

Council Assembly

Ordinary meeting

Wednesday 12 November 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: 31 October 2025



Council Assembly

Ordinary meeting

Wednesday 12 November 2025

7.00 pm

Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
----------	-------	----------

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 - 23

To approve as a correct record the open minutes of the council assembly meeting held on 9 July 2025.

Item No.	Title	Page No.
----------	-------	----------

2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

2.1. PETITIONS

No petitions have been received.

2.2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The deadline for public questions is 11.59pm, Thursday 6 November 2025. Questions can be emailed to constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk.

Questions from the public will be distributed in a supplemental agenda.

3. THEMED DEBATE

3.1. COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

The deadline for community evidence on the theme is 11.59pm, Thursday 6 November 2025. Submissions can be emailed to constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk.

Submissions from the public will be distributed in a supplemental agenda.

3.2. MOTION ON THE THEME

24 - 27

The cabinet member for climate emergency, jobs and business and the cabinet member for community safety and neighbourhoods to present the theme for the meeting.

4. DEPUTATIONS

The deadline for deputation requests is 11.59pm, Thursday 6 November 2025. Deputations can be emailed to constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk.

Deputation requests will be distributed in a supplemental agenda.

5. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

5.1. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

28 - 34

To receive any questions from members of the council.

Item No.	Title	Page No.
----------	-------	----------

5.2. MEMBERS' MOTIONS	35 - 50
------------------------------	---------

To consider the following motions:

- Demanding Real Fairer Funding for Southwark
- Action to divest the Southwark Pension Fund from conflict and genocide
- Southwark Council will not water down affordable housing requirements
- Cleaner and Safer Streets in Southwark
- Make Peckham Rye Station safe and accessible
- Our water our way

6. REPORTS FOR DECISION

6.1. PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES; CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES: APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS; MOTIONS	51 - 58
6.2. TREASURY MANAGEMENT - MID-YEAR UPDATE 2025-26	59 - 80
6.3. APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY RECORDER OF SOUTHWARK	81 - 84
6.4. RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON	85 - 87

7. 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

Item No.	Title	Page No.
----------	-------	----------

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

8. RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

Date: 31 October 2025



Council Assembly (Ordinary meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary meeting) held on Wednesday 9 July 2025 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2025-26, Councillor Sunny Lambe (Chair)

Councillor Suzanne Abachor
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor Naima Ali
Councillor John Batteson
Councillor Rachel Bentley
Councillor Cassandra Brown
Councillor Maggie Browning
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Ellie Cumbo
Councillor Mohamed Deen
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Esme Dobson
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Sabina Emmanuel
Councillor Natasha Ennin
Councillor Sam Foster
Councillor Renata Hamvas
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Ketzia Harper
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor Youcef Hassaine
Councillor Esme Hicks
Councillor Emily Hickson
Councillor Adam Hood

Councillor Laura Johnson
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Richard Leeming
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Portia Mwangangye
Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor David Parton
Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Bethan Roberts
Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Emily Tester
Councillor David Watson
Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sunil Chopra, Sam Dalton, Helen Dennis, Nick Johnson, James McAsh, Margy Newens, Reggie Popoola, Catherine Rose, Joseph Vambe, Kath Whittam, and Irina von Wiese.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Victoria Mills.

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

There were none.

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

The Mayor agreed to accept item 7.2, Treasury Management – Outturn 2024-25 as late and 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 – 19:15	2 Election of the Leader Cllr Kieron Williams – short announcement
19:15 – 19:25	3.2 Public questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two public questions
19:25 – 20:25 (20 minutes – 5 minutes' speech)	Themed debate 4.1 Community Evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quince Garcia, Roadworks Media Nancy Trullo, United Hearts Lucia Adams 4.2 Motion on the Theme <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Natasha Ennin Councillor Victor Chamberlain, opposition spokesperson Themed debate open to all other councillors Cabinet member's right of reply to the debate
20:25 – 20:30	Recess
20:30 – 20:45 (5 minutes speech each)	5. Deputations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bells Garden TRA Manor Estate TRA
20:45 – 21:20 (5 minutes)	6.1 Members' Question Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late question

(15 minutes)	• Members' questions to the leader
(15 minutes)	• Members' questions to the cabinet
21:20 – 22:00	6.2 Motions
	Motion 1 – Southwark welcomes 400th refugee family
	Motion 2 – Southwark Stands Against Welfare Cuts
	Motion 3 – Making Space for Girls in Parks and Open Spaces
	Motion 4 – Implementation of a Tourist Tax
	Motion 5 – Limiting the spread of damaging gambling premises in the Blue
22:00*	7. Reports
	7.1 Waiver of six-month councillor attendance rule: Section 85 of Local Government Act 1972
	7.2 Treasury Management – Outturn 2024-25

* 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 4 - Themed debate

Community Evidence Submissions

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

- Quince Garcia, Roadworks Media
- Nancy Trullo, United Hearts
- Lucia Adams

Format

A five minute presentation from the groups.

4.1 Motion on the theme

Themed debate

To run as listed in the timings above.

To have a single debate.

Item 5 Deputation requests:

To receive submissions from the groups listed in the deputation requests report in supplemental agenda no. 2:

- Bells Garden TRA
- Manor Estate TRA

(Five minutes to speak, question to relevant cabinet member)

Item 5.2 General motions:

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

Motion 2 – Southwark Stands Against Welfare Cuts

To change the seconder of Motion 2 from Councillor Rachel Bentley to Councillor Jane Salmon

Item 7.1 Waiver of six-month councillor attendance rule: Section 85 of Local Government Act 1972

Paragraph 9 of the report refers to Councillor Hicks; this should read as Councillor Browning.

1.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Maggie Browning declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 7.1, Waiver of six month councillor attendance rule: Section 85 of Local Government Act 1972, as it relates to her attendance. She left the room for this item and did not vote on it.

1.5 MINUTES

The minutes of the annual meeting of council assembly on 17 May 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

2. ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**2.1 ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL****RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly elected Councillor Sarah King as leader of the council.
2. That council assembly noted 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 of the report).

2.2 EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS 2025-26**RESOLVED:**

That the leader reported to council assembly that the cabinet will remain unchanged at present.

3. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

3.1 PETITIONS

No petitions were received for this meeting.

3.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Two public questions were received. There was one supplemental question.

4. THEMED DEBATE

4.1 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

The meeting agreed to receive submissions from the following:

Quince Garcia, Roadworks Media

The representative spoke to the meeting for five minutes.

Nancy Trullo, United Hearts

The representative was unable to attend.

Lucia Adams

The representative spoke to the meeting for five minutes.

4.2 MOTION ON THE THEME

Councillor Natasha Ennin, cabinet member for community safety and neighbourhoods, presented the motion in the themed debate.

Councillor Victor Chamberlain, the opposition spokesperson, responded to the motion and proposed Amendment A.

Councillor Victoria Mills arrived at this point.

Following debate (Councillors Emily Hickson, Bethan Roberts, David Watson, Richard Leeming, Leo Pollak, Adam Hood, Sam Foster, Emily Tester, Andy Simmons, Jon Hartley, Charlie Smith, Kieron Williams, and Ketzia Harper) Councillor Natasha Ennin 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:**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.

5. DEPUTATIONS

The meeting held a five minute recess following the themed debate.

Councillor Rachel Bentley left the meeting at this point.

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

Bells Garden TRA

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for five minutes and thereafter asked a question of the leader of the council, who asked Councillor Cleo Soanes, ward councillor for the area, to respond.

Manor Estate TRA

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for five minutes and thereafter asked a question of the leader of the council, who asked Councillor Cassandra Brown, ward councillor for the area, to respond.

6. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

6.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

At this point, Councillors Esme Dobson and Gavin Edwards left the meeting.

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

There were 29 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated before the meeting. There were 18 supplemental questions.

6.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Councillor Suzanne Abachor left the meeting at this point.

Motion 1: Southwark welcomes 400th refugee family

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Jasmine Ali moved the motion. Councillor Mohamed Deen seconded the motion.

There were no amendments to the motion. After debate (Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall, Youcef Hassaine) Councillor Jasmine Ali 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 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.

Motion 2: Southwark Stands Against Welfare Cuts

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Victor Chamberlain moved the motion. Councillor Jane Salmon seconded the motion.

There were two amendments to the motion. Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall moved Amendment B. Councillor Emily Tester seconded Amendment B. Councillor Stephanie Cryan moved Amendment C. Councillor Ian Wingfield seconded Amendment C.

At this point, the guillotine fell.

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

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. 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 notes:

- a. The regrettable consequences of austerity on Southwark's most vulnerable residents, instigated by the Conservative - Liberal Democrat collation, which has had deleterious and long-lasting effects on our residents living with disabilities and health conditions, including children. Policies such as the Bedroom Tax and Benefit Cap pushed vulnerable people into poverty and homelessness.
- b. That the previous Labour government took a million children out of poverty and reduced homelessness by more than two-thirds.
- c. That the £22 billion black hole in the public finances left by the Conservative Government has resulted in tough decisions having to be made.
- d. That despite tough decisions, the Labour Party is committed to fixing the broken welfare system, and that tackling poverty and inequality has always been central to the Labour Party's mission.

3. Council Assembly welcomes:

- a. The work of the Southwark Labour administration to provide welfare support to those most in need across our borough:
 - i. We have delivered the country's most comprehensive free healthy school meals programme across our nursery, primary and secondary schools, and in the school holidays. Furthermore, Southwark Labour has led the way nationally, by providing free school meals universally to primary school children since 2013, and by extending free school meal provision in secondary schools with £3.2m of investment for children who need it most.
 - ii. In 2024 alone, the Southwark Cost of Living Support Fund distributed more than £40 million to families in immediate need. Since the start of the Cost of Living Crisis in 2021, the Council has reached over 100,000 Southwark residents, those on the lowest incomes and most vulnerable to the impacts of rising costs.
 - iii. Offering a package of cost-of-living support that includes help for residents on low or insecure incomes and dealing with problem debt
 - iv. The Holiday Food and Fun programme funded nearly 70,000 free meals for children aged 4-6 in 2024
 - v. The distribution of Rose Vouchers, to help families buy fresh fruit and vegetables
 - vi. The Pension Credit take-up campaign, which supported eligible residents in applying for Pension Credit, enabling them to benefit from the Winter Fuel Allowance

- vii. The Southwark Energy Savers Scheme, which provides energy-saving advice and support to residents struggling with rising energy bills and the cost of living crisis.
- b. The role that Labour MPs have played:
 - i. Voting for the amended Welfare Reform Bill, recognising the impact that the original bill would've had on those claiming PIP
 - ii. The work done by MPs Florence Eshalomi and Helen Hayes, in scrutinising the government's welfare plans and securing changes, so that no one currently in receipt of the health top-up of universal credit, will lose out.
- c. The proposed Timms Review to examine eligibility for PIP, and the changes now secured around the implementation timetable to take account of that review which will be co-produced with disabled people.

4. Council Assembly recognises:

- a. That the Labour government inherited a mess from the Tories but that over the last year, important steps have been taken to invest in the NHS and get waiting lists down and put money back in people's pockets through a significant increase in the national minimum wage.
- b. That the current welfare system needs a thorough review, to take account of emerging health challenges, address high levels of worklessness amongst young people, and to tackle child poverty and homelessness.
- c. That the government has committed to investing £1bn in vital back to work support;
- d. That despite this, there have been significant concerns raised by disabled people and anti-poverty organisations about proposals that were put forward around PIP eligibility, and the health-related top-up to Universal Credit.

5. Council Assembly resolves to:

- a. Ask that the Council continues to provide support to residents who need it most:
 - i. Continuing to provide Short Breaks to children with SEND through the Thrive-to-25 programme
 - ii. Continuing to lend a helping hand to families during school holidays in providing free healthy meals through initiatives such as Holiday Food and Fun
 - iii. Continue to provide free healthy school meals in nursery, primary and secondary schools, including the Department of Education's pilot free

- iv. breakfast clubs currently running in some Southwark primary schools
- b. Continuing to provide financial assistance to those receiving domiciliary care
- c. To write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, to set out our priorities for Welfare Reform, including the abolition of the two-child limit in Universal Credit and permanent re-pegging of the Local Housing Allowance.
- c. To engage with the Timms Review and ensure that the voices and experiences of disabled Southwark residents are heard in that process

Motion 3: Making Space for Girls in Parks and Open Spaces

This motion was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

There were no amendments to the motion.

The 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 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.

Motion 4: Implementation of a Tourist Tax

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 carried.

The amended 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. 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. 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.
 - f. The recent support for a tourist tax from the Mayor of London.

- g. 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 London-wide tourist tax could, by some estimates, potentially generate hundreds of millions of pounds in revenue for the capital

3. Council Assembly resolves to:

- a. Utilise our strong relationships with Business Improvement Districts in order to understand the potential impact of a tourism levy on businesses, particularly those in the hospitality sector.
- b. Support the call to implement a London-wide tourism levy through accommodation costs.

Motion 5: Limiting the spread of damaging gambling premises in the Blue

This motion was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

There was one amendment to the motion.

Amendment E 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. 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 as 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 to 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.

7. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION

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

Councillor Maggie Browning left the meeting at this point and did not vote on this item, as she had declared a pecuniary interest in this matter.

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, council assembly approved 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).

7.2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT - OUTTURN 2024-25

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

RESOLVED:

1. That Council Assembly noted the 2024-25 treasury management annual outturn report and in particular:
 - the update on the economic background.
 - that all treasury management activity was undertaken in compliance with the 2024-25 approved treasury management strategy and the council's prudential indicators for 2024-25, attached at appendix A.
 - that the balance outstanding on all external debt as at 31 March 2025 was £1,159m.
 - that the balance on investments as at 31 March 2025 stood at £53m.

8. AMENDMENTS

The amendments were listed in supplemental agenda no. 2.

The meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

Agenda Item 3.2

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	12 November 2025
Report title:	Motion on the Theme: Rights for Residents: Putting People First
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 “Rights for Residents: Putting People First.”

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 John Batteson, cabinet member for climate emergency, jobs and business, and Councillor Natasha Ennin, cabinet member for community safety and neighbourhoods

Rights for Residents: Putting People First

1. Council Assembly believes:
 - a. That a core goal of local and national government is to improve people’s lives by guaranteeing rights for residents.
 - b. That rights empower people against more powerful organisations and individuals.
 - c. That every worker has the right to join a Trade Union.
 - d. That under fourteen years of Conservative government, the balance of power shifted away from working people and toward more powerful individuals and organisations.

- e. That amidst the cost of living crisis, rights at work and for renters are especially vital and in need of reform.

2. Council Assembly notes:

- a. That the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition oversaw an end to real terms wage rises for the first time in 50 years.
- b. That this end to real terms wage rises is a core driver of the cost of living crisis today, with rising prices and bills outstripping wages leaving thousands of Southwark residents struggling to make ends meet.
- c. That this year the Liberal Democrats once again sided with the Conservatives and Reform to try to block improved rights for working families.
- d. That private rents are rising at unacceptable levels in central London boroughs such as Southwark, also driving the cost of living crisis.
- e. That this is partly caused by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition's cut to investment in genuinely affordable housing, with a 60% cut in capital investment for new affordable homes from 2010.
- f. That the Labour Party has a proud history of enshrining rights in law, from the Minimum Wage to maternity leave, and continues to lead on expanding rights for workers and renters.
- g. That the balance of power in both the workplace and the rental market is tilted against individuals, and this must change.

3. Council Assembly welcomes:

- a. This Labour administration's continued adherence to Labour values, supporting the rights of our residents and backing working families.
- b. The council's new Know Your Worth, Know Your Rights campaign, showcasing the rights our residents have at work and how to access the right guidance and advice to better understand them.
- c. The council's work to partner with organisations like Citizens Advice and the Southwark Law Centre in the campaign, to promote information about our residents rights in the workplace, such as entitlement to sick leave and paid holidays.
- d. The work of the Southwark Living Wage Unit, Southwark Works, and Connect to Work in supporting fair pay and employment access.
- e. The council's support for local businesses, including through Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and business forums, and efforts to double the number of Living Wage employers.

- f. The largest landlord licensing scheme in the country, successful prosecutions of rogue landlords, and the Gold Standards Charter for responsible landlords.

4. Council Assembly also welcomes:

- a. Labour's Employment Rights Bill, which will deliver day-one rights, ban fire-and-rehire, and improve job security and workplace protections.
- b. Labour's Renters' Rights Bill, which will abolish Section 21 evictions, end rental bidding wars, and introduce a new landlord ombudsman and database.

5. This Council resolves to:

- a. Ask Cabinet to continue to adhere to Labour values in decisions they take and support and empower working families at every opportunity.
- b. Support the full implementation of both the Employment Rights Bill and the Renters' Rights Bill.
- c. Work with employers to become early adopters of the Employment Rights Bill.
- d. Work with employers and landlords to raise awareness of new rights and responsibilities.
- e. Collaborate with trade unions, advice services, and community organisations to support residents in exercising their rights.
- f. Promote the London Living Wage and positive employment practices across the borough.
- g. Train enforcement teams and amplify communications to tenants about their rights.
- h. Work with the Greater London Authority and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to boost enforcement and share best practices across London.

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	Final
Dated	29 October 2025

Agenda Item 5.1

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	12 November 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 CASSANDRA BROWN

Will the Leader join me in celebrating the amazing success of Appleby Blue winning the Stirling Prize and the council's role in delivering high quality homes for older people?

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

Earlier this summer the full extent of the major work scandals across three estates was revealed - and further scandals have since emerged. What hasn't been scrutinised however is the fact that in the Gateway 2 reports, a group including the deputy leader and cabinet member for council housing should have received quarterly updates on these projects - why were the clear failings and overspends not identified and tackled through these updates?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SAM FOSTER

I welcome the commitment announced in September that Southwark Council will take action to divest the Southwark Pension Fund from conflict and genocide. Could the Leader provide more detail on this commitment, including:

- A timeline for when each of the four announced actions will be taken: the divestment of pension funds, the call to the London Collective Investment Vehicle around a more robust framework for excluding investments linked to conflict and genocide, the action to steer investments in pooled funds, and the implementation of the Genocide Convention into our investment framework?
- Whether Southwark divest not only from investments linked to illegal settlements, but also from companies complicit in the genocide in Gaza and other illegal acts by Israel?
- Whether these actions are taken with the understanding that the UK's legal obligations to prevent genocide, under the Genocide Convention, apply also to local authorities as organs of the State?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS

Can the Leader update me on our manifesto commitment to launch a campaign to promote workers' rights?

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

Southwark is one of the worst hit authorities by Labour government's farcical council-funding shake-up. A former Southwark deputy leader is signing off these cuts in government, another former Southwark councillor sits in the Cabinet Office, and a Southwark Labour MP sits in the Department for Local

Government. Even with this level of influence over the government, Labour is not delivering for Southwark. What is the leader doing to utilise these connections to ensure that these devastating planned cuts do not go ahead?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

What is the council doing this year to ensure all pensioners eligible for pension credit are able to claim it this winter?

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

Whilst the ceasefire agreement in place in Gaza is a positive step forward, it's clear that there is still much more work to be done to ensure that aid is allowed into the region, illegal occupations in the West Bank are stopped, that all hostages, including the remains of any deceased, are returned, and to ensure there is a lasting peace. That requires maximum pressure from the international community and organisations that are able to apply financial pressure. Will the leader update us on progress made to date on the divestment commitments announced in September?

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

Can the Leader update me on our plans to build the next phase of council homes in our borough?

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

Whilst it's good to see the council starting to take action to tackle crime in Peckham and Walworth, residents in St George's ward will be disappointed that there is no area plan for Blackfriars Road, which is experiencing acute levels of phone snatching, theft, and anti-social behaviour. Will the leader consider extending the boundaries of the North Walworth area action plan to incorporate Blackfriars Road, or create a bespoke plan for this area of Southwark?

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SABINA EMMANUEL

Can the Leader update me on our Manifesto commitment to double the number of living wage employers in our borough?

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

Opposition to the Labour government's digital ID scheme was the subject of a Parliamentary Petition receiving over 1 million signatures. One of the key reasons for opposing it concerns accessibility for those who are digitally

excluded - can the leader confirm whether she supports the scheme, and what steps will be taken locally to ensure that those with digital access issues are not further excluded from society?

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES

Can the Leader update me on Labour's local commitment to keep our streets, estates and town centres safe at night?

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ELLIE CUMBO

Can the Leader update us on Labour's action to tackle graffiti in hotspots like Camberwell Church Street?

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

Can the Cabinet Member update me on the launch of the Bakerloop Bus?

15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COUNCIL HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR BETHAN ROBERTS

How are we making sure that we support our residents and tenants on our estates?

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES, DEMOCRACY & FINANCE FROM COUNCILLOR SUZANNE ABACHOR

How did Southwark Council mark Black History Month 2025?

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

A recent audit revealed that despite highways contractors repeatedly missing key performance indicators (KPIs), the council was not putting proper plans in place to rectify this. How much public money has been spent on these contractors who were not meeting their KPIs?

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

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on how Southwark Council is ensuring that local residents and organisations are meaningfully engaged in the Lambeth-led Kennington Triangle plans?

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, PARKS & YOUNG PEOPLE FROM COUNCILLOR JOSEPH VAMBE

What work is being undertaken by the council following new national funding from Labour for youth transformation?

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY & NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PARTON

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on how we are working with communities to deliver their priorities via our new Neighbourhoods?

21. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & REFUGEES FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH

What progress has been made regarding the delivery of the planned expansion of Charter East School?

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COUNCIL HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR IRINA VON WIESE

Despite committing to improve on the various concerns the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) raised last year, residents at Lant House were forced to raise their ongoing, and unresolved, concerns relating to fire safety, anti-social behaviour, and resident engagement with the regulator. The RSH has noted these concerns and said it will inform their future engagement with the council. What will the cabinet member do to ensure that the concerns of residents at Lant House are dealt with swiftly to ensure that the council is meeting its own stated aims, as well as complying with regulations?

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, JOBS & BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLOR EMILY TESTER

In March last year we asked the previous Cabinet Member for his assessment of the state of the night time economy in Southwark - he reassured us that all was well. Since then, iconic music venue Corsica Studios has announced its closure - part of a pattern of smaller and independent venues shutting their doors across London. How many more venues like this have closed since March 2024, and what more is the council doing to support the late night economy in Southwark?

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN AIR, STREETS & WASTE FROM COUNCILLOR REGGIE POPOOLA

What progress has been made on improving air quality on Southwark roads?

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR YOUSSEF HASSAIN

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the borough's integrated sexual and reproductive health service?

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COUNCIL HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH MCCALLUM

The council's official auditor BDO made some startling findings regarding the decisions made around housing allocations, with discrepancies found across some documents for one particular serious case of overcrowding, and some cases with decisions being made without documentation to justify them, opening the council up for potential challenge. Given that the council did in fact face legal challenges over its housing allocations not too long ago, what will the cabinet member do to ensure that existing and new processes are properly followed to ensure consistency and fairness across the allocations system?

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

Leaks from above into council-owned commercial properties continue to cause issues, with several local businesses reporting having to close down or move due to this. Given that 60% of the council's commercial property portfolio is within the housing revenue account (HRA), this will translate into less income into the HRA, which is already under acute financial pressure. Can the Cabinet Member confirm how many businesses or organisations have been forced to or chosen to vacate their premises due to leaks from above since 2022?

Agenda Item 5.2

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	12 November 2025
Report title:	Members' Motions
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not applicable
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 VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN (Seconded by Councillor Rachel Bentley)

Demanding Real Fairer Funding for Southwark

1. Council Assembly notes:

- a. In November 2022, Council Assembly passed a motion rightly condemning the assault on local government funding by the Conservative Government, which threatened the ability of Southwark Council to continue to deliver vital services for residents.
- b. That motion called for a general election to remove the Conservative Government, with the assumption that a Labour Government would repair public services.
- c. Since that motion, there has been a General Election resulting in a Labour Government – which is not only continuing with Conservative policies of austerity, but actively making things worse.

2. Council assembly notes with grave concern:

- a. The Government's planned so-called Fair Funding review, which rightly aims to give more funding to rural and northern towns and regions, is extremely damaging to London, especially Southwark and inner-London.
- b. The Institute for Fiscal Studies has described London as "the biggest loser."
- c. Modelling by London Councils shows Southwark losing 21% of its grant funding, and an overall reduction of 14% of its overall core spending power – this is reflected in inner-London as a whole facing a 29% fall in grant funding, without transition.
- d. Combined with already existing pressure on services, Southwark Council will now be looking at a £90 million financial gap over the next three years.
- e. The impact this financial black hole will have on local services, communities, and jobs in Southwark.

3. Council Assembly believes:

- a. The measures which the Government is proposing to use in the new formula, as well as wider changes, will unfairly punish inner-London boroughs like Southwark, including:
 - i. Using deprivation measures before housing costs
 - ii. Resetting business rates
 - iii. The remoteness score which punishes denser areas
 - iv. Measures which punish areas with high levels of ethnic and national diversity.
- b. This will particularly punish Southwark due to the fact that:
 - i. When housing costs are taken into account, all age groups are far more likely to be facing poverty in London than the rest of England, including 35% of children and 22% of pensioners living in poverty – but the formula does not take housing costs into account
 - ii. House prices and rent are close to double the national average in Southwark, but wages are not
 - iii. Business rate growth in Southwark has been higher than projected
 - iv. Southwark is the seventh most densely populated area in the country
 - v. 40% of residents in Southwark were not born in the UK.
- c. That taken together, this is a bigger assault on funding for inner-London authorities than even the Conservatives managed, actively punishing areas like Southwark for its density, diversity, and high housing costs.
- d. That, as the motion proposed and voted for by Labour councillors in 2022 demonstrates, people expected better of a Labour Government. Many voters in Southwark and across London will have put their faith in the Labour party to stand up for them – and instead they have been sorely betrayed.
- e. We must ensure funding is fair for all parts of Britain. There are regional imbalances in this country that are totally unjust, but there is no path to economic growth and future prosperity without a strong and self-governing London.

4. Council Assembly further believes:

- a. That Southwark has a unique opportunity to influence government, given that:
 - i. The Labour party hold every lever of power – controlling the council, London Mayor, and Government
 - ii. Two former Southwark councillors are now MPs in Government departments

- iii. The MP for Peckham sits in the ministry of housing, communities and local government (MHCLG), the department designing the reforms which will decimate Southwark's local services
- b. Despite this influence, Labour has failed to stand up for Southwark.
- c. Southwark's Labour MPs have failed to use their platform, even in Government, to advocate for local communities.

5. Council Assembly resolves to:

- a. Condemn the Labour Government's Fair Funding review as it currently stands
- b. Jointly send the letter drafted by the Liberal Democrat group to the Secretary of State Steve Reed which:
 - i. Sets out the grave threat to local services his reforms will have in Southwark
 - ii. Demands that the Government changes course to ensure that Southwark, and London as a whole, gets the funding it needs to deliver the services our communities deserve.
 - iii. Requests a meeting with him to convey our concerns in the strongest possible terms
- c. Back Liberal Democrat plans for empowering local government, by granting greater fiscal autonomy and decision making, reforming rules to boost council house building, and give councils adequate funding.

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

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MARGY NEWENS (Seconded by Councillor Reginald Popoola)

Action to divest the Southwark Pension Fund from conflict and genocide

1. Council Assembly notes:

- a. The devastating humanitarian crisis in Gaza, including the suffering, death, and famine that have followed Israel's military actions in response to the appalling attacks by Hamas in 2023.
- b. That Israeli forces have killed more than 65,000 Palestinians in Gaza since 2023, including more than 20,000 children.

- c. The UN estimates that approximately 92% of all residential buildings in Gaza – around 436,000 homes – have been damaged or destroyed since the start of the conflict, causing the displacement of 1.9 million Palestinians. Many have been displaced several times.
- d. That in April 2025, Save the Children reported that all schools in Gaza had been closed for 625,000 students for 6 months and that 88% of all school buildings in Gaza had been damaged or destroyed. In May 2025 WHO reported that Israeli forces had destroyed or damaged 94% of all hospitals in Gaza.
- e. That UN reports confirm the escalating crisis in the West Bank, including mass displacement on a scale not seen since 1967, with more than 40,000 Palestinians uprooted and neighbourhoods destroyed.
- f. That on 16 September 2025, the United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry found a risk of genocide against Palestinians in Gaza and called on all Member States, including the UK, to “employ all means reasonably available to them to prevent the commission of genocide in the Gaza Strip”.
- g. That this position is representative of the growing international consensus shared by Amnesty International, Oxfam, leading Israeli human rights organisations B’tselem and Physicians for Human Rights Israel, the International Association of Genocide Scholars, and leading Israeli scholars of genocide such as Raz Segal and Omer Bartov that Israel is committing genocide.
- h. The deep concern and distress felt by many Southwark residents, particularly those with personal or familial ties to the region, and the calls from across our borough for action.
- i. Southwark Council has a proud record of ethical investment and is one of only four UK local government pension funds with an ambitious 2030 net zero target, showing our commitment to placing our values at the heart of our investment policy.
- j. That since December 2023, the Southwark Local Government Pension Scheme has been monitoring its exposure to companies listed by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as being linked to the occupation of Palestine. The Southwark Local Government Pension Scheme has no direct investments in the companies listed by the United Nations but has £4.9m invested through managed funds.
- k. That the council has already begun engaging with fund managers to stress the importance of human rights as a key criterion in responsible investment.

2. Council Assembly welcomes:
 - a. The tentative ceasefire in Gaza which - at the time of writing - is resulting in the exchange of prisoners, both living and dead, between Israel and Palestine.
 - b. The Labour Government's recognition of the state of Palestine on 21 September 2025, as a significant and historic step in British foreign policy on the path to a two-state solution.
 - c. The council's announcement that Southwark will become the first local authority to incorporate the United Nations Genocide Convention into its investment framework, enabling the exclusion of investments in any state found by the International Court of Justice to be in breach of the Convention.
3. Council Assembly resolves to ask that:
 - a. The Pensions Advisory Panel continues to work with fund managers to disclose and divest pension fund investments in companies listed by the United Nations OHCHR as being linked to the illegal occupation of Palestine, regularly reporting on progress made.
 - b. The council also recognises that the OHCHR list is not fully comprehensive, including for arms companies supplying countries in breach of international law. Therefore, Council Assembly also calls on the London Collective Investment Vehicle (LCIV) to develop a more robust framework that enables the exclusion of investments linked to conflict, military occupation, or genocide, including the creation of a new fund that allows greater flexibility to divest from specific asset classes within pooled funds.
 - c. The council use the pension fund's recently adopted "pass-through voting" mechanism to influence decisions on investments linked to human rights concerns, conflict, or military occupation.
 - d. The council complete the necessary steps to become the first local authority to incorporate the United Nations Genocide Convention into its investment framework.
 - e. The council reaffirm Southwark Council's commitment to ethical investment, transparency, and the protection of human rights, ensuring that our pension fund reflects the values of our diverse and compassionate community.

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

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR SAM FOSTER (Seconded by Councillor Kath Whittam)

Southwark Council will not water down affordable housing requirements

1. Council Assembly notes:

- a. It has been reported that housing minister Steve Reed and Mayor Sadiq Khan are considering reducing affordable housing quotas for property developers in London, alongside a potential cut in the community infrastructure levy (CIL), as the government seeks to meet its ambitious target of building 1.5 million homes².
- b. These measures would be consistent with recent government policy and rhetoric, which has emphasised the necessity of building over the issue of affordability. On 13 October 2025, the government announced a “pro-growth package” to empower developers and prevent councils from rejecting planning applications³. And ministers have identified over-regulation and NIMBYism as the central obstacles to be overcome, with promises to cut red tape and “back the builders, not the blockers”.
- c. This message was luridly hammered home in Steve Reed’s “Build Baby Build” rally at Labour Conference, featuring red MAGA-style caps emblazoned with that slogan.
- d. London has long been in the grip of a housing affordability crisis. In Southwark, the average private-market rent for a one-bedroom home is a staggering 50% of median pre-tax income⁴. Median house prices are over 11x median wages, up from below 5x in 1997⁵.
- e. Need for genuinely affordable housing is acute, with over 20,000 households on Southwark’s housing waiting list and over 4,000 in temporary accommodation.

2. Council Assembly believes:

- a. Simply building more homes will not solve London’s housing crisis. Housing in London has become unaffordable because of decades of policy that have stripped rights from renters and treated homes as financial assets for property speculators rather than places for

² The Guardian, 17 Oct 2025. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/oct/17/developers-higher-subsidies-fewer-affordable-homes-london>

³ “Pro-growth package unshackling Britain to get building”. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pro-growth-package-unshackling-britain-to-get-building>

⁴ Trust for London, June 2025. <https://trustforlondon.org.uk/data/housing-as-proportion-income/>

⁵ ONS, 24 March 2025.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/housingaffordabilityinenglandandwales/2024#local-authority-affordability-within-regions>

people to live⁶. Government policy should therefore not focus on creating incentives for developers to build more housing most Londoners cannot afford.

- b. Student and co-living accommodation is in danger of becoming the only type of housing being built in Southwark. This housing fits the need of a very small percentage of Southwark residents and yet we are consenting less and less family housing, which is where the need is acute.
- c. The planning process is a crucial democratic check on the exploitation of land by developers for profit, and the government must not undermine the powers of local councils to protect their residents' interests through planning.
- d. Instead, housing policy should focus on expanding investment in affordable and social housing delivery, especially of council housing, and other measures to stabilise land and house prices and improve affordability ratios, such as rent controls.
- e. Southwark has a recent record of defending the role of local government in unlocking land for the public good, not private profit, through the Southwark Land Commission, and in the critical direct delivery of council housing through London Councils' Securing the Future of Council Housing report. This is an approach we should maintain and defend.

3. Council Assembly resolves:

- a. To call on the government to expand its investment in affordable housing, especially council housing; to implement rent controls; and to empower local authorities to use land for the social good.
- b. Not to water down affordable and social housing requirements: meaning, no reduction in the minimum affordable housing requirement of 35%, nor any reduction in the minimum social rent requirement of 15%.
- c. Not to cut the CIL rate, or otherwise compromise on requirements that development in Southwark serve the public good.
- d. To put limits on approvals of student accommodation and co-living types of housing.

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

⁶ Land for the Many, "How did residential land prices get so high?", pp. 22-27.
https://labour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/12081_19-Land-for-the-Many.pdf

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON (Seconded by Councillor Graham Neale)

Cleaner and Safer Streets in Southwark

1. Council Assembly notes with concern that:
 - a. Crime and anti-social behaviour have become endemic in Southwark, with recent statistics from the Metropolitan Police showing the borough has the fifth highest crime rate in London.
 - b. Rates of theft from the person are 8.5 times higher in Southwark than the national average, with robbery rates over 4 times higher.
 - c. Crime rates are continuing to rise out of control, with Southwark having already seen 3,000 more reported crimes in 2025 than in the entirety of 2024.
 - d. This is despite uneven levels of crime reporting, with trust in the Metropolitan Police Service at an all-time low, and the lowest rate of trust in police nationally, meaning that the true crime rate in Southwark is likely significantly higher.
 - e. Despite rising crime and anti-social behaviour, the Metropolitan Police Service, overseen by Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, have recently been forced by Labour-run Southwark Council to move out of their base in Canada Water, leaving the Rotherhithe peninsula without a permanent police presence.
 - f. At time of writing, the Metropolitan Police Service have still not found or opened a new policing hub in the Rotherhithe area, functionally worsening safety for residents.
 - g. As well as this, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has broken his manifesto promise just 1 year after being re-elected, having announced the closure of several police front counters across London.
 - h. Southwark's only publicly accessible police front counter in Walworth, whilst thankfully remaining open, will have its hours cut by the Mayor of London's plan, meaning residents will have nowhere to go to report or avoid crime during the night.
 - i. Despite commitments to tackling violent crime and violence against women and girls (VAWG), Southwark Council has done little to improve safety, with only half of broken streetlights in the borough being fixed.
 - j. Even when streetlights are fixed by Southwark Council, on average it takes three weeks for this to happen, with one street lamp in

Borough and Bankside taking 158 days to be repaired, representing an abandonment of the council's commitment to keeping women and girls safe at night.

2. Council Assembly further notes:

- a. Alongside Southwark Council's inability to keep streets safe, it has also proven it is not able to keep them clean.
- b. Over the last five years, just 7% of the 29,000 fly-tipping incidents resulted in a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) being issued, with zero prosecutions being reported.
- c. The combination of removal costs and lack of enforcement means Southwark Council is estimated to be losing close to £900,000 a year to fly-tipping.
- d. In addition to illegal litter and flytipping, the current commercial waste management arrangements lead to piles of rubbish bags strewn in the streets. These are not just unsightly, but are accessibility hazards and attract vermin.
- e. Other London boroughs have demonstrated cheap and simple ways to better manage commercial waste on high streets.

3. Council Assembly believes that:

- a. Southwark residents deserve better than the appalling situation in which we find ourselves following 15 years of Labour control of the Council, 9 years of a Labour Mayor of London, and over one year of a significant Labour majority Government.
- b. As Labour now control all levers of power in Southwark, there is no one else to blame for crime worsening, anti-social behaviour rising, police services being cut, and our streets becoming overrun with litter and waste.
- c. The Liberal Democrats are the only party capable of fixing Southwark – lowering rates of fly-tipping, working with the police to build trust in the community, and ensuring that vital community safety infrastructure such as Walworth Road police front counter and a policing hub in Rotherhithe remain open and accessible.

4. Council Assembly therefore resolves:

- a. To write to the Mayor of London to state that Southwark Council has no confidence in the leadership of the Metropolitan Police
- b. To call on the Metropolitan Police Service to ensure that hard-working Safer Neighbourhoods Team officers are genuinely

available in their communities, only being deployed out of the borough in a genuine emergency.

- c. To call on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to use the forthcoming budget to deliver additional funding for the police to fix the Metropolitan Police Service, including with additional resource towards the cultural reform programme
- d. To enact the Liberal Democrat policy of doubling community safety wardens.
- e. To guarantee that all street lights in Southwark are repaired within 48 hours of an issue being reported.
- f. To extend the North Walworth action area to include Blackfriars Road – a hotspot for phone snatching and other forms of crime and antisocial behaviour.
- g. To call on Sadiq Khan to reverse the night-time closure of the Walworth Road police front counter, ensuring that Southwark residents have a place to go to report crime 24/7.
- h. To work on an urgent basis with the Metropolitan Police Service to identify a sustainable long-term site for a policing hub in Canada Water, and to offer the Police the use of Canada Water library in the meantime to ensure the public have access to this vital service.
- i. To invest in Southwark's voluntary community sector and youth services to ensure that young people have the opportunities available to them to avoid falling into criminality.
- j. Following the example of Liberal Democrat-run Richmond upon Thames borough council, to introduce 'Mega Skip Days', giving residents the opportunity to dispose of bulky items for free at select locations across the borough.
- k. To abolish the bulky waste collection charge to avoid incentivising fly-tipping and to increase accessibility for residents.
- l. To explore implementing the recommendations outlined in Create Streets' 2025 "Rubbish Refuse" report, to stop curbside rubbish bags being the norm.

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

5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ESME DOBSON (Seconded by Councillor David Parton)

Make Peckham Rye Station safe and accessible

1. Council Assembly notes:
 - a. That Peckham Rye Station is the busiest interchange in the country without step-free access, with more than 6 million passengers using the station in 2024.
 - b. That the lack of step-free access currently excludes many disabled residents, wheelchair users, parents with buggies, and older people from using the station, forcing them onto longer or less convenient routes.
 - c. That the Treasury has paused funding for the station upgrade, which would have eased overcrowding and installed lift access to all platforms.
 - d. That the upgrade is shovel-ready, with Network Rail having secured planning permission.
 - e. That this Council has committed £1 million to supporting this project.
 - f. That the station upgrade would not only improve accessibility for all but also increase the station's capacity, removing the risk of dangerous overcrowding at peak times, and unlock economic growth, supporting local housing delivery and high street renewal.
 - g. That Labour's plans to create a public square in front of the station on Rye Lane are progressing, with demolition of vacant buildings on the new forecourt set to begin shortly.
 - h. That Southwark Labour Leader, Councillor Sarah King, has written to the Transport Secretary urging a rethink of the decision to pause the upgrade.
 - i. That under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a duty to remove barriers and advance equality of opportunity. Upgrading Peckham Rye Station is a clear example of that duty in practice.
 - j. That Rye Lane's Labour councillors have launched a petition to ensure local voices are heard and to call on the Government to deliver this vital investment.
 - k. That Nunhead, North Dulwich, South Bermondsey and Elephant & Castle stations also need investment to make them fit for the future.
2. Council Assembly welcomes:
 - a. The campaign and petition led by Labour councillors in Rye Lane ward.

- b. Network Rail's continued commitment to the upgrade of Peckham Rye Station.

3. This Council resolves to:

- a. Support the campaign led by Rye Lane's Labour councillors to secure full Government funding for the Peckham Rye Station upgrade.
- b. Continue to work with Network Rail to progress immediate health and safety improvements at the station.
- c. Call on the Treasury to reverse its decision to pause funding and commit to delivering the full upgrade, including lift access to all platforms.
- d. Highlight the economic, social, and accessibility benefits of the station upgrade for Peckham, Southwark, and wider south-east London.
- e. Ensure that the station upgrade is delivered in tandem with the redevelopment of the station square and public realm improvements along Rye Lane.
- f. Reaffirm the Council's commitment to inclusive transport infrastructure that meets the needs of all residents, including those with disabilities, parents with buggies, and older people.
- g. Reaffirm the Council's commitment to inclusive transport infrastructure that is designed and tested with disabled residents, setting a borough-wide benchmark for equality of access.

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

6. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LEEMING (Seconded by Councillor Richard Livingstone)

Our water our way

1. This council notes:

- a. Serious flooding on Gallery Road, Dulwich, in October 2025, resulting in road closures.
- b. Serious flooding in Ilderton Road, Bermondsey, in July 2025, caused by a burst water main which flooded 27 homes.
- c. A serious burst water main in Dulwich in February 2025 which affected 5,000 households in South London.

- d. Repeated failures from Thames Water to communicate with residents about works and fixes taking place, including road closures.
- e. Decades of underinvestment from Thames Water alongside huge dividend payouts to shareholders and mounting debt, resulting in crumbling local infrastructure.
- f. Ofwat's findings in 2024 that Thames Water broke dividend payment rules, resulting in an £18 million fine.

2. This council also notes:

- a. Thames Water, the UK's largest water company and provider to thousands of households in Southwark, is on the brink of collapse - saddled with billions in debt, facing unprecedented public outcry over pollution and chronic underinvestment.
- b. The consequences of any new ownership or restructure at Thames Water will impact millions of people's bills (including thousands across Southwark), our environment, and our ability to prepare for the tremendous strain our water system is set to face due to climate change.
- c. That the Conservatives' obsession with privatisation prioritises shareholders over people, resulting in little or no investment in services. Our residents are paying the price for this ideology.
- d. The model of privatisation is not the norm - 90% of the world runs water in public ownership, with clear benefits for customers, staff and environment.
- e. Many experts believe that Thames Water could be nationalised at minimal cost.
- f. The Water Special Measures Act 2025 has attempted to rescue the water sector through measures such as blocking bonuses for executives who are polluting waterways.
- g. Executives have circumnavigated this ban by renaming executive payouts. Regulation is failing. We must change the ownership model of Thames Water.
- h. The Water Industry Act 1991 grants the government authority to place water companies into Special Administration when they face financial distress or significantly breach their licence or statutory duties, rendering their continued operation inappropriate.

- i. Both of these conditions have been met by Thames Water, which should be put into special administration with immediate effect.
- j. Special Administration is a form of temporary public ownership. It presents the government with a choice. If they choose to re-privatise, taxpayers will bear the financial burden of Thames Water's reckless financial decision making, while private, international shareholders reap the profits. Alternatively, they can choose to keep Thames Water in permanent public ownership, and provide billpayers with a water service that prioritises people and the environment.
- k. Any decisions made about the future of Thames Water should be conducted with full public scrutiny and democratic involvement. Protections for the workers, our environment and for residents' bills must be honoured.

3. This council resolves to:

- a. Write to Emma Reynolds as Secretary of State for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs, and Rachel Reeves, Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging government to:
 - i. Use its powers under the Water Industry Act 1991 to place Thames Water into Special Administration, ensuring that workers' current terms and conditions on pay and pensions are honoured and public interests are protected.
 - ii. Use the provisions of Special Administration to end the failed experiment of privatisation and bring Thames Water back into permanent public ownership.
 - iii. Enable accountability and transparency under a publicly owned Thames Water by changing its governance model so that local councils, workers and households are all represented on the Board.
- b. Ask that Cabinet communicate the text of this motion to:
 - i. Southwark Members of Parliament
 - ii. Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Emma Reynolds
 - iii. Rachel Reeves, Chancellor of the Exchequer
 - iv. CEO of Thames Water, Chris Weston.

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 <u>Constitutional.Team@southwark.gov.uk</u>

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	31 October 2025

Agenda Item 6.1

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	12 November 2025
Report title:	Proportionality and Allocation of Seats on Committees Constitutional Changes: Appointment of Chairs and Vice-chairs; Motions
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not Applicable
From:	Constitutional Steering Panel

RECOMMENDATIONS

Proportionality

1. To note the political balance of the council from 5 September 2025 as follows:

Group	Members	%
Labour	48	76.19
Liberal Democrat	11	17.46
Independent members (not a group)	4	6.35
Total	63	100.00

2. To note that for the purpose of calculating the allocation of seats on committees, only political groups are considered i.e. the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups.
3. To note changes to proportionality and the possible change to the allocation of seats on committees from that agreed by council assembly on 17 May 2025. The new allocation is set out at paragraph 11, Table 2.

Appointment of Chairs and Vice-chairs

4. That council assembly appoint a neighbourhood champion for the following neighbourhood area:

Neighbourhood area

- East Central

5. That council assembly agree the proposed amendment to council assembly procedure rules (CAPR) 4.2.1 (h and i) that if any positions for chair or vice-chair are vacant or become vacant after the annual meeting, the appointments

may be delegated to the next meeting of the relevant committee as set out in paragraphs 20 to 22 of this report.

Submission of members' motions on notice

6. That constitutional steering panel considers recommending to council assembly the proposed amendment to CAPR 2.10.3 and 9, to clarify the rules on proportionality regarding submission of members' motions on notice as set out in paragraph 23 of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

7. The rules for the allocation of seats are set out in Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Local Government Committee and Political Group Regulations 1990. 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. If a political Group wishes to allow an independent member to continue to sit on a committee, this is permitted and is a matter for their discretion i.e. the political Group allows the member to occupy one of their allocated seats, as an independent member.
8. If a group represents 40% of the council and a committee has 10 seats, they would be entitled to 4 seats on that committee (40% of 10). This often involves rounding up or down fractional entitlements to arrive at whole numbers of seats. The overall allocation should aim to reflect the political balance of the council as a whole.
9. The regulatory and other committees are the "ordinary committees" of the council are:
 - Appointments committee
 - Planning Committee (Major Applications) A
 - Planning Committee (Major Applications) B
 - Planning Committee (Smaller Applications)
 - Audit, governance and standards committee
 - Corporate parenting committee
10. Four members have moved from Labour Group to become individual independent members.

Table 2: Ordinary Committees - Total number of seats 42

11. Labour with 48 members will have 34.17/42 seats, Liberal Democrat with 11 members will have 7.83/42 seats, independent members 0/42 seats. Current practice will be for the Majority Group to agree which one seat will be allocated to the Liberal Democrat group.
12. The below tables are based on the committees as agreed by council assembly (and the council as licensing authority, for the licensing committee) on 17 May 2025. The allocations as of 17 May 2025 are shown in brackets.

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem	Indep.
Committee 1 Appointments Committee	7	(6) 5	(1) 2	0
Committee 2 Planning Committee (Major Applications) A	7	(6) 6	(1) 1	0
Committee 3 Planning Committee (Major Applications) B	7	(6) 6	(1) 1	0
Planning Committee (Smaller Applications)	7	(5) 5	(2) 2	0
Committee 4 Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	7	(6) 6	(1) 1	0
Committee 5 Corporate Parenting Committee	7	(6) 6	(1) 1	0
Total	42	(35) 34	(7) 8	0

Table 3: Other committees - Total number of seats 26

13. Labour Group with 48 members will have 21.5/26 seats, Liberal Democrat with 11 members will have 4.85/26 seats, independent members 0/26 seats. The allocations as of 17 May 2025 are shown below. There will be no changes to seat allocations.

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem	Indep.
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11	9	2	0
Licensing Committee	15	12	3	0
Total	26	21	5	

Sub-committees and overview and scrutiny commissions

14. The allocations as of 17 May 2025 are shown below. There will be no changes to seat allocations. (*NOTE: Labour with 48 members have 22.78/28 seats, Liberal Democrats with 11 members have 5.22/28 seats, independent members 0/28 seats. Liberal Democrats currently have seats above their allocated numbers.*)

Scrutiny Commissions	Total	Lab	Lib Dem	Indep.
Scrutiny Commission 1 (Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission)	7	5	2	0
Scrutiny Commission 2 (Housing, Community Safety and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission)	7	5	2	0
Scrutiny Commission 3	7	5	2	0

Scrutiny Commissions	Total	Lab	Lib Dem	Indep.
(Environment Scrutiny Commission)				
Scrutiny Commission 4 (Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission)	7	5	2	0
Total	28	20	8	0

Audit, governance and standards sub-committees	Total	Lab	Lib Dem	Indep.
Audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee	4	3	1	0
Audit, governance and standards (standards) sub-committee	3	2	1	0
Total	7	5	2	0

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 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".

Appointment of chairs and vice chairs

20. Southwark's constitution under council assembly procedure rules (CAPR) 4.2.1 (h and i), currently specifically defines the annual meeting as the meeting that appoints chairs and vice chairs.
21. It is proposed to add a sentence at the end of the sections that "if any positions are vacant or become vacant after the annual meeting, the appointments may be delegated to the next meeting of the relevant committee".
22. The reason for the above proposal is to formalise the default practice and to allow for mid-term/mid-year appointments to chairs and vice chairs if necessary. For example, where a member is appointed a cabinet member and steps down from a position as chair of a committee, the appointment for their replacement can be delegated to the next meeting of the relevant committee.

Submission of members' motions on notice

23. CAPR 12.10.3 currently sets out the maximum number of motions to be submitted to council assembly. It is proposed to clarify this provision.

Current provision (CAPR 2.10.3):

Number of motions

3. The maximum number of motions submitted by each political group or independent member shall be directly proportionate to the number of members in the political group as follows:

- up to 10 councillors: 1 motion
- 11-20 councillors: 2 motions
- 21+ councillors: 3 motions.

Proposed amendment (the additions are underlined, and deletions have a strikethrough)

CAPR 2.10.3

Number of motions

3. The maximum number of motions submitted by each political group or independent member shall be directly proportionate to the number of members in the political group; with independent members being treated as a single group for the purpose of this procedure rule, as follows:

- up to 10 councillors: 1 motion
- 11-20 councillors: 2 motions
- 21+ councillors: 3 motions.

CAPR 2.10.8 and 2.10.9

Prioritisation and rotation by the political groups/independent members

8. Motions will be listed in the order of whip prioritisation and rotation by the political groups. Four working days before the meeting, each chief whip may list motions from members of their respective groups in an order of priority to be taken at the meeting. All remaining motions will be taken in the order of receipt.

9. Motions will be rotated so that one is taken from each political group's list of priorities (and any independent councillors) for so long as there are motions remaining. ~~For the first meeting following municipal elections or from the commencement of these arrangements, the Mayor will invite a representative of each group (and any independent councillors) to draw lots to determine the order of groups at the first meeting. At subsequent meetings, the order will be rotated. The order will be set every four years following municipal elections where motions will be taken in order of largest group to smallest. At subsequent meetings this will be rotated so the next largest group takes the first slot and the largest the last, continuing to rotate through the groups and independent members throughout the four years.~~

If there are any circumstances by which the size of groups change comparatively over the ensuing four years, this will not affect the rotation of order of motions.

Note: Motions will be rotated on a ratio of one for each political group or independent member. 4:1:1:1 for Liberal Democrat, Labour, Conservative and independent members.

10. If more motions are received by the proper constitutional officer from independent members than there are motions available for them to present to council assembly, these will be prioritised first by the longest period of time a mover of a motion has had since their last motion. If there are multiple movers with the same period of time since their last motion, or who have never presented a motion, these will be prioritised by earliest receipt by the proper constitutional officer.

Policy framework implications

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

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

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

Climate change implications

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

Legal implications

27. This is covered in the report.

Financial implications

28. 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

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

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

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	27 October 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	27 October 2025	

Agenda Item 6.2

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	12 November 2025
Report title:	Treasury Management – Mid-year Update 2025-26
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not applicable
From:	Clive Palfreyman, Strategic Director of Resources

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Note this mid-year treasury management report for 2025-26 and in particular:
 - All treasury management activity has been undertaken in compliance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy and within the Council's prudential indicators (Appendix 1).
 - The balance outstanding on all external loans as at 30 September 2025 was £1,153m (£1,159m 31 March 2025) and investments £66m (£53m 31 March 2025), see table 2 below.
2. Approve the changes to the investment strategy as outlined in paragraph 38 and detailed in Appendix 3. These include:
 - The addition of the top 20 UK Building Societies (by asset size) to the approved counterparty list with a per-counterparty limit of £3m, a sector limit of £30m and a maturity limit of six months. This broadens the council's range of approved counterparties, supporting greater diversification and mitigating concentration risk.
 - The addition of AAA-rated Variable Net Asset Value (VNAV) Money Market Funds (MMFs) with a per-fund limit of £10m to permit investment in smaller Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) - focused MMFs. Investments would be redeemable after forty-eight hours. This will allow deposits to be made later in the day, reducing the balance at the council's bank account, thus increasing investment income.
 - Increase the daily liquidity buffer from £20m to £30m to avoid the need for short term borrowing on days with large cash outflows.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Treasury management is defined by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) as “the management of the Council’s borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions, the control of associated risks, and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks”.
4. Treasury risk management is conducted within the framework of CIPFA’s Prudential Code and the Treasury Management Code of Practice 2021 (the Codes) and the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government Investment Guidance. The Council has adopted and complies with both Codes.
5. The 2025-26 Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) was agreed by Council Assembly on 26 February 2025.
6. This mid-year report covers treasury activity for the period 1 April to 30 September 2025.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. This report covers:
 - Key treasury management highlights
 - Treasury position as at 30 September 2025
 - Treasury forecast as at 30 September 2025
 - Economic and interest rate movements and forecasts
 - The Council’s borrowing strategy
 - The Council’s investment strategy
 - Non-treasury loans
 - Regulatory developments
 - Prudential indicators (Appendix 1)

Key highlights

8. The Treasury Live system has been implemented, consolidating key metrics, market data, historical analysis, risk-based tools, alternative strategy modelling and reporting functions.
9. Improved cashflow analysis has supported better operational investment decisions, within approved risk parameters, to maximise investment income.
10. Investment income to end of September was £2.6m against a full-year budget of £700,000 (actual £2.9m for full year 2024-25). Investment balances have been much higher than originally budgeted for.
11. No additional external debt has been taken in the reporting period.
12. An ethical investment screening policy has been implemented, the details of which can be found in the Investment Strategy section below (paragraph 36).
13. The bank services contract has been awarded to NatWest for a five-year term from the 1 October 2025. The treasury team will be working with the bank on a range of social value initiatives going forward.
14. A £1m Abundance loan was raised in the period, details of which can be found below (paragraph 31). The Abundance loan provides community-backed funding to support the council's local climate and sustainability initiatives. It enables investment in projects such as cycle infrastructure, energy-efficient lighting, school retrofits, and community-led nature and solar schemes
15. More accurate treasury budget forecasting for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account supports informed prudential borrowing decisions.
16. Peer reporting is used to benchmark against different strategies and for the reporting period results show that the council:
 - Has a probability of default of 0% on its investments, compared to a peer average of 0.7%
 - The yield it is achieving on its investments is 4.16% compared to a peer average of 3.87%
 - The interest payable on its debt is lower at 3.53% compared to the average of 3.66%

Treasury position as at 30 September 2025

17. Summary position as at 30 September 2025

- Total external loans outstanding: £1,153m
- Total investments: £66m
- Net debt position (loans less investments): £1,087m

Table 1: Treasury Management Summary (£m)

Category	Balance 31/03/25	Raised Apr–Jun	Repaid Apr–Jun	Balance 30/06/25	Avg rate 30/06/25	Raised Jul–Sep	Repaid Jul–Sep	Balance 30/09/25	Avg rate 30/09/25
PWLB	1,152	0	(13)	1,139	-	0	(4)	1,135	-
MEEF	5	0	0	5	-	0	0	5	-
Abundance (Green bonds)	1.5	0	0	1.5	-	1	0	2.5	-
Temporary borrowing	0	10	0	10	-	0	0	10	-
Total loans	1,159	10	(13)	1,156	3.84%	1	(4)	1,153	3.83%
Fixed deposits (investments)		(51)	51	0	-	(50)	50	0	0
Money market funds	(53)	(230)	198	(85)	-	(199)	218	(66)	-
Total investments	(53)	(281)	249	(85)	4.37%	(249)	268	(66)	4.16%
Net (loans less investments)	1,106	(271)	236	1,071	3.80%	(248)	264	1,087	3.81%

18. Abundance green bonds are included under long-term funding arrangements.

Table 2: Treasury budget forecast (£m)

Category	Budget 2025/26	Estimated outturn at 30/09/25	Variance
Debt (interest and financing)	58,072	48,298	(9,774)
Investments (income)	(700)	(3,161)	(2,461)
Net corporate finance budget	57,372	45,137	(12,235)

19. The budget was based upon the minimum liquidity buffer of £20m. Since the start of the year investment balances have been far higher than anticipated and have remained at elevated levels.

20. Variances reflect stronger-than-budgeted investment returns and timing differences in debt servicing. No debt has been taken in the reporting period.
21. Cash balances have negated the need to borrow. As balances decline new borrowing will be taken reflecting capital expenditure.
22. Investment income reflects changes to cash management practices and returns on balances.

Economic summary and interest rate outlook

23. The UK economy remains in a fragile and transitional phase, with persistent inflation, elevated borrowing costs, and global trade tensions shaping the fiscal landscape for local authorities.
24. The first half of the 2025-26 financial year has been marked by a complex and evolving economic landscape, both domestically and globally. The UK economy has continued to grow at a subdued and uneven pace, reflecting underlying structural and cyclical pressures.
25. Inflation remains stubbornly high. Headline CPI hovered around 3.8% in July and August, while core inflation (which excludes volatile food and energy prices) eased only marginally to 3.6%.
26. In response, the Bank of England has maintained a cautious stance. The base rate was cut from 4.5% to 4.25% in May and again to 4.0% in August, but further reductions are unlikely for the rest of the year.
27. The gilt market has experienced significant volatility. Yields on 10-year gilts have risen to 4.65%, while 30-year yields have reached 5.4%, levels not seen since the mid-2000s. The PWLB offers loans with +1%, and +0.8% margin over the gilt. The rate for the HRA is +0.4%. These are some of the highest rates seen for many years. Long-term debt costs are expected to remain at elevated levels for the foreseeable future, leading to higher costs for servicing both new and refinanced debt.
28. The economic environment will remain challenging for the remainder of the financial year and across the medium term. The Bank of England is unlikely to cut rates further unless inflation falls decisively below 3% and investment income is predicted to be significantly more than the 2024-25 level.
29. The Autumn Statement, scheduled for 26 November, is expected to address a fiscal shortfall estimated between £20–£50 billion.
30. Appendix 2 provides interest rate and inflation forecasts.

BORROWING STRATEGY DURING 2025-26

31. There has been no requirement for new long-term Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) borrowing in the first half of 2025-26 due to adequate cash balances.
32. A further £1m green bond was arranged with Abundance to finance environmental and retrofit initiatives (£2.5m total to date).
33. The Council retains a £5m long-term loan balance with the Mayor's Energy Efficiency Fund (MEEF) used to support district heating retrofit schemes.
34. The majority of new borrowing expected in the remainder of the year will be for the Housing Revenue Account and is estimated to be c.£145m.
35. The timing of borrowing will reflect cash flow needs and expectations of rate movements to ensure affordability.

Investment strategy

36. Assembly approved the Annual Investment Strategy (AIS) for 2025-26 on 26 February 2025. It is a Code requirement that any in year changes are agreed by the body approving the AIS. The changes are proposed to facilitate operational divestment from funds linked to conflict or military occupation and to incorporate consideration of UN Genocide Convention factors where possible.
37. An investment screening procedure has been developed to support the above and will continue to retain security, liquidity and yield as primary constraints. The treasury team will continue to monitor and enhance social and environmental considerations in counterparty selection in line with the requirements of the Code.
38. Council assembly is asked to approve the following changes, detailed in Appendix 3:
 - The addition of the top 20 UK Building Societies (by asset size) to the approved counterparty list with a per-counterparty limit of £3m, a sector limit of £30m and a maturity limit of six months.
 - The addition of AAA-rated Variable Net Asset Value (VNAV) Money Market Funds with a per-fund limit of £10m to permit investment in smaller ESG-focused MMFs. Investments would be redeemable after forty-eight hours. This will allow deposits to be made later in the day, reducing the balance at the council's bank account, thus increasing investment income.

- Increase the daily liquidity buffer from £20m to £30m to avoid the need for short term borrowing on days with large cash outflows.

Non-Treasury investments

39. The CIPFA Code requires that the council reports upon non treasury investments. The council has made the following loans to local entities.

Table 3: Overview of current Non-Treasury Investment (£000)

Entity	Facility	Start date	Balance outstanding	Repayment terms
Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts	25,000	09/03/2018	23,399	Flexible to 2058
The Old Vic	3,750	27/01/2020	1,750	Flexible, 10-year duration
Central School of Ballet	3,000	01/04/2018	3,000	Flexible, 10-year duration
Total	31,750	-	28,149	-

Regulatory changes

40. CIPFA consulted on updates to the Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code; the consultation period concluded on 17 October 2025. Proposed changes include strengthened reporting on commercial and service investments, clarification of the liability benchmark and revised prudential indicators. Further consultation materials will set out specific proposed changes.

41. Under the [EU's Markets in Financial Instruments Directive \(MiFID\) and its successor, MiFID II](#), a professional client is a client who has the experience, knowledge, and expertise to make their own investment decisions and properly assess the risks involved. The council has refreshed its professional status documentation with all relevant entities. This status will be reviewed annually by the treasury team.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

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

42. This monitoring report confirms compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and prudential indicators. It has no direct, differential impacts on groups protected under the Equality Act.

Climate change implications

43. The report describes funding routes for schemes that directly contribute to emissions reduction and climate resilience

Financial implications

44. Effective treasury management supports delivery of the Council's financial strategy and corporate priorities; variances to budget are reported in Section 4 and quantified in finance appendices.

Legal implications

45. The Treasury Management Annual Report is prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code and the Prudential Code, as required under the Local Government Act 2003.

SUPPLEMENTAL ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Assurance) (NBC 29.10.2025)

46. The council's constitution determines that agreeing the treasury management strategy is a function of the council assembly and that the review and scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies is the responsibility of the audit, governance and standards committee.
47. Financial standing orders require the strategic director of resources to set out the treasury management strategy for consideration and decision by council assembly, also to report on activity on a regular basis to cabinet and at mid and year-end to council assembly. Furthermore, all executive and operational decisions are delegated to the strategic director of resources.
48. The Local Government Act 2003 ("the 2003 Act") section 3 and the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 require local authorities to determine affordable borrowing limits and have regard to the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, also the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Guidance, published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, when considering borrowing and investment strategies, determining or changing borrowing limits or prudential indicators.

49. Section 15(1) of the 2003 Act requires a local authority to have regard to such guidance as the Secretary of State may issue. This guidance includes the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Guidance on Local Authority Investments updated February 2018 and on the flexible use of capital receipts which was updated in August 2022.
50. The Council will need to have had regard to the government response to the consultation on changes to statutory guidance and regulations: minimum revenue provision which was updated on the 10 April 2024.
51. Section 12 of the 2003 Act grants local authorities the powers to invest for any purpose relevant to its functions or for the purposes of the prudent management of its financial affairs.
52. Council Assembly must have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between people with protected characteristics and others in accordance with section 149 Equality Act 2010. Members are referred to the “Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts” section above.

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Prudential Indicators (full detail)
Appendix 2	Interest Rate Forecasts
Appendix 3	Revised Lending Criteria
Appendix 4	Glossary

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Clive Palfreyman - Strategic Director of Resources	
Report Author	Caroline Watson – Chief Investment Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	31 October 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
Strategic Director of Resources	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	31 October 2025	

APPENDIX 1

Prudential Indicators TMSS 2025-26 and Estimated Position at 30 September 2025

Capital Expenditure

Table 1 Capital Expenditure – Current Approved Programme

Estimate of Capital Expenditure £m	Combined		
	Actual 2024/25	TMSS Estimate 2025/26	Forecast Outturn 30/09/2025
Capital Expenditure	307	226	352
Capital Receipts	51	5	42
Grants	40	19	73
Revenue & Reserves	93	60	67
External Contributions	15	12	25
Funded by Borrowing	108	130	145
	307	226	352

1. Table 1 reflects updated capital estimates, which differ from the period four report to Cabinet on 16 September. The £145m borrowing requirement is based on the latest treasury forecast as of September 2025. The rise in forecasted capital expenditure (£352m vs. £226m in the Treasury Strategy) is largely funded by capital receipts and grants.
2. The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) represents the council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. It includes long-term liabilities such as PFI schemes and finance leases, though these are typically funded by the provider. The CFR is reduced annually by the statutory Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), which aligns debt repayment with asset life.

Table 2 – Capital Financing Requirement – Approved Capital Programme

Capital Financing Requirement	COMBINED		
	Actual	TMSS Estimate	Forecast Outturn at 30/09/2025
£m	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26
Opening Capital Finance Requirement	1,743	1,947	1,848
Prudential Borrowing	108	138	145
Other Long-Term Liabilities	39	171	17
MRP	(40)	(20)	(40)
Capital Receipts Applied		10	
Closing CFR	1,850	2,246	1,970

3. Note the MRP charge is higher because of changes to International Financial Reporting Standard 16.

Borrowing Position

4. Table 3 summarises the Council's Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2025, showing changes in net indebtedness (top half) and how these are projected to be reflected in the treasury portfolios (bottom half).

Table 3: Borrowing Projections

Balance Sheet Summary and Forecast	COMBINED		
	Actual	TMSS Estimate	Forecast Outturn at 30/09/2025
£m	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26
Capital Finance Requirement	1,850	2,2546	1,970
Other Balance Sheet Items	(742)	(748)	(742)
NET Loans Requirement	1,106	1,498	1,228
Reflected by			
Borrowing	1,159	1,273	1,153
External Investments	(53)	(20)	(70)
New Borrowing	0	245	145
NET Treasury Position	1,106	1,498	1,228

Operational Boundary

5. The operational boundary reflects the council's prudent estimate of likely external debt, based on capital spending, financing needs, and cash flow forecasts. It's a key tool for in-year monitoring. Other long-term liabilities, such as finance leases, Private Finance Initiative and other liabilities not classified as borrowing but still count toward the council's overall debt.

Table 4 Operational Boundary

Operational Boundary			
£	Actual 2024/25	TMSS Estimate 2025/26	Forecast Outturn 30/09/2025
Borrowing	1,159	1,684	1,304
Other Long-Term Liabilities	89	171	89
TOTAL Debt	1,248	1,855	1,393

Authorised Limit for External Debt:

6. The authorised limit is the legal maximum the council can borrow, set under the Local Government Acts. It includes extra headroom above the operational boundary to cover unexpected cash flow needs.

Table 5 Authorised Limit for External Debt

Authorised Limit			
£	Actual 2024/25	TMSS Estimate 2025/26	Forecast Outturn 30/09/2025
Borrowing	1,159	1,780	1,304
Other Long-Term Liabilities	89	210	89
TOTAL Debt	1,248	1,990	1,393

Affordability

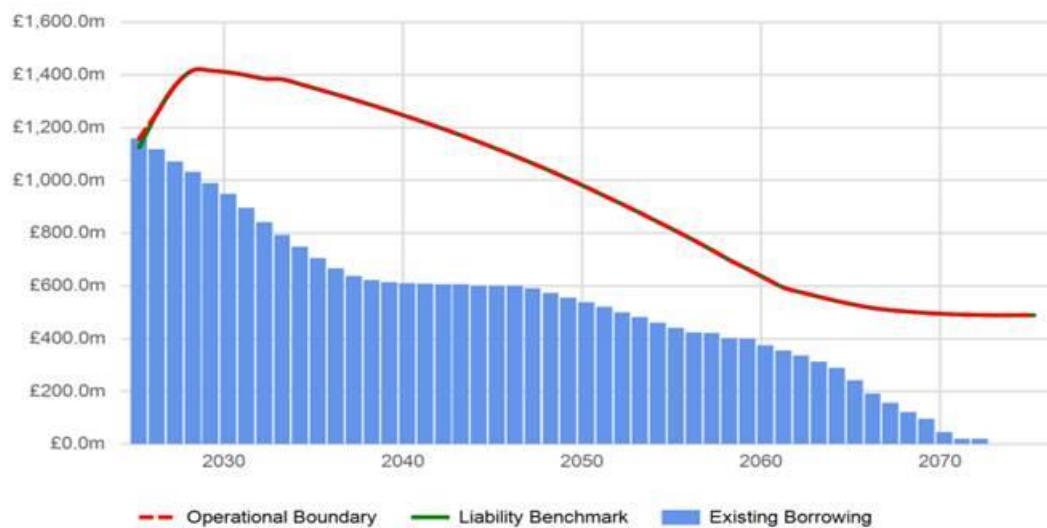
7. Other balance sheet resources - such as reserves and working capital - support investment activity. CIPFA's Prudential Code advises that total debt remain below the highest forecast CFR over the next three years. Table 6 confirms the Council expects to meet this recommendation.

Table 6 Liability Benchmark

Prudential Indicator: Liability Benchmark	£m	Actual 2024/25	TMSS Estimate 2025/26	Forecast Outturn at 30/09/2025
CFR		1,850	2,246	1,970
Less: Other Balance Sheet Items		(742)	(748)	(742)
Net Loans Requirement		1,108	1,498	1,228
Plus Liquidity		53	20	70
Liability Benchmark		1,161	1,518	1,258
Current Loan Commitments		1,159	1,274	1,153
(Under)/Over benchmark: Borrowing Requirement		(2)	(244)	(145)

8. CIPFA's 2021 Code introduced the Liability Benchmark as a required Prudential Indicator. It estimates the level of external borrowing needed to fund the Council's capital and revenue plans, while maintaining a minimum year-end liquidity buffer of £20m, with a proposed increase to £30m to reduce reliance on short-term borrowing. Graph 1 below contains the same forecasts as Table 6 above, such that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £20m at each year-end to maintain sufficient liquidity and minimise credit risk
9. The benchmark helps assess whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or investor, guiding strategic decisions. CIPFA recommends aligning borrowing with the benchmark to maximise use of internal resources. Borrowing below the benchmark signals future funding needs and exposure to interest rate, liquidity, and refinancing risks. Borrowing above it suggests surplus cash, which may lead to credit and reinvestment risks, and a potential cost of carry.

Graph 1: Prudential Indicator: Liability Benchmark



Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

10. This affordability indicator shows the share of the revenue budget needed for financing costs, after investment income. If long-term interest rates stay high, this could put pressure on delivering the full capital programme over the medium term.

Table 7: Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream	Actual 2024/25	TMSS Estimate 2025/26	Forecast Outturn 30/09/2025
%			
General Fund	18	8	13
HRA	31	15	38

Note: The 2024-25 figures have been restated in line with latest guidance

Table 8: Maturity Structure of Borrowing

% 	Actual 2024/25	TMSS Limit 2025/26		Actual 30/09/2025
		Lower Limit	Upper Limit	
Under 12 months	4	0	35	5
12 months and within 24 months	4	0	35	4
24 months and within 5 years	10	0	50	10
5 years and within 10 years	21	0	75	21
10 years and within 20 years				8
20 years and within 30 years		61	25	15
30 years and within 40 years			100	19
40 years and within 50 years				18

Table 9: Maximum Principal Sum Invested >365 days

Limits on Investments Greater than One Year	Actual 2024/25	TMSS Limit 2025/26	Actual 30/09/2025
%	0	65.0	0
Years	0	2.5	0

APPENDIX 2

Interest Rate Forecasts

Generated at 30 Sep 2025 09:07:52 for London Borough of Southwark

		2025-09-29	Sep 25	Sep 25	Dec 25	Mar 26	Jun 26	Sep 26	Dec 26	Mar 27	Jun 27	Sep 27	Dec 27	Mar 28	Jun 28	Sep 28	Dec 28	Mar 29	Jun 29	Sep 29	Dec 29	Mar 30	Jun 30
Base Rate	Upper	4.00%	4.00%	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.75%	4.75%	4.75%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
	Expected	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%	3.75%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%
	Lower	4.00%	4.00%	3.50%	3.25%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
SONIA	Upper	3.97%	4.00%	4.22%	4.22%	4.26%	4.34%	4.42%	4.49%	4.56%	4.64%	4.72%	4.80%	4.89%	4.97%	5.06%	5.14%	5.22%	5.30%	5.39%	5.47%	5.55%	
	Expected	3.97%	3.97%	3.97%	3.88%	3.75%	3.68%	3.67%	3.66%	3.67%	3.68%	3.69%	3.71%	3.74%	3.77%	3.81%	3.84%	3.88%	3.92%	3.96%	4.00%	4.04%	4.08%
	Lower	3.97%	3.93%	3.54%	3.27%	3.10%	2.99%	2.91%	2.84%	2.79%	2.74%	2.70%	2.68%	2.66%	2.64%	2.63%	2.62%	2.62%	2.62%	2.61%	2.61%	2.62%	
1y PWLB	Upper	4.57%	4.61%	4.93%	5.05%	5.31%	5.55%	5.67%	5.79%	5.90%	6.01%	6.11%	6.21%	6.31%	6.40%	6.53%	6.66%	6.79%	6.92%	7.19%	7.46%	7.71%	
	Expected	4.57%	4.57%	4.54%	4.52%	4.65%	4.79%	4.83%	4.86%	4.90%	4.94%	4.98%	5.01%	5.05%	5.09%	5.17%	5.24%	5.32%	5.41%	5.63%	5.86%	6.06%	
	Lower	4.57%	4.53%	4.16%	3.98%	4.00%	4.04%	3.98%	3.94%	3.90%	3.87%	3.84%	3.82%	3.80%	3.78%	3.80%	3.83%	3.86%	3.90%	4.07%	4.25%	4.41%	
2y PWLB	Upper	4.68%	4.72%	5.09%	5.26%	5.48%	5.68%	5.81%	5.93%	6.05%	6.17%	6.29%	6.41%	6.54%	6.66%	6.86%	7.06%	7.26%	7.46%	7.63%	7.79%	7.95%	
	Expected	4.68%	4.68%	4.68%	4.69%	4.78%	4.87%	4.90%	4.94%	4.97%	5.01%	5.07%	5.13%	5.18%	5.25%	5.39%	5.54%	5.68%	5.83%	5.95%	6.06%	6.17%	
	Lower	4.68%	4.64%	4.27%	4.11%	4.07%	4.05%	3.99%	3.94%	3.90%	3.86%	3.85%	3.84%	3.83%	3.84%	3.92%	4.02%	4.11%	4.20%	4.27%	4.34%	4.40%	
5y PWLB	Upper	4.94%	5.00%	7.02%	5.75%	6.00%	6.24%	6.42%	6.60%	6.77%	6.93%	7.08%	7.22%	7.37%	7.51%	7.64%	7.77%	7.89%	8.02%	8.13%	8.23%	8.34%	
	Expected	4.94%	4.94%	4.94%	6.54%	5.07%	5.17%	5.27%	5.34%	5.42%	5.49%	5.56%	5.63%	5.70%	5.77%	5.84%	5.90%	5.96%	6.02%	6.09%	6.14%	6.19%	6.23%
	Lower	4.94%	4.89%	6.05%	4.39%	4.33%	4.30%	4.26%	4.23%	4.21%	4.20%	4.18%	4.17%	4.17%	4.16%	4.16%	4.15%	4.15%	4.16%	4.15%	4.14%	4.13%	
10y PWLB	Upper	5.53%	5.58%	6.07%	6.31%	6.54%	6.74%	6.91%	7.07%	7.22%	7.37%	7.50%	7.64%	7.77%	7.90%	8.02%	8.14%	8.25%	8.37%	8.48%	8.59%	8.69%	
	Expected	5.53%	5.53%	5.58%	5.64%	5.71%	5.78%	5.84%	5.90%	5.95%	6.01%	6.07%	6.13%	6.18%	6.24%	6.30%	6.35%	6.41%	6.46%	6.51%	6.56%	6.61%	
	Lower	5.53%	5.48%	5.10%	4.96%	4.88%	4.83%	4.77%	4.73%	4.69%	4.66%	4.64%	4.62%	4.60%	4.59%	4.57%	4.56%	4.55%	4.54%	4.53%	4.53%	4.53%	
20y PWLB	Upper	6.14%	6.19%	6.64%	6.85%	7.04%	7.21%	7.35%	7.49%	7.61%	7.73%	7.85%	7.96%	8.06%	8.17%	8.27%	8.36%	8.46%	8.55%	8.64%	8.72%	8.81%	
	Expected	6.14%	6.14%	6.17%	6.20%	6.25%	6.30%	6.33%	6.37%	6.40%	6.44%	6.48%	6.51%	6.55%	6.58%	6.62%	6.65%	6.69%	6.72%	6.75%	6.78%	6.81%	
	Lower	6.14%	6.10%	5.71%	5.56%	5.46%	5.38%	5.31%	5.25%	5.19%	5.15%	5.10%	5.07%	5.03%	5.00%	4.97%	4.94%	4.92%	4.89%	4.87%	4.84%	4.82%	
30y PWLB	Upper	6.26%	6.31%	6.75%	6.95%	7.13%	7.29%	7.42%	7.54%	7.65%	7.76%	7.87%	7.96%	8.06%	8.15%	8.24%	8.32%	8.40%	8.49%	8.56%	8.63%	8.70%	
	Expected	6.26%	6.26%	6.28%	6.30%	6.34%	6.37%	6.39%	6.42%	6.44%	6.46%	6.49%	6.51%	6.54%	6.56%	6.58%	6.60%	6.63%	6.65%	6.67%	6.69%	6.70%	
	Lower	6.26%	6.22%	5.82%	5.65%	5.54%	5.45%	5.36%	5.29%	5.23%	5.17%	5.11%	5.06%	5.01%	4.97%	4.93%	4.89%	4.85%	4.81%	4.77%	4.74%	4.70%	
40y PWLB	Upper	6.18%	6.23%	6.67%	6.87%	7.39%	7.20%	7.33%	7.44%	7.90%	7.65%	7.75%	7.84%	7.93%	8.01%	8.09%	8.17%	8.24%	8.32%	8.38%	8.45%	8.51%	
	Expected	6.18%	6.18%	6.18%	6.20%	6.21%	6.58%	6.26%	6.27%	6.29%	6.66%	6.32%	6.34%	6.35%	6.37%	6.38%	6.40%	6.41%	6.43%	6.44%	6.45%	6.46%	6.47%
	Lower	6.18%	6.13%	5.72%	5.55%	5.77%	5.32%	5.22%	5.14%	5.42%	5.00%	4.93%	4.87%	4.81%	4.76%	4.70%	4.66%	4.61%	4.56%	4.51%	4.47%	4.42%	
50y PWLB	Upper	5.97%	6.02%	6.47%	6.67%	7.41%	7.00%	7.12%	7.24%	7.93%	7.45%	7.54%	7.63%	7.72%	7.80%	7.88%	7.95%	8.03%	8.10%	8.16%	8.23%	8.29%	
	Expected	5.97%	5.97%	5.97%	5.98%	6.00%	6.58%	6.04%	6.05%	6.06%	6.66%	6.09%	6.10%	6.12%	6.13%	6.14%	6.15%	6.16%	6.17%	6.18%	6.19%	6.19%	6.20%
	Lower	5.97%	5.92%	5.50%	5.32%	5.75%	5.08%	4.98%	4.89%	5.39%	4.73%	4.66%	4.60%	4.54%	4.48%	4.42%	4.37%	4.31%	4.26%	4.21%	4.16%	4.11%	

Method of Projection

The projections are derived from **market-implied forward rates** for each tenor. To reflect uncertainty, the model applies confidence bands using historic monthly volatility of the relevant rates. The upper bound represents the level below which rates are expected to remain with **95% confidence**, while the lower bound represents the level above which rates are expected to remain with **95% confidence**. Together, these provide a range around the forward curve that reflects the uncertainty implied by past market movements.

APPENDIX 3

Revised Lending Criteria (highlighted)

1. The red highlighted text, items I, O, and B, are recommended changes to the lending criteria and are additions to the previously approved lending list

Investment limits, subject to overall constraints and minimum ratings				
	Counterparty	Time Limit	Counterparty Limit (£)	Sector Limit (£)
A	UK Government	50 years	Unlimited	Unlimited
B	UK Local Authorities	5 years	£10m	£50m
C	Foreign sovereigns, supranational banks and quasi-sovereigns, minimum rating AAA/Aaa/AAA	5 years	£20m	Unlimited
D	Foreign sovereigns, supranational banks and quasi-sovereigns, minimum rating AA-/Aa3/AA-	5 years	£10m	Unlimited
E	Foreign sovereigns, supranational banks and quasi-sovereigns, minimum rating A1-/A3/A-	5 years	£5m	Unlimited
F	Banks and building societies minimum rating AAA/Aaa/AAA	5 years	£20m	£30m
G	Banks and building societies minimum rating AA-/Aa3/AA-	3 years	£15m	£30m
H	Banks and building societies minimum rating A-/A3/A-	1 year	£10m	£30m
I	Top 20 Building Societies by asset size	6 months	£3m	£30m
J	Other Corporate Entities long term rating AA-/Aa3/AA-	3 years	£15m	£30m
K	Other Corporate Entities long term rating A-/A3/A-	1 year	£10m	£30m
L	Money Market Funds above £bn holdings	N/A	£30m	Unlimited
M	Short Duration low volatility enhanced cash funds	N/A	£10m	Unlimited
N	Sterling Government Money Market Funds above £200m in holdings	N/A	£5m	Unlimited
O	VNAV AAA rated Money Market Funds	N/A	£10m	Unlimited
P	Multi asset income pooled fund	N/A	£5m	£10m
Q	Royal Bank of Scotland	3 months	£75m	£75m
Overall portfolio: Maximum 1 year maturity 65%				
Maximum weighted average maturity 2.5 years				
(The maturity of floating rate instruments is treated as the next interest				

Specified Investments	
~ In sterling, meeting credit standards and with remaining life no longer than 1 year	
A	Term deposits, notice accounts, certificates of deposits, commercial paper, Notes, collateral backed lending, bills, bonds (including covered bonds) issued or guaranteed by the UK government, supranational banks, foreign governments, quasi-sovereigns, UK local authorities, banks or UK building societies.
B	Money Market Funds and short duration low volatility enhanced cash funds rated AAA/Aaa/AAA (Fitch/Moody's/S&P) with stable or variable net asset values
Non-Specified Investments	
~ In sterling, meeting credit standards and with remaining life longer than 1 year	
A	Term deposits, notice accounts, certificates of deposits, commercial paper, Notes, collateral backed lending, bills, bonds (including covered bonds) issued or guaranteed by the UK government, supranational banks, foreign governments, quasi-sovereigns, UK local authorities, banks or UK building societies, pooled multi-asset income funds

APPENDIX 4

GLOSSARY

CFR: capital financing requirement - the council's annual underlying borrowing need to finance capital expenditure and a measure of the council's total outstanding indebtedness.

CIPFA: Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy – the professional accounting body that oversees and sets standards in local authority finance and treasury management.

CNAV (MMF): a type of money market fund that aims to maintain a stable price per share.

CPI: consumer price index –the official measure of inflation adopted as a common standard by countries in the EU. It is a measure that examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services, such as transportation, food and medical care. It is calculated by taking price changes for each item in the predetermined basket of goods and averaging them.

ESG: is short for Environmental, Social and Governance – is a set of standards measuring a business's impact on society, the environment, and how transparent and accountable it is.

Gilts: gilts are bonds issued by the UK Government to borrow money on the financial markets. Interest paid by the Government on gilts is called a coupon and is at a rate that is fixed for the duration until maturity of the gilt, (unless a gilt is index linked to inflation); while the coupon rate is fixed, the yields will change inversely to the price of gilts i.e. a rise in the price of a gilt will mean that its yield will fall.

HRA: housing revenue account.

LVNAV (MMF): are short-term low volatility MMFs. Funds are primarily invested in money market instruments, deposits and other short-term assets.

MHCLG: the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government -the Government department that directs local authorities in England.

MMF: a mutual fund investing in high quality short-term money market instruments and cash.

MPC: the Monetary Policy Committee is a committee of the Bank of England, which meets for one and a half days, eight times a year, to determine monetary policy by

setting the official interest rate in the United Kingdom, (the Bank of England Base Rate, commonly called Bank Rate), and by making decisions on quantitative easing.

MRP: minimum revenue provision - a statutory annual minimum revenue charge to reduce the total outstanding CFR, (the total indebtedness of a local authority).

NAV: net asset value.

PFI: Private Finance Initiative –capital expenditure financed by the private sector i.e. not by direct borrowing by a local authority.

PWLB: Public Works Loan Board –this is the part of H.M. Treasury which provides loans to local authorities to finance capital expenditure.

SONIA: the Sterling Overnight Index Average. Generally, a replacement set of indices (for LIBID) for those benchmarking their investments. The benchmarking options include using a forward-looking (term) set of reference rates and/or a backward-looking set of reference rates that reflect the investment yield curve at the time an investment decision was taken.

TMSS: the annual treasury management strategy statement reports that all local authorities are required to submit for approval by the full council before the start of each financial year.

TMP's: Treasury Management Practices that set out the manner in which the organisation will seek to achieve its treasury policies and objectives and prescribing how it will manage and control those activities

VNAV (MMF): Variable Net Asset Value, refers to funds which use mark-to-market accounting to value some of their assets. The NAV of these funds will vary.

Agenda Item 6.3

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	12 November 2025
Report title:	Appointment of Honorary Recorder of Southwark
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not applicable
From:	Constitutional Steering Panel

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Assembly agree, pursuant to section 54 of the Courts Act 1971, that His Honour Judge Michael Evans KC be appointed to the office of Honorary Recorder of Southwark during his tenure as Resident Judge at Inner London Crown Court.
2. That the appointment be formally recognised at an appropriate civic ceremony.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Since the implementation of the Courts Act 1971 and the establishment of the Crown Court for England and Wales, the Councils of boroughs have had the power to appoint a Circuit Judge or a Recorder of the Crown Court as Honorary Recorder of the borough concerned.
4. In November 2017, Council Assembly appointed Her Honour Judge (HHJ) Usha Karu to the office of Honorary Recorder of Southwark during her tenure as Resident Judge at Inner London Crown Court. The post is the subject of a Judicial Appointments Commission exercise as it became a Senior Circuit Judge post.
5. Following this, HHJ Michael Evans KC was appointed in July 2025 as permanent resident judge for Inner London.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. According to the Lord Chief Justice's Guidelines for the Appointment of Honorary Recorders, it has been the practice of most large City Councils to appoint the Resident Judge to be Honorary Recorder of the city during his tenure of office, thereby continuing the link between the city and its criminal Court, which has existed throughout the history of the Courts of Quarter Sessions, which were abolished by the Courts Act 1971.

7. The Guidelines also state that the involvement of the borough's Senior Resident Judge in civic affairs and events have been found to be valuable and are generally enjoyed and appreciated on both sides.
8. As head of the Judiciary, following the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, the Lord Chief Justice is keen to encourage those city and borough councils which have not made such appointments to consider doing so.
9. At each Crown Court centre a particular judge appointed "Resident Judge" leads the team of judges who sit there and provides the essential link between the judiciary and the administration.
10. In the larger city court centres, the Resident Judge is usually a Senior Circuit Judge who is recruited and appointed specifically to that post. Such a judge holds office as a Resident Judge, (if appointed), as Honorary Recorder until his retirement from the post.
11. It is customary for an Honorary Judge, when sitting in the Crown Court in the City where he/she holds office, to be described as such in the published court lists.
12. Those Honorary Recorders who are also Senior Circuit Judges are authorised by the Lord Chancellor to wear red robes when sitting in court.
13. His Honour Judge Michael Evans KC is a Senior Circuit Judge. He was called to the Bar (Middle Temple) in 1988. He was appointed as a Recorder in 2009 and as a Circuit Judge in 2018.

Resource implications

14. It is expected that this would be included in a ceremonial event already planned and it is expected that these will be contained within existing budgets.

Legal implications

15. The appointment of an Honorary Recorder is made by the borough council concerned and does not require the approval of the Lord Chancellor or the Lord Chief Justice, but the Lord Chief Justice encourages boroughs to first consult the Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales.
16. In addition, the whip of each party was consulted.

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

17. The involvement of the borough's Senior Resident Judge in civic affairs and events has been found to be valuable and appreciated on both sides and of value to the borough.

Climate change implications

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

Resource implications

19. There are no direct resource implications in this report, as this can be managed within relevant departmental budgets.

Consultation

20. There has been no consultation on this report.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Assurance)

21. There are no specific legal matters to consider.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Lord Chief Justice's Guidelines for the Appointment of Honorary Recorders	Council Offices 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Norman Coombe 0207 525 7678

APPENDICES

No.	Item
	None

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Assistant chief executive, governance and assurance	
Report Authors	Virginia Wynn-Jones, principal constitutional officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	27 October 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
Strategic Director of Resources	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	27 October 2025	

Agenda Item 6.4

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	12 November 2025
Report title:	Re-appointment of independent person
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not Applicable
From:	Assistant Chief Executive, Governance & Assurance

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly approves the re-appointment of the independent person named in the closed report for the periods stated.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 requires provision for the appointment of at least one independent person whose views must be sought and taken into account before the authority makes a decision on an allegation or complaint relating to a member.
3. The independent persons will advise the council prior to any decision to investigate an allegation or complaint relating to whether a member has failed to comply with the code of conduct. The independent persons must be consulted by the council's monitoring officer in respect of an allegation against a member in other circumstances. They may also be consulted by a member or co-opted member of the council against whom an allegation or complaint has been made.
4. Additionally, the views of the independent persons will be considered by the council's audit governance and standards committee or its sub-committees, who are responsible for determining the outcome of any complaints and remedial action. The independent person will therefore be required to attend relevant committee meetings as and when they are called.
5. The monitoring officer considers that it is important to have a minimum of three independent persons to call upon to provide the advice and assistance needed when dealing with complaints, particularly to cover for periods of absences and to avoid potential conflicts where a member wishes to obtain advice.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. There are currently three independent persons. One was reappointed by the council assembly at its meeting on 23 November 2022 for a period of 3 years. This appointment will continue until 30 November 2025.
7. This appointee is willing to stand for a further period of three years.
8. The initial appointment by council assembly was made in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, following an open recruitment process and interviews being conducted by a panel comprising council members and references being obtained.

Resource implications

9. It is expected that this would be included within existing budgets.

Legal implications

10. The legal statutory context to this re-appointment is set out above.

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

11. The appointment of independent persons is required by statute and the individuals appointed play an important part in the work of the council monitoring the probity and conduct of elected councilors for the benefit of the community that the council serves.
12. The initial appointment process for independent persons is an open and transparent one that takes account of the need to ensure that council is complying with the public sector equality duty.
13. There is no obvious health impact arising from this report.

Climate change implications

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Assurance)

15. There are no specific legal matters to consider.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Council Assembly previous report and decision: 23/11/2022	Constitutional Team, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Chidilim Agada 020 7525 7225

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Assistant Chief Executive, Governance & Assurance	
Report Author	Norman Coombe, Specialist Governance Lawyer	
Version	Final	
Dated	22 October 2025	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance & Assurance	Yes	Incorporated in report
Strategic Director of Resources	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		24 October 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

ONE COPY TO ALL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	Copies	To	Copies
Councillors (1 each) Councillor Jasmine Ali Councillor Naima Ali Councillor Renata Hamvas Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall Councillor Darren Merrill Councillor Leo Pollak Councillor Sandra Rhule Councillor Martin Seaton Councillor Andy Simmons Councillor Cleo Soanes Councillor Kath Whittam Councillor Kieron Williams	12	Press Southwark News South London Press	by email by email
Electronic Versions (No hard copy) All other councillors		Group Offices Arthur Holmes, Labour Group Office Oliver Bradfield, Liberal Democrat Group Office	by email by email
		Officers Althea Loderick Clive Palfreyman Doreen Forrester-Brown Rhona Cadenhead Chidilim Agada Aled Richards David Quirke-Thornton Hakeem Osinaike Darren Summers	by email by email 1 by email by email by email by email by email by email
		Constitutional Team (Copies to Virginia Wynn-Jones, 2 nd Floor, Hub 2, Tooley Street)	7
		Total:	20
		Last updated: May 2025	