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| Item No. 5.2 | Classification: Open | Date: 24 November 2021 | Meeting Name: Council Assembly |
| Report title: | | Members' Motions | |
| Ward(s) or groups affected: | | All | |
| From: | | Proper Constitutional Officer | |

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The councillor introducing or “moving” the motion may make a speech directed to the matter under discussion. This may not exceed five minutes¹. A second councillor will then be asked by the Mayor to “second” the motion. This may not exceed three minutes without the consent of the Mayor.

The meeting will then debate the issue and any amendments on the motion will be dealt with. At the end of the debate the mover of the motion may make a concluding speech, known as a “right of reply”. If an amendment is carried, the mover of the amendment shall hold the right of reply to any subsequent amendments and, if no further amendments are carried, at the conclusion of the debate on the substantive motion.

The Mayor will then ask councillors to vote on the motion (and any amendments).

IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution allocates responsibility for particular functions to council assembly, including approving the budget and policy framework, and allocates to the cabinet responsibility for developing and implementing the budget and policy framework and overseeing the running of council services on a day-to-day basis. Therefore, any matters that are reserved to the cabinet (i.e. housing, social services, regeneration, environment, education etc.) cannot be decided upon by council assembly without prior reference to the cabinet. While it would be in order for council assembly to discuss an issue, consideration of any of the following should be referred to the cabinet:

- to change or develop a new or existing policy
- to instruct officers to implement new procedures
- to allocate resources.

Note: In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10 (7) & (8) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which motions appear in the agenda may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

¹ Council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9)

1. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL (Seconded by Councillor Jane Salmon)

A Roadmap for Clean Streets in Southwark

1. Council assembly observes that:

- a) The UK has significant issues with rubbish. According to Greenpeace, the country produces more plastic waste per person than any other country bar the US. Official statistics revealed that the UK only recycled around 44% of waste in 2018, below the EU average. The German rate was 67%.
- b) Charity Keep Britain Tidy estimates that two million pieces of rubbish are dropped every day across the country. The street cleaning cost of this is £1bn annually. On average, 14 calls a day are made to the RSPCA regarding wildlife harmed by litter.
- c) Seven million tonnes of food and drink are thrown away each year, most of which could have been consumed. Experts say that food waste contributes 8-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions
- d) In an article earlier this year, the Sunday Mirror reported that fly-tipping in Britain has jumped by more than 500%. This has a large impact on the environment as damaged fridges and freezers let out ozone-harming gases.

2. Council assembly notes that:

- a) Southwark council was ranked 12th for recycling in London in 2019-20 with a rate of 35%. It is far below the highest placed borough, Bexley, at 54%.
- b) Since 2014, Southwark's recycling rate has plateaued. Its own internal target for recycling is unambitious at around 35%, and it still missed this by some margin in 2020-21 with a 32.4% rate.
- c) Government data also shows that Southwark Council has the 12th highest number of fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 people in England. But, when it came to how often local authorities took enforcement action with fly tipping, Southwark was 44th on the list.
- d) According to Southwark's own performance targets, it missed 213.77 bins for every 100,000 collections in the 2020-21 financial year. Its goal was to miss no more than 50. This target of 50 was, in fact, an increase from its prior aim of 30 in 2019-

20. Even in 2019-20, before the full effects of the pandemic were felt, the council failed to reach this goal of 30. Instead, it missed 100 bins for every 100,000 collections.

- e) The same document shows that it fell short of its aim to double fly-tipping enforcement actions in 2019-20.
- f) Our streets are full of litter and fly-tipping. The council has been unable to keep our streets free of litter.
- g) The Liberal Democrats campaigned against the council's decision to implement bulky waste disposal charges in 2015. As the Liberal Democrats predicted, fly-tipping jumped by 12% in the six months after the council brought in these changes.
- h) In Southwark, the Liberal Democrats support community action to reduce litter on our streets. As North-West Community Champion, Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall actively tackles fly-tipping and litter issues in the area.

3. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:

- a) Set a target for Southwark to become the best London council for recycling by 2030, with rates of at least 60%.
- b) Expand the teams dealing with littering and fly-tipping. Aiming to bring fly-tipping incidents to below the London average by 2026.
- c) If the proposed Environment Bill becomes law, utilise its new powers to maximum effect in order to achieve the above.
- d) Increase the number of street cleaners. Organise and promote new litter-picking days or similar acts of community engagement.
- e) Work with businesses in the borough, including supermarket chains, to help trial and explore new methods of dealing with waste such as 'plastic-free' aisles in shops.
- f) Start adding new bins for general waste, recycling, dog fouling and cigarette butts; and for communal use on blocks or estates around the borough.
- g) Reintroduce free bulky waste disposal services.
- h) Investigate new means of creatively reducing, collecting and disposing of food and garden waste including incentivising, supporting and encouraging an increase in home composting by residents across the borough.

- i) Improve accessibility and ease of use of Southwark's reuse and recycling centre in order to make disposing of waste easier. Specifically enact such adjustments with the purpose of making the centre more accessible for those who are digitally excluded and those who do not have access to a car.
- j) To increase our enforcement of fly-tipping and impose higher fines.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE (Seconded by Councillor David Noakes)

Responding to the Afghan Refugee Crisis and Supporting Refugees and Asylum Seekers (cross party)

1. Council assembly notes:

- a) Afghanistan has undergone a devastating and avoidable tragedy and continues to face a humanitarian and political crisis. Our thoughts are with all those forced to flee their homes, with the families and loved ones of those killed and wounded and those who are suffering in and still trying to escape Afghanistan - including the families of many Southwark residents. We continue to have particular concern for women and girls and for Afghan people who have supported the British civil and military authorities in their country in various ways.
- b) More than 15,000 Afghans were evacuated to the UK before 31 August. The majority of those refugees have since been placed in bridging hotels – 30 % have been placed in bridging hotels in London – including here in Southwark.
- c) London boroughs have been integral to providing wraparound support. Without the work of local government, thousands of Afghans would not have had their basic needs met and children would not be accessing play and education. It is equally clear that without local government, resettlement will be impossible.
- d) In the context of a decade of cuts to local government funding and drastic cuts imposed on our own budget in Southwark, it is imperative that government provides adequate funding to councils to support refugees and does not let the burden fall on already stretched local authorities.

- e) That beyond the recent Afghanistan crisis - London boroughs are already supporting thousands of asylum seekers in contingency hotels. This includes Southwark where there has been a lack of meaningful consultation and coordination with Southwark Council.
2. Council assembly further notes that Southwark Council:
- a) Has a long and proud history of supporting people fleeing persecution overseas and is committed to becoming a Borough of Sanctuary.
 - b) Has committed to welcome Afghan refugees to our borough under the new Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and is in the process of identifying long-term accommodation. We are proud to have worked through London Councils to agree and sign up to the principle of all London boroughs providing long term homes.
 - c) Had already committed to participate in the previous Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and have resettled families through the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.
 - d) Is already providing wraparound support to Afghan refugees placed by the Home Office in temporary hotel accommodation in our borough. We are working with local partners and Afghan community leaders to provide the appropriate support including mental health provision, English language lessons, co-ordinating school places for children, help registering with a GP and enabling access to our libraries and leisure centres.
3. Council assembly thanks
- a) All the voluntary and community organisations and residents who have offered their support and donated time, money and energy to make refugees welcome. This includes Panjshir Aid, Community Southwark, the Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers and Refugees, Little Village, the Red Cross, the Southwark Refugees and Communities forum and many more.
 - b) Our local Members of Parliament - Neil Coyle, Harriet Harman and Helen Hayes and their staff for all their work to support Afghan refugees and their families.
4. Council assembly calls on the British Government to:
- a) Provide greater clarity to Afghan refugees about their future in the UK and resolve delays in the process to match Afghan families with accommodation identified by local authorities.

People are stuck in hotels - including here in Southwark - with no idea how long they will be there or a say over their future.

- b) Provide adequate resources to local authorities to support refugees in the short and the long term. This must include finalising the funding for the wraparound support in bridging hotels, and ensuring that local authorities are paid for supporting all bridging hotel residents, including British nationals.
- c) Provide British nationals with resettlement support aligned with ARAP and ACRS, and address concerns around homelessness applications.
- d) Ensure that boroughs are consulted on the processes involved in standing down bridging hotels.
- e) Work with local authorities to achieve a more equitable asylum system and end the hostile environment.
- f) Keep UK borders open to receive asylum seekers from Afghanistan and not deport any undocumented Afghans in accordance with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) non-return advisory. Immediately expand eligibility for family reunion enabling family members who have relatives in the UK to travel safely to join them and quickly decide all asylum claims from Afghans who have arrived in the UK independently, including reviewing previously refused claims.
- g) Abandon their damaging plans to introduce a two tier refugee system under the Nationality and Borders Bill. The government should treat each arrival in the UK based on their needs not how they got here and provide proper support to people in need of sanctuary. The UK must adhere to Article 31 of the Refugee Convention that prohibits penalties being imposed on Refugees who enter or are present in a country without authorisation.

5. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:

- a) Continue to support refugees and asylum seekers in Southwark.
- b) Call on the government to provide the resources required and to provide clarity on the status of and future of the resettlement scheme.
- c) Continue to work with London Councils to coordinate support and ensure that councils across London as well as the UK are

all playing an equal part in responding to this international emergency.

- d) Continue to work with local organisations and community leaders to support refugees in our Borough and respond to their needs.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN (Seconded by Councillor Humaira Ali)

Refusing Unsafe Building Developers

1. Council assembly notes:

- a) The significant financial and health impacts of the building safety crisis on thousands of Londoners.
- b) Although changes are being touted, support from central government for properties with dangerous cladding has to date been wholly insufficient to deal with the building safety crisis.
- c) That the UK Government must do more to protect leaseholders in the building safety crisis and must ensure remediation work is completed as soon as possible on all affected properties.

2. Council assembly acknowledges that:

- a) Council assembly voted in support of a motion proposed by the Southwark Liberal Democrats in November 2020 to act on cladding and snagging as a duty of care to all residents.
- b) Southwark News identified in February 2021 that at least 17,000 people in the borough were caught up in the cladding crisis. Last month it also discovered that Southwark had one of the highest amounts of waking watches in London. 71 properties employ staff to carry out these safety patrols.
- c) In October, national newspapers reported that housing association Optivo informed key workers living in shared ownership Oyster Court properties in Southwark that they had to pay a combined £2.6 million bill to fix safety issues in the blocks.
- d) This summer the London Assembly passed a motion, proposed by Liberal Democrat member Hina Bokhari, calling on the Mayor to no longer work with developers that do not support leaseholders affected by the cladding crisis.

3. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to follow the London Assembly's lead and:
 - a) Implement a clear policy of not working with or funding developers or housing associations that have not taken action to support leaseholders affected by the building safety crisis in existing stock they own or have built.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MARGY NEWENS (Seconded by Councillor Michael Situ)

Youth Democracy

1. Council assembly notes:
 - a) Young people aged 16-24 are the age group that is least likely to vote in elections, as demonstrated by the turnout of 47% amongst 18-24 year olds compared to 74% amongst the over 65s at the 2019 general election.
 - b) Despite these low election turnout figures, young people today are often leading the fight on the important political issues of our times, such as the climate school strikes and the Black Lives Matter movement.
 - c) The Elections Bill 2021 includes provision for the requirement of photographic ID at polling stations, which is likely to act as a form of voter suppression, particularly amongst groups who are already the least likely to vote.
2. Council assembly welcomes the fact that:
 - a) In July 2021, Southwark Council created the Southwark Youth Parliament, which is for young people aged 14 to 19. Two candidates from each Southwark school and two candidates from ten community areas were successfully elected, along with Southwark's first-ever Youth Leader and Deputy Youth Leader.
 - b) The Welsh government has successfully lowered the voting age to 16 in Wales via the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. This meant 16 and 17 year olds in Wales were able to participate in the recent Senedd and local council elections in May 2021.

3. Council assembly believes:
 - a) Young people's participation in politics is essential to our democracy.
 - b) More needs to be done to support young people to engage in politics on a local and national scale.
4. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:
 - a) Continue to support the good work of Southwark's Youth Parliament.
 - b) Put in place measures to make voter registration easy and accessible for all Southwark residents ahead of any future elections, in an effort to increase voter turnout.
5. Council assembly calls on the government to:
 - a) Support legislation that would lower the voting age to 16 across the UK, as is already the case in Scotland and Wales.
 - b) Support the provision of high quality Citizenship education in all schools, including appropriate training for teachers and discreet curriculum time.
 - c) Abandon the flawed Elections Bill, which will act to deter voter turnout through the introduction of ID requirements at polling stations.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN (Seconded by Councillor Hamish McCallum)

UNESCO World Heritage Status for Borough, Bankside and the Wider Area

1. Council assembly notes that:
 - a) Southwark is home to some of the UK's most significant cultural and historical locations in Bankside, Borough and North Bermondsey.
 - b) The area's history goes back to the earliest days of London, with Anglo-Saxon and Roman settlements. It has historic links with the lives and works of Chaucer, Shakespeare, and

Dickens. This rich historic heritage continues with Shakespeare's Globe and the remains of the Rose Theatre.

- c) The area is still a cultural hub for London. In 2019, the Tate Modern was the second most visited attraction in England with six million visitors.

2. Council assembly identifies that:

- a) The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the area and its businesses. In October 2020, Better Bankside Business Improvement District said that footfall was about half what the area experiences for that time of year.
- b) There is a need to help support the area and its businesses recover from the pandemic. Taking greater advantage of the area's heritage and associated tourism could play a part in any such revival.
- c) UNESCO World Heritage status would help to support the management of visitors to the area. It would protect and celebrate its historic cultural heritage. It presents great potential for attracting additional resources from other funding sources that would seek to safeguard the built heritage.
- d) Borough, Bankside, and the wider area meet the requirements of UNESCO World Heritage status due to their association with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.
- e) Receiving this status would be a source of pride for the area and Southwark as a whole following a difficult period in the pandemic.
- f) If this status were granted, it would provide an even greater focus on preserving the historic beauty of many of the area's most significant buildings and historical sites.

3. Council assembly calls on cabinet to:

- a) Conduct an assessment into the suitability and likelihood of Borough, Bankside, and the wider area becoming an UNESCO World Heritage site. The study should examine the advantages and disadvantages of this status being bestowed in these sections of the borough. Any assessment should actively engage and seek the views of local stakeholders, residents and businesses
- b) Based on a positive outcome to this assessment, apply to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport for selected areas to be listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

6. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LEANNE WERNER (Seconded by Councillor Humaira Ali)

Centenary Celebrations for Ada and Alfred Salter (cross party)

1. Council assembly notes:

- a) 2022 marks the centenary of Ada Salter becoming Mayor and Dr Alfred Salter being elected MP. The Salters were a legendary and much loved couple, who became famous locally and nationally.
- b) Ada left a well off home in the Midlands to do social work amongst the city slums. Alfred gave up a brilliant medical career to become a local doctor. Together they dedicated their lives to the people of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe.
- c) Their pioneering work on the environment, housing and public health was transformational. Ada's Beautification Committee planted 9,000 trees and filled public spaces with flowers, playgrounds, music and sport. She designed model council housing and supported women factory workers. Alfred promoted free medical treatment, a solarium, a convalescent home for mothers, and health education by cinema vans on the streets. As Quakers, they both campaigned tirelessly for peace.
- d) The Salters' key issues – environment, housing and public health – are even more crucial today, as we face a climate crisis, worldwide homelessness and a global pandemic.

2. Council assembly welcomes the fact that:

- a) Community activists have set up a Salter Centenary Project to celebrate the Salters' vision and continue their inspiring legacy.
- b) Dame Judi Dench has become their patron, giving her support as a fellow Quaker and enthusiastic environmentalist.
- c) The project will create and support events and activities in the spirit of Ada and Alfred, so their principles are carried forward into the future.

3. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:

- a) Celebrate the inspiration of Ada and Alfred Salter in their centenary year by providing resources, for instance to organise a Salter exhibition from the local studies archives.

- b) Support the Salter Centenary Project in its community activities, such as environmental plans for greening the area.
- c) Invite civic representatives and residents from Ada's home town of Raunds to join the centenary celebrations.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

| Background Papers | Held At | Contact |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Member Motions | Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH | Constitutional Team Constitutional.Team@southwark.gov.uk |

AUDIT TRAIL

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Lead Officer | Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services |
| Report Author | Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer |
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