



Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission held on Monday 7 July 2025 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Cassandra Brown (Chair)
Councillor Rachel Bentley (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor Youcef Hassaine
Martin Brecknell (Co-opted member)
Alie Kallon (Co-opted member)
Mannah Kargbo (Co-opted member)

**OFFICER
SUPPORT:** Amit Alva, Scrutiny Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mohamed Deen.

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

There were no items of business which the Chair deemed urgent.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS.

There were no disclosures of interest and dispensations.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2024, 4 February 2025 and 8 April 2025 were approved as a correct record.

5. PUPIL PLACE PLANNING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND ITS IMPACT ON SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

The commission first heard from Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families and Ric Eutneuer, Principal Strategy Officer on Pupil Place Planning covering the following points

- Council's limited powers in pupil place planning, children have to travel further for secondary school places, falling rolls across London in secondary school pupils
- Drop in the number of year seven's; Southwark residents' application for school places have dropped; Net migration figures in Southwark; Link between the fall in primary school pupils to secondary have several factors.

The commission then asked questions on the following topics

- Differences in pupil planning data in areas of development; pupil planning data across other boroughs in London
- Moving families to other boroughs.

Alasdair explained to the commission that cost of living, Brexit and lower birth rates are the reasons behind falling pupil rolls

6. TRADERS FROM EAST STREET MARKET

The commission then heard from Kerry Adams and Felix Badu (East Street Traders) on the following themes

- East street market appearance is unclean, delays in new implementations of online services and wi-fi.
- Issues of anti-social behaviour (ASB), parking issues, branding of market: resurfacing the market and pavements
- Toilet issues at East Street markets, Parking at East Street Market 12£ for 2 hrs

The commission then asked questions on the following points

- Online shopping and experiences on footfalls
- Areas of investment for East Street Market
- Security at East Street Market

Kerry explained to the commission that a lot of people prefer to come into the market when shopping clothes especially under garments rather than shop online. Issues around the market is a hurdle for people wanting to visit the market.

The commission heard from Felix that younger people (GEN Z) are attracted by gazebos and beautiful signages that the café's around East Street display. Market management needs to allow newer products for the market, also that free wi-fi is crucial to the market's future.

Felix explained further that £140k of investment from the public grant would go into setting up gazebos for traders. The traders however need more funds to get better signage. Free mobile internet data is a major factor for young people.

Kerry informed the commission that East Street Market traders are not asking more parking, they would like free parking for 2 hrs for customers who visit the market in and around East Street.

Felix explained to the commission that newer products on a trial run coming to the market face a lot of high charges.

The commission heard from Kerry that there is a slight increase in police presence in the market, since a fatal stabbing. However, it is not enough and there is a lack of private security for the businesses. Furthermore, there are drug users in the residential properties that further hinders people from visiting East Street Market.

The commission then asked further questions on the following topics

- Rubbish around East Street Market; Social media project in schools for East Street Market
- ASB around East Street market, phone thefts and extortion, breaking into cars.

Kerry informed the commission that rubbish from the market is appropriately discarded according to the council's different bags (Blue/Green/ Black). However, the market does not have any general rubbish bins.

7. PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMMES 2025-26

The commission discussed the Cabinet- Scrutiny Protocol, Youth Offer, SEND Provision- Post 16 offer, Southwark Works. Skills delivery plan, Economic Strategy, Council's Connect to work plan, Commercial leases, rent, repair and marketing and Debt Recovery Plans.

Meeting ended at 9:05 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: