 9 on joint arrangements in the council's constitution. London Councils advise that the deputies should have some knowledge of the policy area concerned, can be kept informed of the member body's activities and be able to act as substitute if the principal nominee is unable to attend a meeting.

Greater London Employment Forum

8. The Greater London Employment Forum acts as the regional employer for London for those staff employed under the National Joint Council for Local Government Services. The representative is usually the lead cabinet member for human resources issues.

Borough lead members

9. The London Councils Executives who lead on particular policy areas need to consult and liaise with relevant borough lead members on matters of major importance and are seeking to identify borough lead member / relevant portfolio holders (by way of nominations) for the following areas:
 - Children and Young People / Safeguarding and Schools
 - Skills and Employment
 - Housing and Regeneration
 - Health, Social Care and Adult Services
 - Arts/Culture, Tourism, Port and Leisure
 - Crime and Public Protection
 - Economic Development / Business
 - Planning / Infrastructure / Development

London Councils Limited

10. The council is required to appoint a representative to the company, London Councils Limited. The London Councils advise that the borough's

representative on the Leaders' Committee is normally appointed unless a council specifically indicates otherwise.

11. All formal London Councils committee and forum meetings are held during the day on weekdays.

Policy framework implications

12. This report is not considered to have direct policy implications.

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

13. The council is being invited to nominate to the London Councils committees, the Greater London Employment Forum and the London Councils Limited company. The nominations process has no direct impact on the community.

Climate change implications

14. There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

Legal implications

15. There are no specific legal implications.

Financial implications

16. There are no direct resource implications in the context of this report.

Consultation

17. Consultation is being undertaken with the Mayor, Group whips and finance officers.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Correspondence from London Councils	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Chidilim Agada constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Nominations to London Councils Committees, Greater London Employment Forum, London Councils Limited Company, London Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Common Investment Vehicle (CIV) Ltd (to follow)

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services		
Report Author	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services		
Version	Final		
Dated	2 May 2025		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES			
Officer Title		Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance		Yes	Yes (included in body of report)
Strategic Director, Resources		No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team			2 May 2025

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**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN) (FULL LIST)
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26**

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

ONE COPY TO ALL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED		Copies	To	Copies
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			Total:	20
			Last updated: May 2025	