



Executive

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Executive held on Monday 20 July 2026 at 3.00 pm at the Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor James McAsh (Chair)
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Alexandra Austin
Councillor Rachel Bentley
Councillor Rebecca Corn
Councillor Sam Foster
Councillor Reginald Popoola
Councillor Vanessa Threadgold
Councillor Eloise Waldon-Day
Councillor David Watson

1. APOLOGIES

All members were present.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

The Leader of the Council gave notice of an urgent announcement in respect of funding for the Nest and Dementia Advisor services.

ANNOUNCEMENT IN RESPECT OF THE NEST AND DEMENTIA ADVISOR SERVICES

Councillor Rebecca Corn, Executive Member for Education and Care, made the following announcements regarding **The Nest** and **Dementia Advisory Services**.

The Nest

Councillor Corn reaffirmed the Executive's commitment to supporting The Nest and outlined the key actions being taken to secure its future:

1. The Executive will protect The Nest and prevent its closure in November 2026.
2. Self-referrals and professional referrals will reopen as soon as possible, without unnecessary delay.
3. A Gateway 2 report has been scheduled for the next meeting of the Executive. The report will set out proposals for sustainable funding through a new multi-year contract for The Nest, following discussions between the Southeast London Integrated Care Board (SEL ICB) and the Council.

The Strategic Director of Children's and Adults' Services further confirmed that contingency funding has been agreed to ensure that young people currently accessing The Nest can complete their programmes. In addition, all young people currently on the waiting list will be able to start and complete their programmes. The summer programme organised by The Nest will also proceed as planned.

Deputation: The Executive heard a deputation from Saba Alam, Simran Core, Ruby Ukairo Shaw, advocating for The Nest and its services

Dementia Advisory Services

Councillor Corn also outlined the Executive's commitment to protecting vulnerable and older residents.

As Executive Member for Education and Care, she will approve a four-year grant to the Alzheimer's Society of £164,000 per annum, representing a total award of £656,000 over the four-year period, commencing on 1 September 2026.

The grant will re-establish this highly valued service in Southwark, providing support to residents living with dementia, as well as their families and carers.

Deputation: The Executive heard a deputation from Cindy Glover and Judith Seckler who spoke of the importance and invaluable support received from this service.

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

None were declared.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the cabinet meeting held on 16 March 2026 be noted.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1. Question from Saidat Oketunde

Can the executive member confirm that this summer the council will once again be funding the much loved and needed summer holiday food and fun grants for children who receive free school meals?

Response from Councillor Vanessa Threadgold, Parks and Recreation

I am delighted to confirm that this summer Southwark will once again be delivering its much-loved Food and Fun Programme, ensuring children and young people who receive benefits-related Free School Meals can enjoy a fantastic range of activities alongside healthy meals during the school holidays.

Funded by the Department for Education, the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme has been running successfully in Southwark since 2020 and continues to play a vital role in supporting families across the borough. We are so proud to continue a programme that provides nutritious food in welcoming environments and inclusive activities for children with special education needs and disabilities and those from refugee and asylum-seeking families.

This summer, from 20 July to 28 August, we are pleased to be offering 55 clubs across the borough, giving thousands of children and young people the opportunity to take part in enriching activities, develop new skills, make friends and enjoy nutritious meals in a safe and welcoming environment.

[Eligible families can book a place here.](#)

The questioner was not in attendance. The leader confirmed that a copy of the response had been sent to the questioner.

7. DEPUTATION REQUESTS

RESOLVED:

1. That the deputation requests from parents of children and young people in respect of the Nest – Southwark’s mental health drop-in service for children – funding issue and residents relating to the closure of the Dementia Advisory service be heard.
2. A spokesperson for the deputations addressed executive for five minutes and questions were asked of the deputation for a period of five minutes. The deputations provided evidence of the positive and vital impact that these services have upon had upon their lives and welcomed the announcement by the Executive that these services would be protected.

8. AFFORDABLE, SAFE AND GREEN- THE JOINT ADMINISTRATION'S AMBITION FOR SOUTHWARK

RESOLVED:

The Joint Administration’s ambition for Southwark “Green, Safe and Affordable” (Appendix 1 of the report), as the basis for the development of the Borough Action Plan be noted.

9. RENTERS' RIGHTS ACT 2025 AND ADOPTION OF NEW PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ENFORCEMENT POLICY

RESOLVED:

1. That the revised Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy (PSHEP) be adopted (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) and to be implemented and take effect when the decision of the executive is implementable.
2. That authority be delegated to the strategic director of environment sustainability and leisure, in consultation with the strategic director of housing and the monitoring officer to approve technical or consequential amendments to the PSHEP to give effect to subsequent changes of legal requirements or organisational changes.
3. That authority be delegated to the strategic director of environment, sustainability and leisure in consultation with the strategic director of housing, the monitoring officer and the executive member(s) for community safety and engagement and public works and new homes to implement and finalise any further policies necessary to give effect to the Renters Rights Act 2025.

4. That it be noted that the strategic director of environment, sustainability and leisure, and the strategic director of housing, will take the necessary steps to review and, where appropriate, update their departmental schemes of management to ensure that suitably trained and experienced officers are properly authorised to exercise the new powers and discharge the duties arising from the Renters' Rights Act 2025 and associated legislation.
5. That formation of a Renters' Right Act Programme Board led by director of housing needs and support and the director of community safety and integrated enforcement be noted.

10. POLICY AND RESOURCES: OUT-TURN CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 2025-26

RESOLVED:

That the following recommendations be noted:

1. The outturn 2025-26 and financing for the general fund and the housing investment programme (hip), together with the ten-year capital programme forecasts.
2. The borrowing requirement of £313.7m for the general fund to be fully delivered over the remaining term of the programme, as detailed in table 2 and appendix 1 of the report.
3. The borrowing requirement of £332.2m for the hip to be fully delivered over the remaining term of the programme, as detailed in appendix 4 of the report.

That the following recommendation be approved:

4. The variations and virements to the general fund and housing investment programme (hip) (capital programme as detailed in appendix 5 of the report.

11. POLICY AND RESOURCES: OUT-TURN REVENUE MONITORING REPORT 2025-26

RESOLVED:

1. That the following be noted:
 - a) The housing revenue account (HRA) adverse variance of £1.4m
 - b) The general fund overall adverse variance of £25.3m which includes:
 - Departmental adverse variances of £37.8m

- Departmental use of planned reserves of £17.3m
 - The full utilisation of the £4m contingency together with £2.5m of general reserves.
 - The use of £11.6m of planned collection fund reserves
 - Achievement of departmental savings (Appendix C of the report)
- c) The interdepartmental general fund budget and reserve movements that are less than £275k as shown in Appendix A and Appendix B of the report.
- d) The £1.7m adverse variance of the ring-fenced dedicated schools grant (DSG) and the closure of the safety valve programme (paragraphs 89-92 of the report).
- e) The council reserve balances as at 31 March 2026 in Appendix D of the report.
2. That the use of £25.3m of reserves to balance the 2025-26 outturn together with the interdepartmental budget and reserve movements that exceed £275k, as shown in Appendix A and Appendix B of the report be approved.

12. POLICY AND RESOURCES: FINANCIAL REMIT REPORT

RESOLVED:

1. That the following be noted:
- a) The current budget pressures in 2026-27
 - b) The transformation savings
 - c) The proposed revisions to the medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) updated to 2030
 - d) The update on the housing revenue account (HRA).

13. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MONITORING OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) AND SECTION 106 PROJECTS

RESOLVED:

That the following recommendation be approved:

1. The unified governance framework for capital projects funded through community infrastructure levy (CIL), both strategic CIL and neighbourhood

CIL (NCIL), aligning these with the council's existing capital governance framework while retaining current approval arrangements.

That the following recommendations be noted:

2. The reporting of capital Section 106 funded projects, where expenditure is in accordance with the terms of the relevant section 106 agreement, through the same process as all other capital programmes, whilst retaining current approvals.
3. The adoption of the capital project flowchart as the standard route for project identification, assessment, reporting, approval and monitoring for CIL and Section 106 funded projects.

14. LOCAL PLAN TIMETABLE 2026-2029

RESOLVED:

1. That the commencement of a full review of the Southwark Plan, called the Southwark Plan 2045, under the new plan-making system set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 which came into effect on 25 March 2026 be noted.
2. That formal Notice for the commencement of the Local Plan is given in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 be agreed.
3. That the Local Plan timetable (LPT) in Appendix 1 of the report be adopted as required by section 15B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This includes consultation periods in line with the 2026 Planning Regulations and guidance.
4. That delegated approval for further updates to be made to the Local Plan timetable by the director of planning and growth be approved, in line with the requirements of [new planning guidance](#) and the Government's accelerated plan-making process.

15. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2026-27

RESOLVED:

1. That appointments to the outside bodies listed in Appendix A of the report for the 2026-27 municipal year be agreed as follows:

Better Bankside Board

Cllr Rachel Bentley
Cllr Hellen Benavides

Blue Bermondsey Bid

Cllr Rachel Bentley

Board of Southwark College Corporation

Cllr Rebecca Corn

Central London Forward

Cllr James McAsh

Central London Forward (Employment and Skills Board)

Cllr Rachel Bentley

Centre for Literacy in Primary Education

Cllr Rebecca Corn

Cross River Board

Cllr Eloise Waldon-Day

Guys and St Thomas NHS Foundation (Council of Governors)

Cllr David Noakes

Kings College Hospital NHS (Council of Governors)

Cllr Colin Boyle

London Bridge BID

Cllr Rachel Bentley

London Road Safety Council (LRSC)

Cllr James McAsh
Cllr Richard Livingstone

London Youth Games Limited

Cllr Vanessa Threadgold

Mountview

Cllr Janice White

Newable Limited (formerly Greater London Enterprise)

Cllr Rachel Bentley

North Southwark Environment Trust

Cllr David Noakes

Oru Space (20-22 Lordship Lane) Steering Group

Cllr Sam Foster

Cllr Eloise Waldon-Day

Peckham Levels (Cerise Road, SE15) Steering Group

Cllr Sam Foster

Cllr Reggie Popoola

Potters Fields Park Management Trust

Cllr Vanessa Threadgold

Aled Richards, Strategic Director of Environment, Sustainability and Leisure

SC1 Partnership Board

Cllr Rachel Bentley

Cllr Victor Chamberlain

Shared ICT Services Joint Committee

Cllr Colin Boyle

Cllr David Watson

South Bank and Waterloo Partnership

Cllr Rachel Bentley

Cllr Hellen Benavides

Cllr Victor Chamberlain

Cllr David Watson

South Bank Business Improvement District Ltd

Cllr Hellen Benavides
Cllr Rachel Bentley

South London Gallery Trustee Limited

Cllr Callum Fowler
Cllr Rachael Penny

South London and Maudsley (SLAM) NHS Trust Members Council

Cllr Dean Peters

Southwark Construction Skills Centre

Cllr Rachel Bentley

Southwark Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee (SLAEC)

Raymond Whitaker
Cllr Alexandra Austin

Southwark Twinning Association

Cllr James McAsh

Safer Neighbourhood Board (Southwark)

Cllr David Watson

WeAreWaterloo Business Improvement District (BID)

Cllr Lina Maria Usma

Walworth Group

Cllr Vanessa Threadgold

2. That Councillor Alexandra Austin be appointed to the Southwark and Lambeth, Archaeological Excavation Committee (SLAEC).
3. That it be noted that Raymond Whitaker's name was already submitted as a deputy nomination, as set out in Appendix A of the report.

16. NOMINATIONS TO PANELS, BOARDS AND FORUMS 2026-27

RESOLVED:

1. That the allocation of places to panels, boards and forums for 2026-27 set out in Appendix A of the report be agreed as follows:

Joint Partnership Panel (Trade Union consultation)

Cllr James McAsh
Cllr Sam Foster

Homeowners Service Charge Arbitration Tribunal

Cllr Kath Whittam
Cllr Jane Salmon
Cllr Felix Hamer
Cllr Rachael Penny
Cllr Francesco Guerrieri
Cllr Andy Higson
Cllr Renata Hamvas
Cllr Margy Newens
Cllr Sunny Lambe
Cllr Sabina Emmanuel
Cllr Selena Gray
Cllr Bill Williams

Tenancy and Leaseholder Arbitration Tribunal

Cllr Kath Whittam
Cllr Jane Salmon
Cllr Felix Hamer
Cllr Rachael Penny
Cllr Francesco Guerrieri
Cllr Andy Higson
Cllr Renata Hamvas
Cllr Margy Newens
Cllr Sunny Lambe
Cllr Sabina Emmanuel
Cllr Selena Gray
Cllr Bill Williams

Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board

Cllr Rebecca Corn
Cllr David Watson

Southwark Safeguarding Children's Board

Cllr Rebecca Corn

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Cllr Lina Usman
Cllr Rebecca Corn
Cllr Janice White

Southwark Tenant Management Organisation Committee

Cllr Andy Higson
Cllr Jane Salmon
Cllr George Grimes
Cllr Pascale Mitchell

17. MOTIONS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY - 18 MARCH 2026

RESOLVED:

A borough where everyone can succeed

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

1. Council Assembly celebrates:

- a) The diversity and vibrancy of our borough, from Peckham's food scene to Dulwich's parks and sports grounds, Bermondsey's estates to Walworth's street markets and Bankside's heritage.
- b) Our amazing, energised local communities.
- c) The small businesses and entrepreneurs that make our town centres thrive.
- d) The teachers, nurses, doctors, firefighters and other key workers who keep our borough running.
- e) Our tireless and hard-working network of voluntary and community organisations.

2. Council Assembly thanks:

- a) The vast network of voluntary and community organisations that help make our borough succeed, including but not limited to:

- i) Community Southwark – who bring our VCS partners together with help and guidance for charities and community groups.
- ii) Spring – the organisation behind Spring Community Hub and The Blue Youth Centre that provide so much for residents in need.
- iii) MyEnds – who work with families of young people affected by and involved in violent crime, alongside Southwark’s Violence Reduction Unit, to prevent and stop knife and other violent crime.
- iv) Bede House – who support our entire community with specialist services including assisting people with learning disabilities and our new Women’s Safety Alliance.
- v) Our network of Tenants’ and Residents’ Associations – who work tirelessly to champion our estates and improve people’s homes right across our borough.
- vi) The council’s Repairs Improvement Board – representing tenants and leaseholders.
- vii) Teachers, school governors and parents – who have helped Southwark Labour get 99% of our schools to be rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted.
- viii) Members of the Policing Oversight Board – who are helping to improve local people’s trust in the police by increasing accountability.
- ix) ‘Friends of’ park groups – who nurture and champion our local parks and green spaces, helping maintain them as some of the best parks in the country.
- x) The Southwark Pensioners Action Group – who champion the rights of older people right across our borough.
- xi) Southwark Law Centre – whose efforts help protect our residents, including asylum seekers and refugees.
- xii) Millwall Community Trust – who work with thousands of people in Southwark delivering projects that support initiatives for young people, community engagement, charitable causes, education and life skills, and more.

3. Council Assembly welcomes this Labour administration’s:

- a) Investment in making Southwark more affordable, including:

- i) £99.1 million-worth of council tax cuts for residents struggling to pay their bills, via the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
 - ii) The £53 million Cost of Living Fund, helping over 100,000 people with cash payments and targeted support.
 - iii) Working with the Living Wage Foundation to help over 7,000 people onto a London Living Wage, including Southwark's first 'living wage building' in North Bermondsey.
 - iv) Campaigning to support eligible older people to claim the Pension Credit they are entitled to.
 - v) Free Swim and Gym, that helps residents lead healthy, active lives by expanding access to our brilliant leisure centres.
 - vi) Investing £28.5 million in 2024/25 in more than 400 local organisations that deliver vital services and support, making the council the borough's largest investor in the voluntary and community sector.
- b) Work to tackle the housing crisis, including:
- i) Building or starting over 3,000 new council homes, with more council homes built in Southwark last year than anywhere else in the country, according to Inside Housing.
 - ii) Building more social rent homes in the last 5 years than any other London borough, with more social rent homes built in one year than the three Liberal Democrat-run councils in London built together over the previous decade.
 - iii) Plans to start Southwark's first rent-controlled homes for key workers in London Bridge & West Bermondsey and our first Community Land Trust homes in Peckham – where prices will be tied to local incomes forever.
 - iv) Expansion of our 'Housing First' programme to support rough sleepers into secure accommodation, with modular housing schemes at Leroy Street and coming forward on the Rochester Estate.
 - v) A new Temporary Accommodation (TA) Working Group and action to support families in TA with free Wifi and laundry, ensuring no families with children are placed in B&Bs.
 - vi) £250 million investment in our council homes over three years to make them safer and healthier, improving fire, electrical, gas, lift and water safety, tackling damp and upgrading old and unreliable heating systems.
 - vii) The new Better Repairs Plan, which establishing neighbourhood repairs

teams and making sure repairs are done right the first time, building on successes such as regular Repairs Action Days on estates.

viii) The national-leading *Securing the Future of Council Housing* campaign, with Southwark leading a coalition of over 100 councils on behalf of our residents to fix the broken system and save council housing for future generations.

c) Work to keep our communities safe, including:

i) Setting up the Women's Safety Alliance, our groundbreaking service to help women experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence, providing safe and accessible spaces at the point of crisis and subsequent integrated support.

ii) Investing £5 million in rolling out new and improved CCTV and an antisocial behaviour taskforce.

iii) Introducing nighttime uniformed wardens to patrol hotspot areas and make our town centres and estates safer, extending the work of our community wardens.

iv) Ramping up fly-tipping enforcement, with new £1,000 fines, to clean up our streets and hold perpetrators to account.

d) Investment in public spaces and services, leading the way when it comes to:

i) Protecting and improving our council-owned libraries and opening two libraries including Una Marson in Faraday.

ii) Bringing our leisure centres back in house so they are owned by our residents, upgrading our leisure centres, opening a brand new leisure centre at Canada Water in Rotherhithe, and new open water swimming in Greenland Dock.

iii) Investing £18 million in our parks, making them some of the best in London and retaining all 30 of our Green Flag awards.

iv) Planting nearly 40,000 trees in the last 5 years – including planting the 100,000th tree on council land in St George's.

v) Investing in new playgrounds, with almost £18 million invested in revamping playgrounds including Ellen Brown Adventure Playground, Frederick's Playground, Peckham Rye Adventure Playground and many more, and a further £7.1 million of investment to upgrade 15 parks over the next three years.

vi) Creating cleaner, greener, safer streets that prioritise pedestrians, with

over 100 crossings installed since 2022, including Evelina Road in Nunhead & Queen's Road and Lordship Lane in Dulwich Wood.

vii) The Southwark Pioneers Fund, which has provided £2.6m to help new and established local businesses to expand and thrive, including over 900 local entrepreneurs and businesses since launching in 2022 with two-thirds being female-led.

viii) Making affordable and more sustainable travel more accessible: installing over 2.5km of segregated cycle lanes, hundreds more cycle hangars, 1,000 new EV charging points, and investing £10 million with TfL to improve bus journeys.

ix) Clearing up and deterring graffiti in our town centres, by rolling out 'graffiti blitz' teams in problem areas, such as Camberwell Church Street, and expanding to known hotspots such as Rye Lane.

e) Investment in families:

i) Expanding free healthy school meals into secondary schools, providing free school meals in the holidays and rolling out new breakfast clubs, as no child can learn while they're hungry.

ii) Working with our teachers, school governors, parents and communities to improve our schools so now 99% of Southwark schools are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

iii) Investing in Children & Family Hubs, so every family is within 15 minutes of the support they need.

iv) Opening a brand-new nursing home at Camberwell in May 2022, with state of the art facilities and high-quality care.

v) With the award-winning Appleby Blue almshouse in Bermondsey, with 57 of the best affordable homes for older people in the country.

vi) Rolling out the Residential Care Charter, which has resulted in better quality of care for residential care homes in the borough, and improved working conditions for staff.

vii) Making our streets safer for children, rolling out 32 school streets across the borough to keep kids safe outside schools.

f) Commitment to defending our communities:

i) Achieving Borough of Sanctuary status, rubber-stamping our commitment to welcoming refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

- ii) Establishing Southwark Stands Together to combat racism, discrimination and inequality in our borough, and ensuring that our services and public spaces reflect and respect the diversity that makes Southwark great.
- iii) Becoming an Age Friendly Borough, bringing to life our commitment to older residents by embedding age-friendly principles into planning, housing, public realm, health and community services, so that people can age well, stay connected and live independently for longer.
- iv) Becoming the first council to incorporate the UN Genocide Convention into the council's investments framework, divesting pension funds away from companies linked to the occupation of Palestine and other conflicts.

4. Council Assembly believes:

- a) The next four years will be pivotal for the continued success of our borough.
- b) The prospect of the Green Party or Liberal Democrats running the council puts at risk the support for and investment in our diverse communities, whether through a return to Liberal Democrat austerity or the Green's financial incompetence.
- c) Only Labour has the experience in protecting and expanding vital services while prudently managing the council's finances.
- d) Amidst a housing crisis, only Labour has the track record of building genuinely affordable homes.
- e) Liberal Democrat and Green proposals on affordable housing would result in zero social rent homes being built in Southwark.
- f) That their plans to block the building of new homes would cut income from taxes on developers, leading to less investment in our local communities.
- g) The Liberal Democrats' plans to tackle crime with 'Community Safety Gazebos' and Greens' plans to decriminalise drug abuse on our streets and estates are not serious and will reverse progress made by this Labour administration on tackling crime and antisocial behaviour.

5. Council Assembly resolves to:

- a) Call upon cabinet to bring forward a substantial policy programme including a refreshed Borough Plan for the next four years that will include Southwark Labour's plan to create a borough where everyone can succeed:
 - i) Building genuinely affordable homes
 - with 1,500 new social rent homes, one third of which will be council-

owned.

- ii) Keeping neighbourhoods safe
 - by doubling the number of community wardens, meaning tougher enforcement on streets and estates, night and day.
- iii) A new youth guarantee
 - with opportunities for all young people leaving school while helping residents find a good, well-paid job.
- iv) A free culture pass
 - breaking down barriers so everyone can enjoy our amazing, diverse nightlife, art, theatre and all the borough has to offer.
- v) A council you can trust
 - to cherish the things you love most about Southwark, like our parks and libraries, to take your issues seriously and to get it right first time, whether it's housing repairs or fly-tipping.

Tackling antisocial behaviour on Southwark's estates

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

1. Council Assembly welcomes:

- a. Southwark Labour's £5 million investment in tackling crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB), including £3 million to upgrade CCTV coverage across our borough.
- b. Southwark Labour's investment in uniformed community wardens, with new enforcement powers, to tackle ASB day and night.
- c. This Labour-run council's work with the Metropolitan Police Service to double the number of neighbourhood police officers in Peckham and Walworth town centres.
- d. The work of the Southwark Anti Social Behaviour Unit (SASBU) - coordinating enforcement and prevention across our borough.
- e. Recent walkabouts in ASB hotspot areas in our town centres and on our estates, to keep our neighbourhoods safe.

2. Council Assembly notes with concern:

- a. Green Party proposals which could legalise drugs including crack cocaine, heroin and date-rape drug GHB for recreational use.

- b. The loss of power for community wardens and the police to prevent drug abuse in communal areas on estates and in town centres, should drugs be legalised.
- c. The devastating impact the legalisation of drugs could have on our communities, estates and town centres in Southwark, creating the prospect of open abuse in stairwells, streets and other communal areas.
- d. The potential acceptance of drug abuse in Southwark's estates and in town centres, should the Green Party ever be in power.

3. Council Assembly welcomes:

- a. The Labour Party's zero-tolerance approach to drug dealing and taking on our estates and in other communal areas.
- b. Southwark Labour's promise to double the number of community wardens.
- c. This Labour-run council's £1.5 million investment in better street lighting, making streets safer after dark.
- d. Labour's investment in security doors on estates including the Brimington Estate in Nunhead and the St Saviour's Estate in London Bridge & West Bermondsey.
- e. The new Resident ASB Partnership (RAP):
 - i. Bringing council, police and community services together to tackle ASB on our estates.
 - ii. Noting that decisions about estates should be made with our residents rather than for them.
 - iii. Further noting the partnership will ensure residents have a say in addressing drug related ASB on their estates and that everyone's input is valued.
 - iv. Welcoming the trial of this new approach on the St Saviours, Brimington and Nelson & Portland estates.

4. Council Assembly also welcomes:

- a. The council's increased enforcement measures on fly-tipping, including:
 - i. Targeted action across the borough to clean up hotspot areas, introduce preventative "design-out" measures, and deliver tougher enforcement.
 - ii. Working with businesses to ensure streets are free of waste.
 - iii. Organising visible daily patrols of hotspot areas, with additional environmental enforcement officers and graffiti removal operatives.

- iv. Working with residents in flats above shops to improve waste collection practices and ensure optimal bin infrastructure to help keep waste off our streets.
- v. Using crime tape as a visible warning to potential offenders that fly-tipping is a crime and that the council is cracking down on perpetrators.
- vi. Issuing fixed penalty notices to offenders, with new £1,000 fines.
- vii. Tackling fly-tipping on council estates, collaborating with tenants and residents associations on improved communications and behaviour change, enforcement trials including daily visible patrols, 'crime tape' warning notices and fixed penalty notices for repeat offenders, on 14 estates including Acorn Estate in Nunhead & Queen's Road, Hawkstone Estate in Rotherhithe, Sceaux Gardens Estate in St Giles, and Manor Estate in South Bermondsey.

5. Council Assembly resolves to ask that:

- a. Cabinet use the evidence gained from the council's new estate ASB pilots to tackle ASB right across our borough.
- b. The council moves swiftly to deliver on investment in infrastructure to tackle ASB, such as new security doors.
- c. The council continues to take a zero-tolerance approach to ASB right across our borough, including doubling the number of community wardens, as proposed by Southwark Labour.
- d. Cabinet continue to tackle fly-tipping on estates and in our town centres, taking an evidence-based approach following the council's estate pilots.

Protecting the Freedom Pass for Older Londoners

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

1. Council Assembly notes:

- a. The Freedom Pass enables older residents of pension age and disabled residents to travel for free on public transport across London.
- b. That the Freedom Pass is a vital lifeline for older Londoners, enabling them to travel across the city, see their loved ones, make appointments and access essential services.
- c. The Freedom Pass is funded by every London council.

- d. Local government funding has been slashed by previous Conservative and Liberal Democrat governments, leaving councils to pick up increased costs.
- e. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Conservative government sought to impose restrictions on the Freedom Pass and attempted to remove free travel for young people through the Zip Oyster card as a condition of funding Transport for London.
- f. The Conservative government did not seek to impose such restrictions on private rail companies in their bailouts but targeted older and younger Londoners.
- g. Southwark is a borough where the majority of residents do not own a car, making affordable public transport essential.
- h. Losing access to the Freedom Pass would hit the poorest Londoners hardest, at a time when finances are stretched more than ever, with the impact of Conservative and Liberal Democrat cost-of-living crisis and austerity still felt.
- i. Despite huge cuts to council finances from the Conservative and Liberal Democrat governments, Southwark Labour has protected concessionary travel in our borough as prices elsewhere became more difficult to afford.

2. Council Assembly also notes:

- a. Southwark Labour has, with the Labour Mayor of London and other Labour councils, consistently made it safer, more affordable and more accessible for people to travel in and around our borough.
- b. This Labour-run council has recently secured £10 million from Transport for London to deliver a Better Bus Partnership, rolling out new, fully electric buses and reducing travel times from London Bridge to the South Circular, via Elephant, Walworth Road, Camberwell Green, Denmark Hill and Lordship Lane.
- c. Southwark Labour used taxes on big developers to fund the Bakerloop Bus – a new express route down the Old Kent Road which is easing congestion, baking regular services quieter and proving the demand for the Bakerloo Line Extension.

3. Council Assembly notes with concern:

- a. That a Liberal Democrat councillor serving on the committee responsible for overseeing the Freedom Pass described the Pass as an “expensive burden”, as reported in the Evening Standard.

- b. The Liberal Democrats' track record of austerity – with deliberate budget and funding cuts delivered when in government.
- c. That rising living costs mean any restriction to concessionary travel would significantly impact older residents' independence and wellbeing.

4. Council Assembly welcomes:

- a. The commitment of Southwark Labour and other Labour councils to oppose restrictions to the Freedom Pass scheme.
- b. The leadership of London Councils' Labour Group in ensuring sustainable funding solutions do not come at the expense of older Londoners.
- c. That the Mayor of London has confirmed his full support for Labour councils working to protect the Freedom Pass and continues to provide the 60+ Oyster card and other concessionary options.

5. Council Assembly resolves to ask that:

- a. Cabinet continues joint work to ensure the Freedom Pass remains fully protected.
- b. Southwark Council actively opposes any proposals that diminish the scope or value of the Freedom Pass.
- c. The Council reaffirms its commitment to keeping costs down for residents, especially older people.
- d. That investment opportunities continue to be sought to improve bus and other public transport, including continuing campaigns to upgrade train stations across Southwark to be fully accessible.

18. REPORT OF THE HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMISSION: THE COUNCIL'S WORK WITH SOCIAL LANDLORD PARTNERS; THE FAIR STREET/DEVON MANSIONS, CANADA AND KIRBY ESTATES QHIP MAJOR WORKS PROJECTS; THE REVISED RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY; AND TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION IN PROPERTIES AWAITING DEMOLITION

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the recommendations from the housing scrutiny commission arising from its scrutiny of social landlord communications and performance, Fair Street/Devon Mansions, Canada and Kirby Estates QHIP major works projects, the revised resident engagement strategy and the council's use of properties

awaiting demolition be noted.

2. That the recommendations from the commission be considered and that the relevant executive member report back to the executive on the recommendations within eight weeks.

19. REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENGAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMISSION 2025-26: PLAY-SPACES SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORT

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations of the former environment community safety and engagement scrutiny commission 2025-26 Play-spaces report, as set out on pages 2-5 of the report be noted.
2. That the recommendations from the commission be considered and that the relevant executive member reports back to the executive on the recommendations within eight weeks.

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.

20. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the closed section of the cabinet meeting held on 16 March 2026 be noted.

The meeting ended at 4.45pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

DEADLINE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CALL-IN UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES IS MIDNIGHT, TUESDAY 28 JULY 2026.

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