



Cabinet

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 4 February 2025 at 11.00 am at LEX2 Livesey Exchange, 567 Old Kent Road, SE1 5EW

PRESENT: Councillor Kieron Williams (Chair)
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor John Batteson
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Natasha Ennin
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Portia Mwangangye

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The leader of the council highlighted a number of key events:

- The beginning of race equality week
- LGBTQ+ month for February.

He also commented on the work and practical action that Southwark is undertaking alongside the community to stand up against all forms of prejudice.

Councillor Jasmine Ali, deputy leader and cabinet member for children, education and refugees also highlighted children's mental health week.

1. APOLOGIES

All members were present.

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

The chair gave notice of the following late items:

Item 8: Delivering Southwark 2030

Item 9: Policy and Resources Strategy report: Medium Term Financial Strategy Update and 2025-26 General fund budget proposals

Reasons for lateness and urgency have been included in the reports.

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

None received.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

None were received.

6. DEPUTATION REQUESTS

The report had not been circulated five clear days in advance of the meeting. The chair agreed to accept this item as urgent.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following deputation requests be heard:

- PemPeople (People Empowering People) about the impact of regeneration on the Old Kent Road and
- Hajia Saidat Oketunde to highlight the positive impact of key initiatives from Southwark Council.

2. A spokesperson for the deputations addressed cabinet for five minutes and questions were asked of the deputations for a period of five minutes.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

8. DELIVERING SOUTHWARK 2030

It was not possible to circulate this report five clear days in advance of the meeting. The chair agreed to accept this item as urgent as the delivery plan provides the clear framework for driving strategic delivery of the Southwark 2030 strategy and the overarching ambition to create good lives in our borough together with residents and communities.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Creating Good Lives Together: Our Southwark 2030 Delivery Plan (Appendix 1 of the report) be approved.
2. That the ongoing work to initiate delivery of Southwark 2030 be noted.
3. That an accessible toilet plan be added to the delivery plan.

9. POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY REPORT: MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE AND 2025-26 GENERAL FUND BUDGET PROPOSALS

It was not possible to circulate this report five clear days in advance of the meeting. The chair agreed to accept this item as urgent as the cabinet was required to prepare a budget proposal for submission to council assembly. This is the last cabinet meeting before council assembly on 26 February. The Local Government Act 1992 requires that billing authorities complete and approve their budgets and set a council tax before 11 March immediately prior to the start of the financial year on 1 April 2025.

Councillor Ian Wingfield, chair of the overview and scrutiny committee presented a summary of the committee's recommendations to cabinet.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following recommendations be agreed to forward to council assembly:
 - a. the balanced general fund budget proposals for 2025-26.
 - b. in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the local council tax amounts shown in Table 3 of the report.
2. That the following be approved:
 - a. the housing revenue account budget for 2025-26 (paragraphs 64-83 of the report).

- b. the final fees and charges schedule at Appendix B of the report.

3. That the following be noted:

- a. that the final Local Government Finance Settlement has not been published at the time of writing, any changes from the provisional settlement published on the 18 December 2024, will be set out in the 2025-26 budget report to council assembly on 26 February 2025.
- b. the update to the medium-term financial strategy (MTFS).
- c. that the MTFS, the transformation programme, ongoing budget demand and cost pressures, the capital programme and HRA budget and were considered by the overview and scrutiny committee in January 2025 and that the recommendations arising, and officer responses are included at Appendix E of the report.
- d. the budget challenge schedule at Appendix A of the report.
- e. the climate report and the budget equality analysis report 2025-26 (Appendices C and D) of the report.
- f. that the Mayor of London draft budget for 2025-26 includes a proposal to increase the GLA council tax precept by 4%, equivalent to a £18.98 increase for a band D property.
- g. the GLA council tax precept is due to be set on the 25 February, one day before council assembly sets the budget for Southwark.
- h. the content of the Section 25 statement by the strategic director of resources.

NOTE: In accordance with overview and scrutiny procedure rule 16.2, (a) (budget and policy framework) these decisions are not subject to call-in.

10. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOLS – SEPTEMBER 2026

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Southwark Community Primary Schools Admission Arrangements (“the Arrangements”) for September 2026 onwards as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be agreed.
- 2. That the published admissions numbers (PANs) for primary community schools for September 2026 onwards as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be agreed, including the following changes:

- Ilydale Primary School – reduction in PAN from 90 to 60
- Goodrich Primary School – reduction in PAN from 90 to 60
- Crawford Primary School– reduction in PAN from 60 to 30.

11. FORMER FOLGATE ESTATE REDEVELOPMENT

RESOLVED:

1. That delegated authority be given to the director of planning and growth to negotiate and complete the sale agreement of the Folgate Site to Weston Homes based on the heads of terms set out in the report and in the closed report.
2. That delegated authority be given to the director of planning and growth to negotiate with any remaining occupiers to secure vacant possession and complete the sale agreement.
3. That delegated authority be given to the director of planning and growth to proceed with negotiations with the NHS to use the commercial building as a new health centre for the Old Kent Road.

MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

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

12. FORMER FOLGATE ESTATE REDEVELOPMENT

The cabinet considered the closed information relating to this item. Please see item 11 for the decision.

The meeting ended at 12.50pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2025.

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