

## AMENDMENTS

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### ITEM 3.2: THEMED DEBATE – YOUNG PEOPLE IN SOUTHWARK – A YOUTH NEW DEAL

(see pages 16-20 of the main agenda)

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#### AMENDMENT A

**Moved:** Councillor William Hougbo

**Amend** the title to “**Young People in Southwark: Let Down by Labour**”

**Delete** paragraph 1a and replace with:

- We applaud the incredible young people in Southwark. It is future generations who are leading the way in making this world a better place — whether supporting communities during Covid, marching in support of BLM or when, in 2019, thousands of schoolchildren and young people protested lack of climate change action in a UK-wide strike. We have a duty to support our amazing young people to fulfil their potential and all youth investment is to be welcomed, including the £15m being proposed for Southwark.

**Insert** after paragraph 1a:

- The ONS estimates that there are around 46,000 Southwark children aged 11 years and below (15% of the total borough population). These young people will lay the blame squarely at the feet of this Labour administration for the local housing, crime and climate change issues they have inherited. It is time for this administration to accept responsibility. It needs to be honest with these young people, it needs to admit its shortcomings and then it needs to actually fix them.

**Delete** paragraph 1e and **replace** with:

- ONS data from May 2021 shows that there are currently 2,925 people aged 16-24 claiming out-of-work benefits. This figure dwarfs the 684 young people supported into internships and helped through Southwark Works in over two years.

**Delete** paragraph 1f and **replace** with:

- Based on government data from 2020, 8.8% of Southwark 16-17 year olds were not in education, employment or training (NEET) or had unknown activity. This is more than twice the London average. It also equates to around 524 young people, based on ONS estimates. A number that far exceeds the 199 that Labour boasts received training through the Southwark Construction Skills Centre.

**Insert** after paragraph 1f:

- Young people represent around 20% of this borough’s total population. They are statistically the most deprived children and young people in London and the second most deprived across England.

**Insert** after paragraph 1g:

- There is an alarmingly high rate of school exclusions in Southwark, according to the council's 'Education: Exclusions and alternative provision' report in 2020. Southwark exclusion rates in 2017/18 were twice as high as in 2012/13. These exclusions affect different demographics disproportionately. The same report cited figures that indicated 82% of excluded children were BAME (even though they are only around 40% of under 20s in Southwark). While, of those permanently excluded, 39-45% were children with some form of special educational needs (SEN).

**Delete** paragraphs 2a and b and **replace** with:

- Southwark's Labour administration cut youth services finances by 50% in 2016. It previously planned to cut 73% (£2m) of funding for youth services before Liberal Democrat opposition.
- Southwark Labour is misleadingly shifting the blame for these cuts. At the time, each council department had a 25% budget saving target. Labour's eventual 50% cut of youth services money was its own decision.
- Without these 2016 cuts by Southwark Labour, the funding gap and need for investment today would be far improved.
- Just one month before the 2016 youth services cuts, Labour introduced its 'Golden Goodbye' payments for cabinet members who resign from or are unelected from their posts.

**Insert** after paragraph 2b:

- After 11 years in power, Southwark Labour has created a housing crisis for its young people.
- A 2021 Runnymede and CLASS report shows that between 2010 and 2016 Southwark was the sixth most gentrified borough in London. It notes that gentrification often means children cannot continue living in the area they were born in.
- Southwark is far off track from making housing affordable. In its 11 years in power, Labour has sold or demolished more than 3,000 council homes in Southwark. The borough has the highest number of long-term empty homes, in London at over 2,300. Meanwhile, the housing waiting list has grown to 15,000 households.

**Delete** paragraph 2c and **replace** with:

- Southwark's Public Health Division, in a 2021 report, cited survey findings that one in five children last year did not have sufficient access to technology for home schooling. Based on ONS estimates, this would equate to 10,494 young people and children between the ages of 5-19. The report says the council has only provided 1,168 laptops since the aforementioned survey. Southwark Labour voted against a Liberal Democrat amendment to dedicate money from its 2021-22 budget to enable digital inclusion for all young people

**Insert** after paragraph 2c:

- The climate crisis is one of the most important issues facing the young people of this borough. We are already feeling the impact of global warming in Southwark. In June, the Met Office announced that it would start issuing extreme heat warnings due to record-breaking numbers of English heatwave deaths in the summer of 2020. While, in Lambeth and Southwark 158 schools have a level of air pollution higher than WHO recommendations. This puts them among the worst affected areas for school air safety.

- Yet, Labour have refused to take climate change seriously. They have taken years to publish their strategy and action plan for dealing with it. They are consuming £15m of fossil fuels annually and have cut down thousands of trees each year. They are also planning to build, or have built, on scarce green spaces without a thought as to what it means for future generations. Such green spaces are of great significance to young people. Danish academics in a 2019 nationwide study found that children in areas with the lowest amount of green space had a higher risk of developing psychiatric disorders.

**Insert** after paragraph 2d:

- After 11 years of Southwark Labour, violent crime has become a real danger to young people. The council's Public Health team, in a 2019 publication, reported that Southwark experiences the fourth highest volume of youth knife crime among all London boroughs. The same document stated that Southwark has consistently had a higher rate of emergency admissions for assault than the London average. In 2017/18, 40% of emergency admissions for assault in Southwark were young people.
- The legacy of Sadiq Khan, the Labour Mayor of London, will be a rise in knife crime across our boroughs, which has already left hundreds of young people dead.
- Southwark's previous council leader, Peter John, of Labour, attributed a rise in violence in 2018 to the same sort of youth service cuts this administration independently made in 2016. Southwark Labour are letting down our young people.

and renumber all paragraphs and sub-paragraphs accordingly.

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**ITEM 5.2.2: MEMBERS' MOTIONS - PROTECTING GREEN SPACES FOR OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS** (see pages 24-26 of the main agenda)

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**AMENDMENT B**

**Moved:** Councillor Bill Williams

**Seconded:** Councillor Sarah King

**Amend** the title: Addition of 'and Tackling the Housing Crisis' after 'Green Spaces' and removal of 'Our' in the title.

**Insert** points below as paragraph 1 and renumber accordingly:

1. Council assembly notes that:
  - a) For all local authorities, there is a delicate and necessary balance between the building of new council homes and the adequate provision of outside space for residents.
  - b) There is a very real human cost to choosing not to explore all sites on which to provide new council homes, just as we must continue to enhance our outside spaces.
  - c) Southwark Council is exploring all avenues to provide more council homes, including 70 sites across the borough.
  - d) Developing those sites would guarantee that future generations have access to genuinely affordable homes and all of the health and wellbeing benefits that this provides.
  - e) All projects will include open, inclusive and transparent consultation with residents including a robust process to take residents with us as we make these decisions together.
  - f) In addition to this, our Great Estates Programme seeks to both expand the number of council homes on appropriate existing estate sites, and enrich these estates by working with residents to improve the look and feel of them.
  - g) Southwark has 30 green flag parks (the highest number within inner London) and continues to invest in its parks and green spaces:
    - Over £61 million invested in parks since 2010;
    - Launch of the Southwark Nature Action Plan (SNAP) in 2020 to protect biodiversity and make nature accessible for all;
    - 'Re-wilding' parts of our green spaces;
    - Introduction of 200 new allotment plots as part of the Allotment Expansion Scheme;
    - Planting over 8,000 trees these year alone under our commitment to plant 10,000 by 2022.
  - h) The New Southwark Plan will also increase the amount of protected open space in the borough, including 17 new Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.
  - i) There is a dire need to meet Southwark Council's 15,000 household-strong wait list for housing, and the council's current approach to site

selection will fully incorporate the importance of provision of accessible, green, outside spaces.

- j) The disastrous right-to-buy policy introduced and extended by successive Conservative governments has led to the loss of over 17,000 council rented homes in Southwark
- k) Despite the fact that Southwark has brought 231 empty homes back in to use this year the number of empty homes in Southwark is still unacceptable; and so in September Cabinet will put forward an Empty Homes Action Plan to bring more empty homes back into use.

#### Original section 1:

- Original 1a: **Delete** 'are under threat even though they', rename as 2a and renumber accordingly.
- 1b: **Replace** 'there is a risk that green spaces are becoming more and more of a luxury only accessible to the well off' with 'Green spaces should not become a luxury only accessible to the well off.'
- 1f: **Replace** 'Losing green spaces would adversely affect the climate emergency' with 'Losing parks and green spaces would adversely affect the climate emergency'.
- **Insert** the following points after original 1g:
  - h) It is also our duty as councillors to do everything within our means to house residents in affordable, comfortable and safe housing; and do all we can to prevent homelessness in Southwark.
  - i) London is in the grip of a housing crisis. Between 1997 and 2016 London's population increased by 25%, but the number of homes only increased by 15%.
  - j) In June 2020, over 127,000 children were living in Temporary Accommodation in London.
  - k) There are 15,000 households on the waiting list for a home in Southwark. Half of these households include children.
  - l) Many of these households currently live in severely overcrowded and unsuitable accommodation – sometimes entire families in a single room.
  - m) There are 3,200 households in temporary accommodation in Southwark.
  - n) Southwark urgently needs more council homes.

#### Original section 2:

- **Delete** original section 2

#### Original section 3:

- **Replace** 3a with: Conduct an audit of all planned investment in our green spaces, outdoors sports and children's play facilities across Southwark to ensure that they are recognised and protected for residents' amenity.
- 3b: **replace** 'they are not being built on scarce green spaces' with 'there is enough provision to support our commitment to tackle the housing crisis and maintain our dedication to high quality parks and green spaces across the Borough.'

- **Replace** 3c with 'Invest further and enhance the borough's parks and open spaces to ensure residents across Southwark have access to high quality green space and to further increase our borough's biodiversity'
- **Delete** 3d
- **Replace** 3e (now 3d) with: 'Focus on building new council homes on sites suited for development — including former industrial/commercial sites across the borough and on car parks and under used sites on our existing estates and publicly owned land.'
- **Replace** 3f (now 3e) with: 'Continue to be creative in finding ways to deliver more council homes, including buying new sites and homes where financially viable and continuing to secure more social housing in new developments through planning.'