

Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

Thursday 5 February 2026

7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Membership

Councillor Cassandra Brown (Chair)
Councillor Rachel Bentley (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Irina Von Wiese
Councillor Mohamed Deen
Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor Youcef Hassaine
Martin Brecknell (Co-opted member)
Alie Kallon (Co-opted member)
Mannah Kargbo (Co-opted member)
Claire Williams (Co-opted member)

Reserves

Councillor Joseph Vambe
Councillor Maggie Browning
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Sam Foster
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Adam Hood

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. For details on building access, translation, provision of signers or any other requirements for this meeting, please contact the person below.

Contact

Amit Alva on e-mail: amit.alva@southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Althea Loderick

Chief Executive

Date: 28 January 2026



Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

Thursday 5 February 2026
7.00 pm
Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

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PART A OPEN BUSINESS

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

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

In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear working days of the meeting.

3. 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.

4. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2025. *(To follow)*.

5. UPDATE ON CHARLOTTE SHARMAN AND ST. MARY MAGDALENE PUPILS POST CLOSURES OF THE SCHOOLS.

To receive an update on Charlotte Sharman and St. Mary Magdalene pupils from Alasdair Smith, Director of Children's Services. *(To follow)*

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| 6. | INTERVIEW WITH HATS REPRESENTATIVE - PRIVATE PROVIDER OF PATIENT HEALTH CARE, MENTAL HEALTH, HOME TO SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND). | |
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To discuss areas of child safety, child welfare, complaints and working with Southwark council.

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| 7. | WORK PROGRAMME 2025-26 | 1 - 8 |
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To consider the work programme for the 2025-26 year.

DISCUSSION OF ANY OTHER OPEN ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING.

Date: 28 January 2026

Meeting Name:	Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission
Date:	5 February 2026
Report title:	Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2025-26
Ward(s) or groups affected:	N/a
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	N/a
From:	Scrutiny Officer

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the education and local economy scrutiny commission note the work programme as at 5 February 2026 attached as Appendix 1.
2. That the education and local economy scrutiny commission consider the addition of new items or allocation of previously identified items to specific meeting dates of the commission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The general terms of reference of the scrutiny commissions are set out in the council's constitution (overview and scrutiny procedure rules - paragraph 5). The constitution states that:

Within their terms of reference, all scrutiny committees/commissions will:

- a) review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the council's functions
- b) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the cabinet and council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time in areas covered by its terms of reference

- c) review and scrutinise the performance of the council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas
- d) question members of the cabinet and officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects and about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area
- e) assist council assembly and the cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues
- f) make reports and recommendations to the cabinet and or council assembly arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process
- g) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants
- h) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working
- i) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance
- j) conduct research and consultation on the analysis of policy issues and possible options
- k) question and gather evidence from any other person (with their consent)
- l) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the scrutiny process and in the development of policy options
- m) conclude inquiries promptly and normally within six months

4. The work programme document lists those items which have been or are to be considered in line with the commission's terms of reference.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Set out in Appendix 1 (Work Programme) are the issues the education and local economy scrutiny commission is due to consider in 2025-26.

6. The work programme is a standing item on the education and local economy scrutiny commission agenda and enables the commission to consider, monitor and plan issues for consideration at each meeting.
7. The commission has within in its remit the cabinet portfolio elements listed below:

Children, Education & Refugees (Councillor Jasmine Ali, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member)

- **Early years and childcare** – including children and family centres, early years education, childminders and nurseries
- **Schools** – including school standards, inclusion, places and admissions; special education needs; free healthy school and nursery meals and fruit; healthy schools and Southwark’s Let’s Go Zero schools network
- **Further, higher and adult education** – including English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), adult literacy and numeracy; and scholarships
- **Children’s social care** – including children in care and care leavers, fostering and adoption, support for children with disabilities and their families; and child safeguarding
- **Family support** – including parenting programmes, the council’s sure-start for teenagers service and support for families who are providing unpaid care for a child with a disability or health condition, including respite care
- **Youth offending services.**

Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Jobs and Business (Councillor John Batteson)

- **Increasing employment** - support to find a job or start a new carer; careers advice and work experience; paid internships; supporting young people and care leavers’ into employment, education and training; relationship with Jobcentre Plus; supporting businesses to engage with schools and colleges (including the Education Business Alliance)
- **Vocational Skills** - including apprenticeships, vocational training and skills centres
- **Businesses support** - for local businesses, cooperatives, social enterprises and entrepreneurs; increasing procurement from local businesses; and relationships with local business groups and Business Improvement Districts.
- **High streets** – including town centre action plans, Thriving Highstreets Fund, markets
- **Commercial property** – management, leasing and rent setting of the council’s retail and commercial units, office accommodation and related property

- **Industrial strategy** - growing industries that generate good jobs and wider value for our community, including green industries, life sciences and creative and cultural industries
- **Living Wage** - promoting the London Living Wage employers
- **Workers' rights** - promoting good employment practices and equality and diversity at work and trade union membership.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission agenda and minutes	Southwark Council Website	Amit Alva Amit.alva@southwark.gov.uk
Link: https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CIId=550&Year=0		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Work Programme 2025-26

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Amit Alva, Scrutiny Officer	
Report Author	Amit Alva, Scrutiny Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	28 January 2026	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team	28 January 2026	

Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission Work Programme – 2025/26

Meeting	Agenda items	Comment
7 July 2025	Pupil Place Planning in Primary Schools and its impact on Secondary School admissions under the Keeping Education Strong (KES) Strategy.	To get an update from the officers on Pupil Place Planning in primary schools and also review the Pupil Place Planning Annex 2024-25 - Submitted to Cabinet in February 2025 (Appendix 6)
	Traders from East Street Market	To hear the traders' views on any improvements that have been made and/or in progress and any areas of concern/issues that the council could help with.

6 October 2025	<p>Commercial Property Portfolio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of commercial leases including rent, repairs and marketing • Increased revenue targets. Letting Southwark properties, Debt Recovery Plans 	<p>To receive a report from Councillor John Batteson, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Jobs and Business and Mark Grant, Assistant Director of Property on Commercial Property Portfolio.</p>
	<p>Youth Services and Positive Futures for Young People Fund</p>	<p>To receive a report from Councillor Portia Mwangangye, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks and Young People and Toni Ainge, Director of Leisure and Eva Gomez, Head of Culture on Youth Services and Positive Futures for Young People Fund.</p>
3 December 2025	<p>Cabinet Member Interview</p> <p>Councillor Jasmine Ali, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Refugees</p>	<p>To interview Councillor Jasmine Ali covering a holistic overview of key strategies and projects under the cabinet member portfolio including Breakfast Clubs in Schools.</p>

3 December 2025	<p>Southwark Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Changes- Children’s well-being and schools bill in parliament, scrutiny of safeguarding work, core child protection activity and reduction of children in child protection plan • SSCP transformation and roles 	To receive the SSCP Annual Report for 2024/25 from Alasdair Smith, Director of Children’s Services
	<p>Connect to Work programme</p> <p>Update on employment support for those facing health and disability barriers to work.</p>	To receive an update from officers Danny Edwards, Head of Economy and Nick Wolff, Employment and Skills Manager on the Connect to Work programme
5 February 2026	<p>Update on Charlotte Sharman and St. Mary Magdalene pupils post closures of the schools.</p>	To receive an update on Charlotte Sharman and St. Mary Magdalene pupils from Alasdair Smith, Director of Children’s Services.
	<p>Interview with a representative of HATS, private provider of Patient Healthcare, Mental Health, Home to Schools for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Transport Services and Private Passenger Hire Services</p>	To discuss areas of child safety, child welfare, complaints and working with Southwark council.

26 February 2026	Cabinet Member Interview - Councillor John Batteson, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Jobs and Business	<p>To receive a report on a holistic overview of key strategies and projects under your Cabinet member portfolio for Climate Emergency, Jobs & Business. Including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets for repairs in commercial units • Council's policy for compensating businesses that lose trade & income due to damage affecting their ability to operate. e.g. leaks from above - often residential properties
	Draft Scrutiny Recommendations – Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission	To discuss the draft recommendations to Cabinet from the commission.

Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025-26

AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)

NOTE: Original held by Scrutiny Team; all amendments/queries to Amit Alva Tel: 020 7525 0496

Name	No of copies	Name	No of copies
<p>Electronic Copy</p> <p>Members:</p> <p>Councillor Cassandra Brown (Chair) Councillor Rachel Bentley (Vice-Chair) Councillor Mohamed Deen Councillor Irina Von Wiese Councillor Margy Newens Councillor Youcef Hassaine Councillor Jon Hartley</p> <p>Education Representatives</p> <p>Martin Brecknell Alie Kallon Mannah Kargbo Claire Williams</p> <p>Reserves Members</p> <p>Councillor Joseph Vambe Councillor Maggie Browning Councillor Sunny Lambe Councillor Jason Ochere Councillor Sam Foster Councillor Victor Chamberlain Councillor Adam Hood</p>		<p>Joseph Brown – Senior Cabinet Officer</p> <p>Euan Cadzow-Webb - Liberal Democrat Group Office</p> <p>Sarauniya Shehu- Cabinet Office Manager</p> <p>Liam Reid- Cabinet Advisor</p> <p>Dated: January 2026</p>	