

Council Assembly

Ordinary meeting

Wednesday 9 July 2025

7.00 pm

Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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

You have the right to request to inspect copies of minutes and reports on this agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Babysitting/Carers allowances

If you are a resident of the borough and have paid someone to look after your children, an elderly dependant or a dependant with disabilities so that you could attend this meeting, you may claim an allowance from the council. Please collect a claim form at the meeting.

Access

The council is committed to making its meetings accessible. Further details on building access, translation, provision of signers etc for this meeting are on the council's web site: www.southwark.gov.uk or please contact the person below.

Contact

Virginia Wynn-Jones, Andrew Weir, on 020 7525 7055 or 020 7525 7222 or email: virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk; andrew.weir@southwark.gov.uk; constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk

Date: 27 June 2025



Council Assembly

Ordinary meeting

Wednesday 9 July 2025
7.00 pm
Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
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PART A - OPEN BUSINESS

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

1.2. 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.

1.3. 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.

1.4. 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.

1.5. MINUTES

1 - 11

To approve as a correct record the open minutes of the council assembly meeting held on 17 May 2025.

Item No.	Title	Page No.
2.	ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL	
2.1.	ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL	12 - 14
2.2.	EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS 2025-26	15 - 18
3.	ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC	
3.1.	PETITIONS	
	No petitions have been received.	
3.2.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
	The deadline for public questions is 11.59pm, Thursday 3 July 2025. Questions can be emailed to constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk .	
	Questions from the public will be distributed in a supplemental agenda.	
4.	THEMED DEBATE	
4.1.	COMMUNITY EVIDENCE	
	The deadline for community evidence on the theme is 11.59pm, Thursday 3 July 2025. Submissions can be emailed to constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk .	
	Submissions from the public will be distributed in a supplemental agenda.	
4.2.	MOTION ON THE THEME	19 - 24
	The cabinet member for community safety & neighbourhoods to present the theme for the meeting.	
5.	DEPUTATIONS	
	The deadline for deputation requests is 11.59pm, Thursday 3 July 2025. Deputations can be emailed to constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk .	
	Deputation requests will be distributed in a supplemental agenda.	

6. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

6.1. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME 25 - 30

To receive any questions from members of the council.

6.2. MEMBERS' MOTIONS 31 - 42

To consider the following motions:

- Southwark welcomes 400th refugee family
- Southwark Stands Against Welfare Cuts
- Making Space for Girls in Parks and Open Spaces
- Implementation of a Tourist Tax
- Limiting the spread of damaging gambling premises in the Blue

7. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION

7.1. WAIVER OF SIX-MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE: SECTION 85 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 43 - 45

8. AMENDMENTS

Any member of the council may submit an amendment to a report or motion on the agenda. The amendments will be circulated to all members in a supplemental agenda.

ANY OPEN ITEMS IDENTIFIED AS URGENT AT THE START OF THE MEETING

EXCLUSION MOTION (IF NECESSARY)

The following motion should be moved, seconded and approved if the council wishes to exclude the press and public to deal with reports revealing exempt information:

“That under the access to information procedure rules of the Southwark constitution, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in section(s) 1 – 7 of paragraph 10.4 of the procedure rules.”

PART B – CLOSED BUSINESS

ANY CLOSED ITEMS IDENTIFIED AS URGENT AT THE START OF THE MEETING



Council Assembly (Annual and Mayor Making meeting)

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

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2024-25, Councillor Naima Ali,
The Worshipful the Mayor for 2025-26, Councillor Sunny Lambe

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

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

1. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR

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

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

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

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

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

The nomination was put to the vote and it was:

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

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

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

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

The new Mayor appointed Councillor Sabina Emmanuel as Deputy Mayor.

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

2. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

2.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

2.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

2.5 MINUTES

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

3. REPORTS

3.1 EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS 2025-26

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

Appointment of the cabinet

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

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

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

Deputy cabinet portfolio	Deputy cabinet member
Supported Housing	Councillor Sam Dalton

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

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

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

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

There were five contested positions.

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

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

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

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

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

The substantive motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

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

LABOUR GROUP

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

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP

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

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

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

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

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
Committee 1: Appointments Committee	7	6	1
Committee 2: Planning Committee (Major Applications) A	7	6	1
Committee 3: Planning Committee (Major Applications) B	7	6	1
Planning Committee (Smaller Applications)	7	5	2
Committee 4: Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	7	6	1
Committee 5: Corporate Parenting Committee	7	6	1
Total	42	35	7

Table 3: Other committees - Total number of seats 26

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

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

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

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

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

Appointment of chairs and vice chairs

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

Committees

- Appointments committee
Chair: Councillor Kieron Williams
Vice-chair:
- Planning (major applications) committee A
Chair: Councillor Richard Livingstone

Vice-chair: Councillor Kath Whittam

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

Note:

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

Appointment of neighbourhood champions

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHAMPIONS

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

9. That council assembly established the following council panels (see paragraph 52 of the report):

Table 5: Panels - Total number of seats 16

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

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

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

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

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

Urgency committee

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

Appointments to Local Government Association (LGA) General Assembly

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

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

Other appointments to joint committees/outside bodies

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

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

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

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

1 representative and up to 2 deputies

Labour nomination Councillor Kieron Williams

Deputies

Labour nominations Councillor Jasmine Ali

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

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

1 representative and up to 4 deputies

Labour nomination Councillor Kieron Williams

Deputies

Labour nominations -

3. LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE (ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE)

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

1 representative and up to 4 deputies

Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan

Deputies

Labour nominations -

4. GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM

1 representative and 1 deputy

Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan

Deputy

Labour nomination -

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

Labour nomination Councillor Portia Mwangangye

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

Labour nomination Councillor Jasmine Ali

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

Labour nomination Councillor Jasmine Ali

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

Labour nomination Councillor Natasha Ennin

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

Labour nomination Councillor John Batteson

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

Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan

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

Labour nomination Councillor Evelyn Akoto

12. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HOUSING AND REGENERATION

Labour nomination Councillor Helen Dennis

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

Labour nomination Councillor Helen Dennis

14. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

Labour nomination Councillor John Batteson

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

Labour nomination Councillor John Batteson

16. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – DIGITAL AND INNOVATION

Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan

17. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – DEVOLUTION

Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan

18. LONDON COUNCILS LIMITED

1 representative

Labour nomination Councillor Kieron Williams

3.4 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

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

RESOLVED:

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

4. AMENDMENTS

There were none.

The meeting closed at 1.00 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	9 July 2025
Report title:	Election of Leader of the Council
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not Applicable
From:	Proper Constitutional Officer

RECOMMENDATIONS

Election of leader of the council

1. That council assembly elect a leader of the council.
2. That council assembly notes that the leader's term of office shall commence immediately, and end at the start of the first annual meeting of the council following the next ordinary election (May 2026), unless as otherwise specified in Article 6.3 of the constitution (see paragraph 7).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Councillor Kieron Williams was first elected as leader of the council, by council assembly on 16 September 2020. He was re-elected for a four-year period at the annual council meeting held on 21 May 2022. His term of office commenced from that date and was to end at the start of the first annual meeting of the council following the next ordinary election¹. Councillor Williams has however given notice that he would be stepping down as leader in July 2025. This will take effect at this meeting.
4. Officers will seek nominations for the position of leader from the political groups, and these will be reported to this council assembly meeting.
5. The new Leader would be elected for a ten-month period to make the term of office coterminous with the electoral cycle i.e. up to the next local election in May 2026 (see paragraphs 6 and 7 of this report).

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Appointment of leader of the council

6. The Local Government Act 2000 provisions on executive arrangements were updated by the Localism Act 2011 and the new provision for electing a leader

¹ Article 6.3 of the Constitution

and agreeing the term of office is less prescriptive. It states that a council operating leader and cabinet executive arrangements must make provision for the election of a leader, but it may make provision with respect to their term of office. So, the council no longer has to make provision for a four-year term, or indeed any defined term. Under the new provisions, the constitution will retain the clause that allows for the leader to be removed by a resolution of the council assembly.

7. Council Constitution Article 6.3 states:

Leader

The leader will be a councillor elected to the position of leader by the council assembly. The leader will hold office until:

- a) he/she resigns from the office by giving notice in writing to the monitoring officer
- b) he/she is suspended from being a councillor under part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although he/she may resume office at the end of the period of suspension)
- c) he/she is no longer a councillor
- d) he/she is removed from office by resolution of the council assembly.
- e) his/her term of office ends.

The leader's term of office shall commence from the day of his/her election, which will be held at the first annual meeting of the council following the ordinary elections or if a vacancy occurs, the next meeting of the council and will end at the start of the first annual meeting of the council following the next ordinary elections.

Policy framework implications

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

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

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

Climate change implications

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

Legal implications

11. There are no specific legal implications.

Financial implications

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

Consultation

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

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
The Council's Constitutional Browse - Constitution - Southwark Council	160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055

APPENDICES

Appendix	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services		
Report Author	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services		
Version	Final		
Dated	25 June 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			25 June 2025

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	9 July 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

Appointment of the cabinet

1. That the leader reports to council assembly on the appointment of a deputy leader and 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

2. That the leader reports to council assembly on the appointment of deputy cabinet members, if any, 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.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Leader and cabinet

3. 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.

4. 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 leader appoints the cabinet.
5. A new leader of the council will be elected at this meeting. This is following Councillor Kieron Williams notifying the monitoring officer that he would be stepping down as leader at this meeting.

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

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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

10. The leader will 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.
11. Whilst a deputy cabinet member may be a member of a committee, scrutiny committee or scrutiny sub-committee, he or she will not be permitted to take decisions or scrutinise any of their own deputy cabinet member tasks or duties. Deputy cabinet members shall not be the chair or vice-chair of a committee or sub-committee which takes decisions or scrutinises matters

relating to their tasks or duties. The chairs of the licensing and planning committees shall not be deputies.

Role of council assembly

12. 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.

Policy framework implications

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

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

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

Climate change implications

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

Legal implications

12. There are no specific legal implications.

Financial implications

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

Consultation

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

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
The Council's Constitutional Browse - Constitution - Southwark Council	160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055

APPENDICES

Appendix	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services		
Report Author	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services		
Version	Final		
Dated	25 June 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			25 June 2025

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	9 July 2025
Report title:	Motion on the Theme: Keeping Southwark Safe: Fighting crime and the causes of crime
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not applicable
From:	Proper Constitutional Officer

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The theme for this meeting is “Keeping Southwark Safe: Fighting crime and the causes of crime.”

The relevant cabinet member shall submit a motion on the theme. All other political groups on the council are allowed to submit one amendment to the motion. The cabinet member’s motion and the amendments do not need to be seconded. The cabinet member will present the motion to the meeting, followed by the lead opposition spokesperson’s response and moving of their amendment, if any. Following this, the subject matter of the theme will be open to debate. Amendment(s) from other opposition groups on the council can be moved during this part of the meeting.

Motion from Councillor Natasha Ennin, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Neighbourhoods

Keeping Southwark Safe: Fighting Crime and the Causes of Crime

1. Council Assembly notes:
 - a. That tackling crime and anti-social behaviour is a top priority for many of our residents.
 - b. The council’s commitment to making Southwark safer for all.
 - c. The council’s continued ambitions to work collaboratively with local communities to identify key concerns, target action in hotspot areas, including on our streets and our estates, work to restore trust and confidence in the police, and to invest in prevention.

- d. This Labour government's commitment to 13,000 extra neighbourhood police, visible on the beat, cracking down on anti-social behaviour, and a named, contactable officer in every community.
- e. On protecting our public spaces:
 - i. The upcoming rollout of new nighttime wardens following a £450,000 investment in Southwark Labour's budget amendment this year, with new officers patrolling streets and estates from 6pm to 2am.
 - ii. The powers to be given to wardens to carry out enforcement, with training from the police allowing them to address and prevent anti-social behaviour.
 - iii. The launch of the council's £2m Anti-Social Behaviour Task Force, with 100 officers recruited to work on tackling crime and antisocial behaviour.
 - iv. The pilots to improve safety in our parks developed with friends of parks, the wider community, the metropolitan police service and council to monitor impact of efforts to deter anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime in a named park.
 - v. The £3 million investment in upgrading existing CCTV across our borough.
 - vi. The upgrading of over 2,800 street lights since 2022, and ambitions to upgrade all our street lights by 2026, which are on track.
 - vii. The Home Secretary's initiative to keep streets safe this summer, with new local ASB Action Plans and a Summer Surge Delivery Plans.
 - viii. The Council's enforcement cracking down on fly-tipping, with fees increased from £400 to £1,000 and new powers from the Labour government for the police to identify, seize and crush vehicles of waste criminals.
- f. On working to improve public trust in the police:
 - i. The successful launch of the Southwark Policing Oversight Board, the first of its kind in London, which puts residents at the heart of improving public trust and confidence in the Metropolitan Police by increasing accountability and transparency and allowing residents to share their concerns.

- ii. This council's initiative to bring young people in to advise on Stop and Search, helping to train over 100 police officers to meet the highest standards.
 - iii. This Labour government's Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, which includes measures that will put named and contactable officers back in our neighbourhoods, with a 50% increase in community police officers by 2029.
- g. Local councillors are fighting to save a police hub in Rotherhithe:
 - i. That despite this guarantee, Bermondsey Safer Neighbourhood Teams have vacated their base at Seven Islands Leisure Centre.
 - ii. That the council alongside British Land have offered the Borough Commander several potential sites for a dedicated police hub.
 - iii. That all of these sites have been declined by the Borough Commander.
 - iv. That the Safer Neighbourhood Teams are now based at Southwark Police Station which is further than the Met Police's commitment of no more than twenty minute journey for local based policing.
 - v. Further notes the work of the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Neighbourhoods and the Rotherhithe Ward councillors in lobbying the Assistant Commissioner of the Met Police and the Borough Commander to actively engage in finding a suitable location for a police hub.
 - vi. The petition set up by the Rotherhithe Ward councillors that has gained local support.
- h. Tackling violence against women and girls:
 - i. Southwark now has 20 Safe Havens and 58 Safe Spaces where any resident who feels unsafe, particularly women, can drop in for support and advice.
 - ii. The council's 'Through Her Eyes' campaign has been shown in over 1,000 schools, and garnered over 1 million views across various social media platforms, raising awareness amongst men and boys to change their attitudes towards women and girls.
 - iii. This council has dedicated resources to extend work being done to improve women's safety at night – with £150,000 for

training, spiking kits, and accelerating the rates of signups to the Women's Nighttime Safety Charter.

- iv. The government's Crime and Policing Bill, when introduced, will criminalise the taking or recording of intimate images or videos without consent.
- i. Notes and supports Women's Aid's Motion for Change: Together against violence towards women and girls (VAWG):
 - i. Welcoming Labour's commitment to halve VAWG in the next decade.
 - ii. Noting that Labour's bold ambition cannot be realised by national government alone - we need action from local councillors, council leaders and Police and Crime Commissioners to turn the tide on VAWG in our local communities.
 - iii. Agrees that VAWG services should meet the needs of all survivors, including the most marginalised survivors.
- j. Resident engagement in hotspot areas:
 - i. During national ASB awareness week, with the council and partners holding a range of events to encourage reporting and to highlight support available to victims and witnesses of ASB and crime.
 - ii. With upcoming town centre engagement days to be held in Camberwell, Elephant and Castle, Rye Lane and Borough High Street, with information stalls included materials on town centre action plans, business crime prevention, reporting and opportunity to meet community wardens and local police officers.
 - iii. The six days of action in Elephant and Castle, which included robbery and VAWG operations to deter phone snatches and to promote and increase signups to the London nighttime women's safety charter.
 - iv. The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Neighbourhoods, Councillor Natasha Ennin, has been regularly visiting hotspot areas, listening to residents, identifying key issues and acting to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour.
- k. Prevention:
 - i. Welcomes the government's announcement that rough sleeping will be decriminalised for the first time since the Vagrancy Act 1824, to which Emma Haddad, Chief Executive of

St Mungo's, said: *"The repeal of the Vagrancy Act, which criminalises rough sleeping, cannot come soon enough... The answer is not to criminalise people for living on the streets but instead to focus on tackling the health, housing and wider societal issues that are causing homelessness in the first place."*

- ii. The appointment of a new Rough Sleeper Coordinator to help progress toward the council's ambitions to end rough sleeping.
 - iii. Increasing youth engagement, with street-based outreach from youth advisors on healthy relationships and offers of youth activities across the borough, to act as diversion to young people at early risk of committing ASB or crime during the summer holidays. This work is supported by our Southwark Violence Reduction Unit in partnership with our local My Endz provider Active Communities Network.
 - iv. New youth engagement days to ensure the youth voice is heard within our residents' neighbourhoods and to encourage reporting in areas that they feel are unsafe, facilitated and supported by local voluntary organisations working with young people in each neighbourhood.
 - v. Council Assembly supports Labour's plans to intervene earlier to stop young people being drawn into crime, creating a new Young Futures programme with a network of hubs reaching every community.
2. This council resolves to:
- a. Take action on the results of the Women's Safety Survey 2025:
 - i. Improve areas in which women have reported feeling unsafe including visual audits of locations of concern to make improvements to the public realm.
 - ii. Hold information sessions across the borough to provide women with practical tools to increase feelings of safety at night including, personal safety alarms, anti-spiking kits and torches.
 - iii. Improve the council's communications to ensure that women and anyone who feels unsafe in borough knows where safe spaces are to get support.
 - b. Explore the possibility of appointing a councillor as a VAWG Champion to ensure council services and actions in preventing violence against women and girls are as comprehensive and effective as possible.

- c. Continue to roll out better lighting and CCTV to make streets, parks and estates safer, to deter crime and continue to help the police catch criminals.
- d. Open a Women's Safety Centre to provide services to support women facing violence and domestic abuse.
- e. Establish safe routes to school for our children and young people, with increased policing, CCTV support and other means to deter crime and protect children.
- f. Help ensure a policing presence is maintained in Rotherhithe by:
 - i. Asking cabinet to work with the GLA Police and Crime Committee and our London Assembly Member, Marina Ahmad, to hold the police to account.
 - ii. Continuing to work with the police to identify a suitable site within 20 minutes' walk of Rotherhithe.
 - iii. Calling on the Borough Commander to be open and transparent about the reasons for refusing space for a temporary police hub.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet members Motion	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team Constitutional.Team@southwark.gov.uk

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer
Version	Draft
Dated	20 June 2025

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	9 July 2025
Report title:	Members' Question Time
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	N/A
From:	Proper Constitutional Officer

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members' question time shall not exceed 30 minutes. During this time, members may not question any one cabinet member or committee chair for longer than fifteen minutes. Members are limited to one question at each meeting.

Questions to the leader will be taken first, followed by questions to other cabinet members. The order in which the different political groups ask questions of the leader will be rotated. Questions to cabinet members will also be rotated by group.

Cabinet members and committee chairs have discretion to refer a question to another cabinet member.

Responses to members' questions will be circulated on the evening of the meeting.

The Mayor will ask the member asking the question if they wish to ask one supplemental question to the member to whom the question was asked. The supplemental question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Therefore, supplemental questions to the leader or other cabinet members are not free ranging.

No question shall be asked on a matter concerning a planning or licensing application.

Notes:

1. The procedures on members' questions are set out in council assembly procedure rule 2.9 in the Southwark Constitution.
2. In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (13) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which questions to the leader appear in this report may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN

We asked for an update on the delayed reviews into the Devon Mansions and Canada Estate major works scandals in March 2025 - we were assured that we would see those in April. Three months later, and we are still no closer to getting the answers and accountability that residents and leaseholders deserve. When will we get those reports?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JASON OCHERE

What is the Leader's response to the government's £39 billion investment in social and affordable homes?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RACHEL BENTLEY

In 2024, over 400 noise complaints about boats on the Thames were recorded by riverside residents, which has remained steady for the last few years. There is clearly a problem here - but due to these boats being licenced by other boroughs, the Port of London Authority and Port of London Health Authority, enforcement action is often lacklustre. What is the council doing to engage with other local authorities and agencies to ensure that appropriate action is taken against party boats breaching noise limits?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR EMILY HICKSON

Can the Leader provide me with detail of the recent announcement of £20 million of Neighbourhood community infrastructure levy (CIL) for our communities?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR EMILY TESTER

Recent data shows that despite the number of credit adjustments for major works bills halving over the last 10 years, the average time taken between payment and final accounts has almost doubled to close to 7 years. This is causing considerable anxiety to those facing major works projects on top of the existing concerns raised by recent scandals. Can the cabinet member explain the reason for these delays, and assure that leaseholders will receive any refunds due in a timely fashion?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JON HARTLEY

Can the Leader update me on the Labour government's recent new investment in retrofitting council buildings across the borough?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

When I visited a council-managed care home earlier this year, we were shocked to learn that many residents there were ready to transition back into life at home, but were stuck in limbo due to housing issues. Sometimes these housing problems had been the cause of their health issue in the first place. What data does the council hold on the number of residents for whom poor housing conditions prevent returning to more independent living?

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ESME HICKS

Can the Leader outline how Southwark's community wardens are helping to tackle key issues facing residents raising around anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime in our estates and town centres, and in areas like Green Dale in Champion Hill?

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

Residents are rightly furious that trees that are subject to Tree Protection Orders in and around the Salt Quay pub area have been cut down - what enforcement action will the council take against those who have done this, and ensure that those trees that have been removed are replaced?

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR BETHAN ROBERTS

Can the Leader update me on the council's new Good Landlord Plan?

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR NICK JOHNSON

What data does the council hold on the current proportion of council homes with solar panels fitted?

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LEO POLLAK

Can the Leader update us on our activity to support our high streets and help them grow?

13. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN AIR, STREETS, AND WASTE FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

The Kennington Triangle traffic management scheme, initiated by Lambeth Borough Council in January 2025, took 6 months to contact St George's Ward councillors, and it's understood that beyond a leaflet drop, no community organisations on the Southwark side of the border were engaged with, despite Lambeth requesting a list of appropriate stakeholders. Will the cabinet

member apologise to residents for failing to engage with them on this scheme?

14. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN AIR, STREETS, AND WASTE FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID WATSON

In June 2025, a child attending Charles Dickens Primary School was seriously injured whilst crossing Great Suffolk Street, requiring intensive care at hospital. The child was crossing safely, holding their parent's hand. Road safety around Borough High Street has been an issue worrying parents, carers, and teachers for a long time. Whilst local councillors have managed to secure some small improvements to crossings, it's clear much more action needs taken before another child gets injured. Can the cabinet member update us on investigations into this incident, and plans to improve road safety more generally in this area?

15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & REFUGEES FROM COUNCILLOR SABINA EMMANUEL

Can the cabinet member update me on future plans for investing in our school estates?

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN AIR, STREETS AND WASTE FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM

Can the cabinet member update me on steps being taken to prevent fly-tipping in our borough?

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN AIR, STREETS AND WASTE FROM COUNCILLOR ELLIE CUMBO

Can the cabinet member update me on what steps are being taken to ensure streets and town centres are clean in our borough?

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN AIR, STREETS AND WASTE FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HOOD

In March, there was severe disruption to bus services as a result of emergency work from Thames Water. Residents were left stranded on the Rotherhithe peninsula in an area already severely underserved by public transport. The different agencies (the council, Transport for London (TfL), Thames Water) all place responsibility for poor communication with each other. Can the cabinet member take responsibility and apologise for this failure and the ongoing unbearable disruption residents are suffering through in the Rotherhithe peninsula?

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR IRINA VON WIESE

When the operation of Tower Bridge care home was transferred to Agincare, assurances were made that there would be no changes to staffing to ensure

that residents would experience minimal disruption. However, since then we have learned that at least four posts have been cut. Is the council aware of this, and what action will the cabinet member take to ensure that Agincare fulfils the promise made to staff, residents, and their families about the continuity of care?

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY & NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

What work is being done to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) at Peckham Square?

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, PARKS & YOUNG PEOPLE FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE

Can the cabinet member tell me how much the council has invested in the new sports centre at Burgess Park and what facilities are available for residents, including my constituents in Old Kent Road?

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, PARKS & YOUNG PEOPLE FROM COUNCILLOR MOHAMED DEEN

Can the cabinet member outline the range of services available for young people via the council's One Hub?

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEW HOMES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH MCCALLUM

Campaign groups such as the 35% Campaign have highlighted a number of developments where the actual number of social and affordable housing units fall far short of that agreed during the planning process - yet there appears to be no enforcement action taken against them, nor any apparent plans to. How many "missing" homes on how many sites has the council decided not to take enforcement action over where the actual number of affordable homes is below the agreed number?

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, PARKS & YOUNG PEOPLE FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PARTON

Can the cabinet member tell me what works have taken place to improve and expand Dr Harold Moody and Consort Parks?

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES, DEMOCRACY & FINANCE FROM COUNCILLOR MAGGIE BROWNING

Can the cabinet member update me on the funding provided to local LGBTQ+ organisations from this year's Pride Fund?

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, JOBS & BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLOR MARGY NEWENS

Can the cabinet member tell me what projects have received investment from the first two rounds of the Green Investment Fund?

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, JOBS & BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLOR YUCEF HASSAINE

Can the cabinet member update me on the council's work to expand the number of Living Wage employers in our borough?

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

Can the cabinet member provide detail of the outcomes of the recent Health of the Borough Conference?

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, PARKS AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS

Can the cabinet member confirm when the rebuilt Peckham Rye Adventure Playground will be completed and how, in the intervening time, any play and youth offer from the Adventure Playground building will be as inclusive as possible and present good value for money?

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	9 July 2025
Report title:	Members' Motions
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	N/A
From:	Proper Constitutional Officer

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The councillor introducing or “moving” the motion may make a speech directed to the matter under discussion. This may not exceed five minutes¹. A second councillor will then be asked by the Mayor to “second” the motion. This may not exceed three minutes without the consent of the Mayor.

The meeting will then debate the issue and any amendments on the motion will be dealt with. At the end of the debate, the mover of the motion may make a concluding speech, known as a “right of reply”. If an amendment is carried, the mover of the amendment shall hold the right of reply to any subsequent amendments and, if no further amendments are carried, at the conclusion of the debate on the substantive motion.

The Mayor will then ask councillors to vote on the motion (and any amendments).

IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution allocates responsibility for particular functions to council assembly, including approving the budget and policy framework, and allocates to the cabinet responsibility for developing and implementing the budget and policy framework and overseeing the running of council services on a day-to-day basis. Therefore, council assembly without prior reference to the cabinet cannot decide upon any matters that are reserved to the cabinet (i.e. housing, social services, regeneration, environment, education etc.) While it would be in order for council assembly to discuss an issue, consideration of any of the following should be referred to the cabinet:

- to change or develop a new or existing policy
- to instruct officers to implement new procedures
- to allocate resources.

¹ Council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9)

Note: In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10 (8) & (9) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which motions appear in the agenda may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

1. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JASMINE ALI (Seconded by Councillor Mohamed Deen)

Southwark welcomes 400th refugee family

1. Council Assembly celebrates:
 - a. The council's achievement in resettling the 400th family under the Refugee Resettlement Programme.
 - b. The outstanding contribution of the voluntary and community sector for their continued work in helping sanctuary seekers and refugees to settle in our borough.
 - c. The generosity and support of Southwark residents in coming forwards and opening their hearts and homes to refugees.
 - d. The efforts of partner organisations and officers in helping to resettle so many families in our borough.
 - e. The collective efforts of the council, voluntary and community sector (VCS) and partner organisations in making Southwark a Borough of Sanctuary, welcoming refugees and sanctuary seekers in all walks of life.
2. Council Assembly recognises:
 - a. The support provided by the council for 116 children seeking sanctuary since 2022.
 - b. The council's work in supporting almost 600 Ukrainian refugees following Russia's invasion in 2022.
 - c. The council's work in supporting 50 Afghan refugees as part of the Afghan Resettlement Scheme in addition to the 200 individuals supported in the borough.
 - d. The council's support of the Home Office accommodated 574 asylum seekers.
 - e. The council's £24.6 million expenditure since 2022 in supporting almost 800 households with No Recourse to Public Funds.

- f. The continued support for the Southwark Law Centre's vital work in supporting sanctuary seekers and refugees.
 - g. The support provided to over 650 sanctuary seekers and refugees who found themselves homeless.
- 3. Council Assembly stands united in:
 - a. Welcoming sanctuary seekers and refugees to Southwark.
 - b. Doing everything in our power to support those who have fled the most unimaginable of circumstances.
 - c. Our belief that our diversity makes our borough stronger, and that our culture, cuisine, community and spirit have been enriched a thousand-fold by citizens and families from all over the world.
 - d. The continued belief that sanctuary seekers should be granted the right to work rather than having to wait 12 months or for their application to be decided, supporting the Lift the Ban coalition.
- 4. Council Assembly reiterates:
 - a. Its commitment to the five City of Sanctuary values:
 - 1. Inclusivity: welcoming and respecting people from all backgrounds, placing value on diversity and committing to equality
 - 2. Openness: Committing to a culture of working collaboratively across the City of Sanctuary network and in partnership with other councils
 - 3. Participation: Working with people seeking sanctuary and valuing and recognising the contribution of all. Aspiring to ensure that people seeking sanctuary are involved in all decision making at all levels and are supported to become leaders in the organisation, networks and the wider movement.
 - 4. Inspiring: Working with enthusiasm and positivity and being determined to surpass what has already been achieved to welcome refugees and people seeking sanctuary.
 - 5. Integrity: Aspiring to high standards of honesty and behaviour and always acting in the interests of people seeking sanctuary.

5. Council Assembly notes:

- a. The four objectives of the Borough of Sanctuary Action plan:
 - 1. Stand together: We want Southwark to be a place of safety, support and opportunity for those seeking sanctuary and amplify their voices and experiences to shape positive change.
 - 2. Voice: We want to celebrate the culture, diversity and contributions of those seeking sanctuary and amplify their voices and experiences to shape positive change.
 - 3. Shaping Services: We want to better understand the experiences and needs of those seeking sanctuary and ensure that services and local agencies are responding to these issues and enabling opportunities.
 - 4. Bespoke support: We want to foster collaboration between different local agencies so they can respond effectively, cooperatively and flexibly to the ongoing and changing needs of sanctuary-seekers.

6. Council Assembly asks Cabinet to:

- a. Continue its role in delivering on the Borough of Sanctuary Action Plan to surpass what has already been achieved to welcome refugees and people seeking sanctuary.
- b. Enable our Borough of Sanctuary team to continue to provide essential wrap around support for refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants.
- c. Ensure a whole council approach is being taken to support refugees and sanctuary seekers, including helping those who find themselves homeless.
- d. Publish a report to mark one year of Southwark as a Borough of Sanctuary.
- e. Reiterate its support for and membership of the Lift the Ban coalition.
- f. Actively support our sisters and brothers in their annual celebration of refugee week to make Southwark Refugee Week the loudest, most inclusive and celebratory refugee celebrations in the country.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN (Seconded by Councillor Rachel Bentley)

Southwark Stands Against Welfare Cuts

1. Council Assembly notes:
 - a. That 3.7 million people in England and Wales currently receive Personal Independence Payments (PIP).
 - b. PIP is a benefit not linked to being in work or out of work, but instead designed to help people with the additional unavoidable costs of having a disability. Many disabled people use PIP to cover the cost of getting to and from work, for paying for essential equipment and for meeting their social care charges.
 - c. That Universal Credit contains a health-related element that currently supports 2.25 million people with severe health problems.
 - d. Research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation which has found that 50% of recipients of the health element of Universal Credit are either unable to heat their home, are behind on their household bills or have low food security.
 - e. That there are 900,000 children currently living in households where someone receives the health-related Universal Credit.
2. Council Assembly both notes and condemns the announcement by the Labour Government in their Spring Statement that they will:
 - a. Cut the health element of Universal Credit for new claimants from £97 a week to £50 a week from April 2026.
 - b. Freeze the health element of Universal Credit for existing claimants until 2030 – meaning it will no longer increase with inflation, resulting in a real terms loss of income for over 2 million households.
 - c. Restrict those under the age of 22 from claiming the health element of Universal Credit at all.
 - d. Introduce stricter tests for those receiving Personal Independence Payments (PIP). People who struggle to even wash their hair or wash below their waist may have their payments reduced by an average of £1720 a year. It's estimated that 370,000 people with disabilities will no longer qualify for PIP under the Government's new assessment rules.
3. Council Assembly further notes with concern:
 - a. [Research](#) conducted by the Liberal Democrats which has shown that up to 87% of disabled residents of Southwark currently claiming PIP will lose access to this vital benefit.

- b. Further [studies](#) conducted by Policy In Practice which have found that 15,000 Southwark households could be set to lose disability benefits as part of the wider package of these cruel cuts.
 - c. Research by Policy in Practice also estimates that the damage to Southwark's economy caused by these cuts will be over £33 million.
- 4. Council Assembly believes:
 - a. That these changes amount to nothing less than attack on those living with disabilities and health conditions – who need PIP payments and health-related Universal Credit to live independent, dignified lives.
 - b. Freezing, reducing and removing these payments will have a catastrophic impact on millions of households who, due to disability and ill-health, face some of the highest rates of material deprivation in the UK.
- 5. Council Assembly resolves to:
 - a. Request the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, expressing the council's grave concerns about the impact of these changes and urging them to reverse their decision to target those with disabilities and health condition with cuts to their support payments.
 - b. Request the Leader of the Council write to Southwark MPs, urging them to oppose these unfair changes to the welfare system.
 - c. Develop a strategy to maximise the number of people claiming benefits they are entitled to in Southwark by using existing resources including the council website, the council's newsletters, notices in local newspapers and council social media feeds.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS (Seconded by Councillor Ellie Cumbo)

Making Space for Girls in Parks and Open Spaces

- 1. This Council notes:
 - a. This Labour administration's continued investment in parks, green spaces, and leisure facilities, including:
 - i. Having 30 Green Flag parks and an extensive parks and playground investment and improvements programme

that has delivered major upgrades the length and breadth of the borough.

- ii. A borough-wide plan to tackle safety and antisocial behaviour in parks.
- iii. Upgrades to outdoor gyms and sports facilities.
- iv. Initiatives such as the creation of more community growing spaces and the borough-wide action plan for Right to Grow so that our green spaces can meet the leisure needs of even more of our residents.

2. This Council also notes:

- a. That despite these positive developments, there is compelling evidence from the Make Space for Girls campaign showing that teenage girls continue to feel excluded from parks and open spaces.
- b. That the provision of multi-use green areas (MUGAs), skateparks and other facilities tends to cater to boys, and does not reflect the social needs of girls.
- c. That often facilities such as outdoor gyms are designed with equipment that can be daunting or inaccessible to female users and particularly teenage girls.
- d. That the work concerning our green and open spaces, while extensive, does not yet include specific design standards or data monitoring to ensure teenage girls are equitably served.
- e. That research from Women in Sport indicates that teenage girls are almost twice as likely than teenage boys to disengage from sport during adolescence. Primary reasons for this include fear of judgement, a lack of confidence and not feeling safe outdoors.
- f. That exercise has significant physical but also mental health benefits and can support young people with improved social and emotional resilience.

3. This Council believes:

- a. That all young people deserve green and public spaces where they feel welcome, safe and seen – and that girls and young women must be part of shaping the parks, playgrounds, sports facilities and outdoor spaces that serve them.
- b. That we have an opportunity to build on Southwark's leadership in public space investment by becoming a national leader in designing spaces for teenage girls and young women.

4. This Council resolves to:

- a. **Include a gender-inclusion strand** in the new Green Spaces Plan, specifically focused on teenage girls' use of parks and green spaces, and informed by the research and guidance from Make Space for Girls.
- b. **Undertake an audit** of a representative sample of Southwark's parks and play areas by Autumn 2026 to assess current usage,

- inclusion, and accessibility for teenage girls and other underrepresented groups.
- c. **Engage girls and young women** across the borough – including through schools, youth groups and other community partners – to understand what facilities, layouts and activities would make public spaces work for them.
 - d. **Deliver at least three co-designed pilot interventions** in parks or green spaces or new public realm by Summer 2027. These will be pilots within existing capital projects. The pilots will look to include some of features known to support the use of spaces by girls and young women such as:
 - i. **Social Seating Arrangements:** Designing seating in clusters or circles facilitates social interaction, allowing girls to gather comfortably without feeling isolated or exposed.
 - ii. **Subdivided and Open Sports Areas:** Instead of large, enclosed multi-use games areas (MUGAs), creating smaller, open courts can prevent domination by single groups and make the spaces more inviting for all users, including girls.
 - iii. **Inclusion of Swings and Natural Play Elements:** Incorporating swings and natural play features like logs or climbing structures can cater to varied interests and promote active engagement among girls.
 - iv. **Accessible and Quality Toilets:** Providing clean and well-maintained toilets can remove barriers to access and comfort for girls. 78% of girls say they avoid sport during menstruation.
 - v. **Circular Pathways:** Designing circular paths around parks encourages movement and can be particularly appealing for walking and socialising, activities often preferred by teenage girls.

Above all, these pilots should actively involve teenage girls in the design process to ensure that their specific needs and preferences are addressed, leading to more inclusive spaces.

- e. Build on these pilot interventions by then **embedding girl-inclusive principles** in all future park and playground refurbishments.
- f. **Join the Make Space for Girls local authority network**, working collaboratively to share learning and push national standards forward.
- g. **Publish an update report** alongside the pilot projects delivery, and ensure equalities reporting, with data broken down by sex and age, is regularly reviewed by Cabinet.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE (Seconded by Councillor Irina von Wiese)

Implementation of a Tourist Tax

1. Council Assembly notes:
 - a. That millions of people visit Southwark every year, with the Imperial War Museum receiving over 1 million tourists annually and Borough Market attracting 500,000 visitors every week.
 - b. That visitors to Southwark, whilst significantly contributing to the local economy, place additional strain on infrastructure, public services, and the local environment.
 - c. That many cities, such as Venice and Amsterdam, successfully employ a tourist contribution scheme (colloquially known as a tourist tax) to offset these impacts, without deterring visitors to the local economy.
 - d. That several cities in the UK have now implemented, or are in the process of implementing their own tourist tax, including Manchester, York, Liverpool, and Edinburgh, with the latter two having just implemented the tax in May 2025.
 - e. That whilst local authorities do not have the power to impose a direct tourist tax, Manchester and Liverpool have been able to introduce a levy via their respective Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).
 - f. That other Inner London boroughs, including Camden and Westminster, have already stated their support for a tourist tax.
 - g. Manchester City Council reportedly made £2.8 million from their tourist tax, whilst Edinburgh expects to bring in as much as £50 million per year.
 - h. The recent support for a tourist tax from the Mayor of London.
 - i. That a tourist tax could provide additional revenue for maintaining public spaces, public transport, heritage conservation, waste management, sustainability projects, supporting the borough's long-term goals and for promoting Southwark.
2. Council Assembly believes:
 - a. Welcome though visitors are, a tourist tax would allow Southwark to ensure visitors contribute fairly to the borough's upkeep and to its sustainability, and to better manage the pressures that mass tourism brings.
 - b. Evidence from numerous cities shows a modest visitor levy would not deter tourists and is now an accepted contribution across Europe to the costs of maintaining and enhancing popular visitor destinations.
 - c. A tourist tax could potentially raise millions of pounds in revenue for Southwark.

- d. The council should work to develop the case for a tourist tax with its partners, including the hospitality, arts and culture sectors, as well as with business and residents' groups.
3. Council Assembly resolves to ask the Cabinet to:
- a. Introduce a pilot voluntary tourist contribution scheme which would see an additional £2 per night charge added to hotel rooms in Southwark, utilising our strong relationships with established Business Improvement Districts in order to do so.
 - b. Ensure that existing tenancy requirements regarding subletting and/or usage as holiday lets of council-owned homes are more stringently enforced.
 - c. Lobby central government to grant local authorities the necessary legal powers to implement a direct compulsory visitor levy.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LEO POLLAK (Seconded by Councillor Cassandra Brown)

Limiting the spread of damaging gambling premises in the Blue

1. Council Assembly:
- a. Notes the successes of the Blue Lettings Strategy, established with the support of local councillors, Blue Bermondsey business improvement district (BID) and the council over the past decade, that has seen:
 - i. Major public realm improvements
 - ii. Market infrastructure upgrades
 - iii. Shopfront improvements
 - iv. Four new restaurants set up on the high street
 - v. New locally owned uses such Brotherhood of Games thriving and bringing footfall and vitality
 - vi. The upcoming launch of the new B223 Multi-arts centre and community centre in the Thorowgoods building
 - vii. New affordable workspace supported to be established in the arches.
 - b. Notes that more needs to be done drive footfall and improved mix of shops and stalls, creating new jobs as well as progression for local entrepreneurs, especially with the growing population (as well as retail competition) deriving from the new development at the Biscuit factory.

- c. Notes the growing prevalence of Adult Gaming Centres in the borough and nationally, and recent research showing their propensity to target areas of higher deprivation, and findings from addiction experts showing a spike in clinical referrals for gambling addicts.
- d. Notes that the Blue currently has an over-concentration of five gambling premises along a 150 yard stretch, in units that could do more to support the local economy, and less to fuelling addiction and financial distress.
- e. Calls on the council assembly to restate its commitment to the Blue lettings strategy, working with private commercial landlords and the Blue Bermondsey BID, to curate the high street and prioritise marketing and letting of commercial premises that:
 - i. Bring pride &/or distinction to the area
 - ii. Are independent businesses
 - iii. Avoid duplication
 - iv. Introduce uses that meet the needs of different incomes and backgrounds in the community
 - v. Drive footfall
 - vi. Generate local jobs and promotes skills development opportunities
 - vii. Support progression for locally owned businesses
 - viii. Avoid known public health risks.
- f. Calls on the council to re-commit to the Blue lettings strategy covering the above principles, and to use every available lever to avoid turning over leases of existing betting shops within its property portfolio in deprived or over-saturated areas.
- g. Calls on the Leader and Cabinet Member for Business to organise a meeting with local ward councillors, Blue Bermondsey BID and other stakeholders to support the strategy for improving the Blue, and long-term prospects for commercial property portfolio.
- h. Calls on the council to explore options for strengthening planning policy to combat over-concentration of gambling premises, through its forthcoming review of the Southwark Plan.
- i. Calls on the council to commission independent field research with local health charities and research organisations, to better understand the spending profiles and psychological backgrounds of repeat customers of gambling shops at the Blue, and to publicise those findings on its website.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Member Motions	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team Constitutional.Team@southwark.gov.uk

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	26 June 2025

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	9 July 2025
Report title:	Waiver of six-month councillor attendance rule: Section 85 of Local Government Act 1972
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not Applicable
From:	Proper Constitutional Officer

RECOMMENDATION

1. That in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, council assembly approves Councillor Maggie Browning's non-attendance at meetings from 4 September 2025 for twenty-six weeks (until 5 March 2026) on the grounds of parental responsibility (maternity leave).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that 'if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.' Any exemption must be considered before the expiry of the six consecutive months' absence.
3. Qualifying meetings include council assembly, any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or at a meeting of any joint committee, joint board or other body by whom for the time being any of the functions of the authority are being discharged, or who were appointed to advise the authority on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions.
4. The extension would not prevent Councillor Browning from returning to meetings at any time but would give flexibility and prevent further recourse to the council before the end of the extension period.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Councillor Browning will start maternity leave from 4 September 2025 for 26 weeks. The purpose of this report is to propose that council assembly approve her continuing absence for a period which may exceed 6 months and until able to resume normal duties. Council assembly can only consider approval of any reasons for non-attendance before the end

of the relevant six-month period.

6. Councillor Browning's ward and constituency casework would continue to be co-ordinated by her ward colleague.
7. Councillor Browning holds a post with a special responsibility allowance. In accordance with the member allowances scheme, during any period for which special leave arrangements are in place, any member who is appointed to deputise for the absent member will be eligible for the full SRA payments due in the same period up to a maximum of 52 weeks. No member can receive more than one SRA.

Policy framework implications

8. None in the context of this report.

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

Community impact statement

9. This report has no immediate impact on the community. Councillor Hicks' ward and constituency casework would continue to be co-ordinated by her ward colleagues.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

10. Supporting members in being able to take extended absence due to maternity leave or ill health will have a positive impact on the general equality duty with regards to the protected characteristics under the Act.

Health impact statement

11. None in the context of this report.

Climate change implications

12. None in the context of this report.

Resource Implications

13. None in the context of this report.

Consultation

14. None in the context of this report.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance

15. The legal requirements are detailed in the report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Section 85 (1) Local Government Act 1972	Constitutional Team, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team Email: constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services		
Report Author	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services		
Version	Final		
Dated	6 June 2025		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer Title		Comments Sought	Comments included
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance		Yes	Incorporated in report
Strategic Director, Resources		No	No
Cabinet Member		No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team			6 June 2025

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

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			Total:	20
			Last updated: May 2025	