



## **Cabinet**

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 17 June 2025  
at 11.00 am at Walworth Living Room, All Saints Hall, Surrey Square, London  
SE17 2JU

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

### **1. APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor John Batteson.

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

The chair gave notice of the following late items:

Item 12: Consideration of proposal to close Charlotte Sharman Primary School

Item 13: Consideration of proposal to close St Mary Magdalene CE Primary School.

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

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

No closed items for this meeting.

**4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

Councillor Sarah King declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Dulwich Hamlet Supporters Trust with regard to item 14: Appropriation of land at Greendale and confirmed her intention to withdraw from the meeting while this item was being discussed.

Additionally, Councillor James McAsh withdrew from the meeting while items 12 and 13: Consideration of proposals to close Charlotte Sharman Primary School and St Mary Magdalene CE primary school were discussed. This was a non-pecuniary interest in his capacity as a branch officer at the National Education Union (Lambeth).

**5. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

**6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)**

There were no public questions.

**7. DEPUTATION REQUESTS**

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the deputation request from Dulwich Hamlet Football Club be heard.
2. A spokesperson for the deputation addressed cabinet for five minutes and questions were asked of the deputation for a period of five minutes.

**8. SOUTHWARK'S HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2025-2030 - FORMAL CONSULTATION REVIEW AND SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO FINAL DRAFT**

The cabinet heard representations from Mr Ninesh Mutiah, Homefinder UK and Mr Eammon Egerton, St Mungos.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the proposed amendments in the report for the final draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025-2030 (hereafter 'the Strategy',) and accompanying action plan be agreed.
2. That the findings of the formal consultation process that was held between 2 September and 8 December 2024 be noted.

**9. ALLOCATIONS FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY FUNDING**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the allocation of strategic community infrastructure levy funding of up to £1,250,000 towards the fit out of the Harold Moody Health Centre on Thurlow Street be agreed.
2. That the allocation of strategic community infrastructure levy funding of £1m in support of the bus priority works be agreed.
3. That the allocation of £500,000 of strategic community infrastructure levy funding to the refurbishment works associated with the Southwark Pensioners Centre be agreed.

**10. EXPANSION OF HIGHSHORE SPECIAL SCHOOL**

Cabinet heard representations from the head teacher of Highshore School who was present at the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposals to expand the Highshore Special School to a satellite provision on the site of the former Comber Grove Primary School be agreed.

**11. EXPANSION OF CHERRY GARDEN SPECIAL SCHOOL**

Cabinet heard representations from the executive head teacher of the River Peck

Federation and head teacher at Cherry Garden special school who were in attendance.

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposals to expand the Cherry Garden Special School to a satellite provision located within the Bellenden Primary School be agreed.

**12. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL TO CLOSE CHARLOTTE SHARMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

It was not possible to circulate this report five clear days in advance of the meeting. The chair agreed to accept this item as urgent as the representations on closure needed to run for a period of four weeks and be complete prior to consideration by cabinet on the 17 June 2025. Results from the consultation were not available until the 9 June 2025, four days after the dispatch date for cabinet.

Councillor James McAsh left the meeting room while this item was discussed and a decision made.

Cabinet heard representations from the chair of governors and a colleague.

**RESOLVED:**

That it be agreed to close Charlotte Sharman Primary School from the 31 August 2025 onward.

**13. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ST MARY MAGDALENE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

It was not possible to circulate this report five clear days in advance of the meeting. The chair agreed to accept this item as urgent as the representations on closure needed to run for a period of four weeks and be complete prior to consideration by cabinet on the 17 June 2025. Results from the consultation were not available until the 9 June 2025, four days after the dispatch date for cabinet.

Councillor James McAsh left the meeting room while this item was discussed and a decision made.

Cabinet heard representations from the chair of governors and the director of Southwark Diocesan Board of Education.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That it be agreed to close St Mary Magdalene Church of England Primary School from the 31 August 2025 onwards.

2. That a report be produced on the lessons learned from school closures in Southwark over recent years and reported back to cabinet in Autumn 2025.

#### **14. APPROPRIATION OF LAND AT GREENDALE**

Councillor Sarah King left the meeting room while this item was discussed and a decision was made (having declared a non-pecuniary interest).

##### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Astro Turf Pitch Site at Greendale Playing Fields shown edged red on the plan at Appendix 1 of the report that is currently held for open space purposes be confirmed as no longer required for those purposes and the appropriation of the land to planning purposes to facilitate the carrying out of the consented development proposals for the area in accordance with section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and section 122(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 be approved.
2. That it be noted that a future report will be brought to cabinet setting out detailed land arrangements for the site and wider development.

#### **15. REFRESH OF PROCUREMENT FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT SOUTHWARK 2030 AND APPROVAL OF NEW SOCIAL VALUE FRAMEWORK**

##### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the refreshed Southwark 2030 Procurement Framework, at Appendix 1 of the report be approved.
2. That the emerging corporate approach to Social Value be endorsed and the draft Social Value Framework, at Appendix 2 of the report be approved.
3. That the continued delegation of approval for minor and consequential amendments to the Southwark 2030 Procurement Framework to the assistant chief executive, governance and assurance, in consultation with the cabinet member for equalities, democracy and finance be agreed.
4. That the delegation of approval for minor and consequential amendments to the social value framework to the strategic director of resources, in consultation with the cabinet member for equalities, democracy and finance be agreed.

#### **16. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION CHARTER: REVIEW AND UPDATES**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and Development Consultation Charter (DCC) 2025 with the minor changes set out in Appendices 2 and 3 of the report be agreed.
2. That the updated Development Consultation Charter templates (Early Engagement Strategy, Engagement Summary, and Equality and Needs Impact Assessment) set out in Appendices 4, 5, and 6 of the report be agreed.

**17. RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMISSION REPORT - BIODIVERSITY SCRUTINY REVIEW**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the council's response to the 34 recommendations put forward by the environment scrutiny commission's biodiversity review, as set out in the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 15.3 be approved.
2. That 10 recommendations be accepted and 24 recommendations be partially accepted for reasons outlined in the report.

**18. RESPONSE TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY OF CONSORT ESTATE MAJOR WORKS, SE15 CHARGES TO LEASEHOLDERS**

**RESOLVED:**

That the responses to the recommendations of the overview and scrutiny committee be noted.

**19. POLICY AND RESOURCES: CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2024-25**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the outturn and resources for 2024-25 and future years for both the general fund and housing investment programmes as detailed in Appendices A1 and C of the report be noted.
2. That the alignment of the general fund capital programme to the Southwark 2030 priorities at Appendix A2 of the report be noted.
3. That the borrowing requirement of £349m which needs to be identified for the general fund programme to be fully delivered over the remaining term of the programme, as detailed in Appendix A1 of the report be noted.

4. That the borrowing requirement of £324m for the housing investment programme to be fully delivered over the remaining term of the programme, as detailed in Appendix C of the report be noted.
5. The virements and variations to the general fund and housing investment capital programme as detailed in Appendix D of the report be approved.
6. That the new capital bid in Appendix E of the report be approved.

## **20. POLICY AND RESOURCES: REVENUE OUTTURN REPORT 2024-25**

### **RESOLVED:**

That the following be approved:

1. The interdepartmental budget and reserve movements that exceed £275k, as shown in Appendix A and Appendix C of the report.
2. The use of £5.3m reserves to balance the 2024-25 outturn.

That the following be noted:

3. The housing revenue account (HRA) favourable variance of £3.9m after one off income windfalls, other financing activities and short-term cost reductions.
4. The full utilisation of the £4m contingency together with £2.4m of general reserves.
5. The key overspends in 2024-25 are:
  - i. Housing - housing revenue account (paragraphs 14-27 of the report)
  - ii. Housing - temporary accommodation (paragraph 77-79 of the report)
  - iii. Adult social care (paragraphs 38 -41 of the report).
6. The positive variance of £1.1m in the ring-fenced dedicated schools grant (DSG) reduced the overall deficit to £5.8m as at 31 March 2025 (paragraphs 48-50 of the report).
7. The interdepartmental general fund budget and reserve movements that are less than £275k as shown in Appendix A and D of the report.
8. The council reserve balances as at 31 March 2025 in Appendix B of the report.

## 21. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2025-26

### RESOLVED:

That appointments to the outside bodies listed in Appendix A of the report for the 2025-26 municipal year be agreed as follows:

#### **Better Bankside Board**

Cllr Helen Dennis  
Cllr David Watson

#### **Blue Bermondsey BID Board**

Cllr Leo Pollak

#### **Board of Southwark College Corporation**

Cllr Jasmine Ali

#### **Central London Forward**

Cllr Kieron Williams

#### **Central London Forward (Employment and Skills Board)**

Cllr John Batteson

#### **Centre for Literacy in Primary Education**

Cllr Catherine Rose

#### **Cross River Board**

Cllr James McAsh

#### **Groundwork London, Local Authority Strategic Input Board**

Cllr Portia Mwangangye

#### **Guys and St Thomas NHS Foundation (Council of Governors)**

Cllr Emily Hickson

#### **Kings College Hospital NHS (Council of Governors)**

Cllr Renata Hamvas



**London Bridge Improvement District BID**

Cllr John Batteson

**London Road Safety Council (LRSC)**

Cllr James McAsh  
Cllr Richard Livingstone

**London Youth Games Limited**

Cllr Portia Mwangangye  
Cllr Jasmine Ali (deputy)

**Mountview**

Cllr Sabina Emmanuel

**Newable Limited (formerly Greater London Enterprise Limited)**

Cllr John Batteson

**North Southwark Environment Trust**

Cllr Naima Ali

**Our Space (20 – 22 Lordship Lane) Steering Group**

Cllr John Batteson  
Cllr Charlie Smith

**Peckham Levels Steering Group**

Cllr David Parton  
Cllr John Batteson

**Potters Fields Park Management Trust**

Cllr Portia Mwangangye  
Strategic director, environment, sustainability and leisure or representative

**Shared ICT Services Joint Committee**

Cllr Stephanie Cryan  
Cllr Barrie Hargrove

**South Bank and Waterloo Partnership**

Cllr John Batteson  
Cllr David Watson  
Cllr Irina Von Wiese  
Cllr Victor Chamberlain

**South Bank Business Improvement District Ltd**

Cllr John Batteson  
Cllr Irina Von Wiese

**South London Gallery Trustee Limited**

Cllr Richard Leeming  
Cllr Cleo Soanes

**South London and Maudsley (SLaM) NHS Trust Members Council**

Cllr Esme Dobson

**Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee (SLAEC)**

Cllr Richard Leeming  
Raymond Whitaker

**Southwark Construction Skills Centre (“the Centre”)**

Cllr John Batteson

**Southwark Twinning Association**

Cllr James McAsh

**Safer Neighbourhood Board (Southwark)**

Cllr Natasha Ennin

**WeAreWaterloo BID (Business Improvement District)**

Cllr Maria Linforth-Hall

**Walworth Group**

Cllr Natasha Ennin

## **22. NOMINATIONS TO PANELS, BOARDS AND FORUMS 2025-26**

### **RESOLVED:**

That the allocation of places to panels, boards and forums for 2025-26 set out in Appendix A of the report be agreed as follows:

#### **Joint Partnership Panel (Trade Union consultation)**

Cllr Kieron Williams  
Cllr Stephanie Cryan

#### **Homeowners Service Charge Arbitration Tribunal**

Cllr Charlie Smith  
Cllr Renata Hamvas  
Cllr Sunny Lambe  
Cllr Sandra Rhule  
Cllr Margy Newens  
Cllr Kath Whittam  
Cllr Sabina Emmanuel  
Cllr Suzanne Abachor  
Cllr Maria Linforth-Hall  
Cllr Jane Salmon

#### **Tenancy and Leaseholder Arbitration Tribunal**

Cllr Charlie Smith  
Cllr Renata Hamvas  
Cllr Sunny Lambe  
Cllr Sandra Rhule  
Cllr Margy Newens  
Cllr Kath Whittam  
Cllr Sabina Emmanuel  
Cllr Suzanne Abachor  
Cllr Maria Linforth-Hall  
Cllr Jane Salmon

#### **Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board**

Cllr Evelyn Akoto  
Cllr Natasha Ennin

#### **Southwark Safeguarding Children's Board**

Cllr Jasmine Ali

## **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

Cllr Maggie Browning  
Cllr Sandra Rhule  
Cllr Margy Newens  
Cllr Graham Neale

## **Southwark Tenant Management Organisation Committee**

Cllr Sarah King  
Cllr Barrie Hargrove  
Cllr Esme Hicks  
Cllr Jane Salmon

### **23. REPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMISSION: REVIEW OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE PLAN (EHCP), SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) PROVISIONS AND INCLUSIONS IN SCHOOLS**

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the recommendations from the education and local economy scrutiny commission arising from the scrutiny education and health care plan (EHCP), special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provisions and inclusions in schools in the London Borough of Southwark, paragraphs 11 to 24 of the report be noted.
2. That the recommendations from the education and local economy scrutiny commission be considered and that the relevant cabinet member reports back to cabinet within eight weeks.

### **24. REPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMISSION: REVIEW OF THE DRAFT TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN, YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND EAST STREET TRADERS**

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the recommendations from the education and local economy scrutiny commission arising from the scrutiny review of the draft town centre action plan, youth employment support and East Street traders in the London Borough of Southwark, paragraphs 7 to 12 of the report be noted.
2. That the recommendations from the education and local economy scrutiny commission be considered and that the relevant cabinet member reports back to cabinet within eight weeks.

**25. INTERIM REPORT OF THE HOUSING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMISSION: SCRUTINY REVIEW OF TENANT STRUCTURES (DRAFT RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY)**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the housing, community safety and community engagement scrutiny commission's recommendations relating to its ongoing review of Southwark's tenant structures be noted.
2. That recommendations be considered and that the relevant cabinet member reports back to cabinet within eight weeks.

**26. REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMISSION: NURSING CARE HOME DELIVERY SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORT**

Councillor Suzanne Abachor presented the report to cabinet and key issues arising. Members of the health and social care scrutiny commission were also in attendance to support this presentation.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the recommendation of the health and social care scrutiny commission: nursing care home delivery scrutiny review report Appendix 1, as set out on the page 9 of the report be noted.
2. That the recommendation from the commission be considered and that the relevant cabinet member reports back to cabinet on the recommendation, as set out in the report.

**27. MOTIONS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**

**RESOLVED:**

**Creating healthy green and leisure spaces for the whole of the community**

That the motion referred from council assembly as a recommendation to cabinet, set out below be agreed.

1. Council Assembly believes:
  - a. In order to create good lives for the whole community, we must ensure that our leisure spaces and green spaces are as healthy as they can be. This includes parks and green spaces, leisure centres and sports facilities, playgrounds, libraries and biodiversity corridors.

2. Council Assembly agrees:

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

3. Council Assembly also welcomes:

- a. Improvements made to our much-loved green spaces including Cossall Park, Burgess Park and Victory Park, refurbishments to 19 council-managed tennis courts across the borough and support provided for residents to set up community gardens across Southwark.
- b. Revamping sports facilities and expanding activities, including St Paul's Sports Ground, Burgess Park Sports Centre and Southwark Park Sports and Athletics Centre, as well as £1.3 million paid or committed to local sports clubs and organisations.
- c. The £8 million upgrade of our leisure centres and £2 million spent on

refurbishing our gyms, including cleaner facilities and upgraded changing rooms and the state of the art e-gyms at Peckham Pulse and Camberwell Green leisure centres.

- d. This administration's continued work with residents and local councillors in Nunhead & Queen's Road in making Nunhead Green and Brayards Community Garden thriving community spaces for all ages.
- e. The opening of health kiosks at Camberwell, Una Marson, Canada Water and Dulwich libraries, used by over 14,000 users since they were installed.
- f. The raising of over £1 million for nature projects through the Community Investment Scheme and renewed focus on biodiversity following the recommendations of our Citizens' Jury on Climate Change, with the £500,000 Southwark Biodiversity Fund.

4. Council Assembly asks that Cabinet:

- a. Continue to deliver an ambitious programme of investing in and expanding our parks and green spaces, by bringing forward a new Green Spaces Plan to:
  - i. Deliver major improvements to our parks and green spaces across the borough, including Bramcote, Elephant, and Guy's parks, and creating more parkland and Dr Harold Moody and Consort Parks in Rye Lane.
  - ii. Work with local people to create more opportunities to be involved in planting and establish an action plan for Right to Grow, mapping new opportunities for community gardens and potential growing spaces.
  - iii. Support Southwark's thriving arts and culture sector through events held in parks across our borough.
  - iv. Continue to make our parks and green spaces safer by tackling crime and antisocial behaviour, strengthen community initiatives around safety in our parks and co designing plans to make our parks safe.
- b. Continues to invest in leisure and sports facilities and activities for children and young people across our borough, including:
  - i. Delivering a brand new, state of the art leisure centre at Canada Water in Rotherhithe.
  - ii. Improving outdoor gyms and sports facilities, so they enable more

people to have better health and wellbeing and help to reduce health inequalities, including through major upgrades to Marlborough Gardens, Burgess Park and Brimington Park sports centres.

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



tree canopy cover and working with local people to create more nature sites, woodlands and urban planting.

### **Scrap the two-child cap**

That the motion referred from council assembly as a recommendation to cabinet, set out below be agreed.

1. Council assembly notes:

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

2. Council Assembly further notes:

- a. The work of Southwark's Labour administration to support children and families in our borough and help alleviate poverty, including:
  - i. Over £53million of cost of living support provided to thousands of families.
  - ii. The most comprehensive free healthy school meals offer for

- children in the country, which has improved reading skills, reduced childhood obesity and increased financial support to households.
    - iii. Free healthy school meals during the holidays.
    - iv. Holiday food and fun programmes.
    - v. Support for low income families with school uniform costs.
    - vi. Help with energy costs and free advice on reducing bills.
  - b. This administration's submission to the Child Poverty Taskforce, which outlined the impacts of child poverty in Southwark and describing the work we are doing with partners to ameliorate its affects.
  - c. This administration's continued work with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and other government ministers in finding and working through long term solutions to child poverty.
  - d. The council's work with the Living Wage Foundation to lift Southwark residents out of poverty pay, which so far has benefitted over 7,000 working people in the borough.
- 3. Council Assembly resolves to:
  - a. Ask that the council continue to provide support to children and families in Southwark, putting money back in our residents' pockets wherever possible. This includes:
    - i. Continuing providing free healthy school meals for Southwark children.
    - ii. Continuing to provide holiday school meals.
    - iii. Continuing the council's Holiday Food and Fun schemes for families in the school holidays.
    - iv. Continue with a cash first approach to our cost of living support.
    - v. Continue to expand the number of registered Living Wage employers in the borough to lift residents out of poverty pay.
  - b. Support the government in the establishment of the Child Poverty Strategy, providing expertise on the pressures facing families in Southwark and working to end child poverty in this country.

### **Extension of the Franchise**

That the motion referred from council assembly as a recommendation to cabinet, set out below be agreed.

- 1. Council Assembly notes:
  - a. Southwark have given a welcome and a home to migrant communities across the ages, from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. Our culture, cuisine, community, and spirit have been

enriched a thousandfold by citizens and families from all over the world. In 2024 we were recognised by the wonderful Charity City of Sanctuary as a Borough of Sanctuary for welcoming, supporting opportunities to our sisters and brothers from overseas.

- b. The Elections Act is a major piece of national legislation with local implications for the residents of this local authority, including the use of mandatory photographic voter ID at the polling station, changes to overseas voting and voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens.
  - c. According to the 2021 census, [one in six usual residents of England and Wales were born outside the UK](#). They live, work, study, make use of public services, and call the UK their home. Many foreign-born residents of this local authority from EU and Commonwealth countries can vote in our local elections. However, over 1 million residents across England and Northern Ireland do not have a right to vote.
  - d. Scotland and Wales implemented residence-based voting rights where all residents with lawful immigration status have the right to vote in local and devolved national elections.
  - e. According to a poll by Opinium Research, over [50% of people agree that every resident, no matter where they are from, should have the right to vote at least in local elections](#).
2. Council Assembly welcomes:
- a. That all our residents, no matter their nationality, call this local authority their home and bring significant value to our area.
  - b. That the voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens with pre-settled and settled status who entered the UK before 2021 will be maintained through the Elections Act.
  - c. That [15 local authorities across England have passed motions asking for the right to vote to be extended to all residents in local elections](#).
3. Council Assembly expresses concern that:
- a. EU citizens who enter the UK from the 1st of January 2021 and are not covered by bilateral voting rights treaties (currently only active with Poland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain, and Denmark) will lose voting and candidacy rights in local elections when the Elections Act is fully implemented. This will create an unequal situation where some EU citizens will have the right to vote where others will not.
  - b. The complexity in voting eligibility will cause confusion and will reduce voter turnout in local elections amongst migrant voters, a group already

under-registered compared to British voters.

- c. This is particularly pertinent in Southwark, where more than 40% of our residents were born outside of the UK – over 121,000 people.
- d. Furthermore, a burden will be placed on Local Authorities managing the removal of a significant number of EU citizens from the electoral register. This may result in some being wrongfully removed from the electoral register.

4. The Council commits to:

- a. Request that the relevant cabinet member writes to the Minister of State at the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the relevant shadow frontbencher requesting that the franchise for local elections be extended to all qualifying foreign nationals in England and Northern Ireland in line with eligibility criteria in Scotland and Wales. This would ensure a UK-wide and fair approach to voting rights so that all our residents, who are also our council taxpayers, are enfranchised.
- b. Delivering a training to councillors and relevant officers on the changes brought by the Elections Act so that residents can be accurately informed about their voting rights.
- c. Work collaboratively with voluntary sector organisations in our local authority to reach residents about voter eligibility rules and how to vote.
- d. Ensure council officers have a strategy in place to ensure that the implementation of the Elections Act, including the removal of some EU citizens from the register, does not wrongfully remove eligible voters from the register.
- e. Continue promoting voter registration and photo ID requirements to residents at citizenship ceremonies, events, and other communication channels.

### **A Fair Deal for Southwark's Carers**

That the motion referred from council assembly as a recommendation to cabinet, set out below be agreed.

1. Council Assembly notes:

- a. The Carers Trust estimates that there are at least one million young carers aged 17 and under in the UK and over 600,000 young adult carers between the ages of 18 and 25.

- b. In Southwark, 407 young carers are supported by the council, but the true number of young carers in the area is likely to be far higher.
- c. Young carers miss an average of 23 school days per year and young adult carers are four times more likely to drop out of college or university.
- d. Caring responsibilities can affect young carers' readiness to engage fully in school life, adding barriers to punctuality, their capacity to complete homework, and their ability to focus and participate effectively in lessons.

2. Council Assembly further notes:

- a. That the NHS and social care system face multiple crises of access, staff retention, long waiting times, missed targets and poor outcomes as a direct result of 14 years of cuts from Conservative and Liberal Democrat governments.
- b. That people across Southwark are struggling to access health and care services, and that much of the strain on the NHS is caused by a dire lack of funding and support for social care inherited from the Conservative government.
- c. the Labour government has initiated and is actively working on holding cross-party talks to achieve meaningful social care reform, recognising the positive vision for social care in Southwark and nationally.
- d. That difficulty accessing services increases pressure on acute care such as Accident & Emergency (A&E) as well as undermining overall population health
- e. That the new Labour government struck a fair pay deal with doctors and nurses within months of running the country.
- f. That the Labour government has also already met its target of 2 million new NHS appointments, after just 8 months in office.
- g. The Labour government has set out immediate investment and reforms to improve adult social care and support the workforce, including helping to keep older people out of hospital and living at home independently for longer, and improved technology and data sharing between NHS and social care.
- h. That Baroness Louise Casey is chairing an independent commission into adult social care to build a national consensus around a new national care service able to meet the needs of older and disabled people into the 21st century.

- i. That the Southwark Labour administration has shown leadership in investing in the care workforce – paying the London Living Wage, Travel time, Enhancements for unsocial Hours, Occupational Sick Pay and much more to staff that are employed by local services who are signed up to Southwark’s Ethical Care Charter and the more recently Southwark’s Residential Care Charter.
  - j. The positive efforts by Southwark’s health partners to increase GP access, with Southwark GPs conducting an additional 23,971 appointments in Q3 2024/25 compared to Q3 2023/24, reflecting a 6.5% increase. Efforts to promote the NHS App in Southwark have also led to a significant rise in registrations from 5.4% in January 2024 to 60.1% by January 2025.
3. Council Assembly welcomes:
- a. The government’s plans for reforming the NHS and building an integrated health service, with health and social care services delivered locally and in coordination with one another.
  - b. The great work in Southwark to bring together key partners from Health, VCS and Council to collectively design and implement plans to improve health and care services for Southwark residents and patients through partnership Southwark and Health and Wellbeing Board.
  - c. The Council's collaboration with partners continues to facilitate timely discharges from hospitals, enabling residents to return home. This involves commissioning community-based reablement services in partnership with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust and a home care agency, as well as bed-based reablement services at the Avon Unit located within Waterside Care Home.
  - d. The Council’s commitment to enhancing support for carers by redesigning services and embedding them in the Health and Wellbeing Board’s strategy. We value unpaid carers for their role in keeping residents safe and well and aim to support their health.
  - e. The commitment made in the Labour Party's 2024 general election manifesto to "undertake a programme of reform to create a National Care Service, underpinned by national standards, delivering consistency of care across the country".
  - f. This Labour-run council’s ‘Health on the High Street’ programme, bringing vital services into local areas for our residents to access.
4. Council Assembly therefore pledges its support for a National Care Service, with health and social care delivered locally, and encourages the new

government to carry out this reform.

## **A National Care Service for England**

That the motion referred from council assembly as a recommendation to cabinet, set out below be agreed.

1. This council believes adult social care should enable people to live the life they want to live.
2. But despite the previous government's commitment to "fix social care", buck-passing and intransigence by the previous national government has broken this vital public service.
3. The problems in social care are particularly evident in the workforce. Many care staff are paid minimum wage or less for a difficult and skilled job. Some domiciliary care employees do not get paid for their travel time between care visits, while care workers are paid significantly less than the minimum wage for overnight sleep-in shifts. Most care workers do not even have access to an adequate occupational sick pay scheme, which means they lose significant sums in wages when they are unwell or need to self-isolate. Meanwhile, this country has been shamed by the exploitation of many migrant care staff, who are forced to work excessive hours or pay huge amounts for their training or equipment.
4. Figures from Skills for Care show there are 131,000 vacancies in the care sector, one of the highest rates in the entire economy. Workforce shortages; poor pay and conditions; and a lack of national direction on social care mean too many people cannot access the care they need.
5. But there is hope. This council notes the campaign by UNISON, the lead trade union in social care, for a National Care Service (NCS) in England, for a service which will:
  - a. improve the quality of care for everyone who needs it.
  - b. support independent living and take a 'home first' approach which enables people to recover outside hospital and care homes with the right help.
  - c. promote public sector and non-profit delivery of care services.
  - d. have national partnership working, bringing together employers, unions, and government in a national partnership.
  - e. implement a Fair Pay Agreement in adult social care.
6. This council also welcomes the commitment made in the Labour Party's 2024

general election manifesto to "undertake a programme of reform to create a National Care Service, underpinned by national standards, delivering consistency of care across the country".

7. This council acknowledges the commendable efforts made in the borough to invest in the workforce through the implementation of both the Ethical and Residential Care Charter, inspired by UNISON's charter. These charters are designed to enhance care standards for vulnerable residents and improve working conditions for care workers. By offering the London Living Wage, compensating travel time, providing occupational sick pay, and remunerating staff for training hours, the borough has effectively attracted and retained staff, resulting in relatively low vacancy and turnover rates.
8. This council further notes that the Fabian Society has published a comprehensive plan for building a NCS in England, with empowered local authorities at its core, called *Support Guaranteed: The Roadmap to a National Care Service*. The report states: "Councils should remain in charge [of social care]. But our firm view is that more nationwide rights, standards and functions are needed for local government to fulfil its adult social care mission
9. This council believes that building a NCS can also help drive wider economic growth. The 2023 Future Social Care Coalition report *Carenomics* demonstrates the contribution that social care makes to the UK economy, with the sector generating in England alone £51.5 billion in gross value added to the economy.
10. This council pledges its support for a NCS and encourages the new government to carry out this reform.

## **MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

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

## **28. MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the closed section of the meeting held on 11 March 2025



be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

The meeting ended at 1.25pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**

**DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 2025.**

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