

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2021

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC QUESTION

1. QUESTION FROM EMMA DOBINSON TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Southwark Council have committed to a significant number of private builds in South Bermondsey. Knowing how much maintenance work is required on the Vauban Estate (just one council estate example), how are the sums acquired from Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 private developments being spent locally?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

South Bermondsey as a ward has existed in its current boundaries since 2018. The council has approved rather than made any commitment toward private development. Where we have made our own commitments, we are delivering new council homes across the borough, including Bermondsey, as can be seen on our New Council Homes webpages: www.southwark.gov.uk/11000homes

The council applies its policies in relation to Section 106 agreements to obtain specific contributions that can be pooled to support larger projects. Local Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is charged at a set rate and 25% of the funds are allocated to the ward they are collected from.

South Bermondsey has the following funds that have been collected but not yet allocated to projects. Improvements rather than maintenance may be able to be funded from CIL and Section 106 contributions, but there are likely to be a number of calls on those funds.

The council has pooled Section 106 contributions to support larger projects:

- South Bermondsey transport contributions of £50,000 were spent on extending the TfL cycle hire scheme into Bermondsey and Rotherhithe. In total the pooled contributions

for this programme exceeded £1 million. The funding from development in South Bermondsey toward it was relatively modest.

- Renewing primary care health facilities - £185,000 has been contributed from development in South Bermondsey toward a £8.7 million fund of pooled contributions.
- £325,000 of local CIL was committed in the 19 January 2021 allocation Cabinet report toward the Alexis Street playground and park improvements. The project description includes: adventure playground, outdoor gym, other exercise features, nature area, fruit and vegetable growing, landscaping, seating, picnic area, social space for young people by the multi-use games area (MUGA), reinstate tradition of holding funfairs for the Blue on area by the MUGA. The project is still being developed and it is likely to be towards the end of the next financial year at the earliest before there is a start on site as a planning application will be needed. This also means that final costings have not yet been agreed, allowing for room to look at broader improvements to the local area.
- A further £143,000 is committed to transport spending in partnership with TfL

There are also some funds which are unallocated including:

- Section 106
 - £148,000 Carbon Offset Fund (noting that this is not geofenced to a particular area)
 - £48,000 Tree planting
 - £51,000 Parks and open spaces
- Local CIL £145,739 unallocated.