

Item No. 5.2	Classification: Open	Date: 23 March 2022	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 MARGY NEWENS (Seconded by Councillor James McAsh)

Royal Mail

1. Council assembly notes that:
 - a. The SE22 sorting office was closed on September 17 2018, despite opposition from residents, ward councillors and the local MP, which has significantly impacted the quality of service received in Dulwich.
 - b. Royal Mail provides an essential service to residents throughout the borough, however residents have experienced significant disruption to their post service with letters arriving up to six weeks later than normal.
 - c. This has had a significant negative impact on residents, risking them missing important mail such as NHS appointments, benefits and pensions letters.
 - d. Covid-19 has exacerbated these delays to the service, and despite the challenges Royal Mail staff have faced as a result of the pandemic it appears that contingency plans have not been put in place, leaving residents without regular mail. It is also clear from the closure of the Sylvester Road office in 2018 that these issues predate the pandemic.
 - e. The Communication Workers' Union (CWU) has reported that 'managerial capacity issues' are in part to blame for service issues.
 - f. Royal Mail workers have worked exceptionally hard in difficult circumstances to keep services running.

2. Council assembly further notes that:
 - a. Despite ward councillors' and the local MP's efforts and discussions with Royal Mail, there has been no action taken to improve the service. This was compounded during the Christmas period when chaos at the sorting office meant that people were receiving post sent before Christmas well into the New Year.
 - b. That Royal Mail was part-privatised in 2013 with Liberal Democrat MP Vince Cable as the Minister overseeing the privatisation, and fully privatised in 2015. Royal Mail finances since have deteriorated, leading to 2,000 job losses by June 2020 with a further 700 job losses announced. This has only exacerbated the issues that Southwark residents have been facing.
 - c. Furthermore, the Liberal Democrats in coalition with the Conservatives botched the privatisation with the Business,

Innovation and Skills committee reporting that this cost the taxpayer approximately £1bn. A private Royal Mail has gone on to asset strip, with the sale of Sylvester Road amongst many others with no regard to the impact this has had on service users.

3. Council assembly therefore resolves to:
 - a. Lobby Royal Mail to reopen a delivery office in the SE22 area.
 - b. Campaign to bring Royal Mail back into public ownership, with the Leader writing to the Chancellor to this effect.

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

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI (Seconded by Councillor Hamish McCallum)

Saving the Bermondsey Carnival

1. Council assembly notes that:
 - a. Southwark, like many parts of the world, has suffered from the covid-19 pandemic with social activity and outdoor leisure severely limited in recent years.
2. Council assembly observes that:
 - a. The Bermondsey Carnival is an institutional event in Southwark, which stretches back to 1900. It is, unfortunately, facing funding issues.
3. Council assembly calls on cabinet to:
 - a. Fund a full return of the Bermondsey Carnival this year in an attempt to revive Southwark's spirit following a difficult few years.

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

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR PETER BABUDU (Seconded by Councillor Cleo Soanes)

Right to food

1. Council assembly notes that:
 - a. We are seeing a crisis of food poverty borne out of political choices and systemic failings from successive governments since austerity began in 2010;

- b. Food poverty should never be seen as inevitable, and notes that from 1997 to 2010 poverty reduced significantly (for instance the Institute for Fiscal Studies notes that the number of children in relative poverty fell by over 1.1 million from 1997-2010), showing that with sufficient political willpower these issues can be tackled;
- c. After a decade of government-imposed austerity, child poverty and hunger has increased significantly, and led to a precarious situation for many, even before the pandemic struck;
- d. The pandemic has exacerbated problems and pushed more people into food poverty, with perhaps the worst yet to come. We know that in Southwark:
 - i. over 10,000 children are currently eligible for Free School Meals and therefore at risk of going hungry during the school holidays, with this number rising; and
 - ii. foodbank use in Southwark has increased four-fold since March 2020 when the coronavirus crisis took hold
- e. The Government cut Universal Credit by £20 per week, which came into effect in October 2021 and has had a significant impact, noting the following:
 - i. the Joseph Rowntree Foundation - a charity which researches poverty - states millions of households will face an income loss equivalent to £1,040 a year;
 - ii. the charity Citizens Advice has warned that a third of people on Universal Credit will end up in debt due to the reduction, which will inevitably lead to more people being reliant on food banks; and the 5-week wait for Universal Credit impacts people's ability to pay bills and buy food, and believes that this wait is wholly unjustifiable and should be scrapped;
- f. Tackling food poverty requires a borough-wide effort, across the Council and public services, the voluntary and community sector, communities and business, with a long term, structural approach to find lasting solutions and that, as such, the Council should continue to build on and update its borough-wide Food Access Plan

2. Council assembly notes the work that has already been done, including:

- a. A Food Security action plan has brought together the statutory and voluntary community sectors. The Southwark Food Action Alliance (SFAA) are focused on improving access to support for people with food insecurity, improve education and learning about sustainable food and improved access to healthy and affordable food for all.

- b. Supported the development of community fridge, pantry and neighbourhood food models to help provide more dignity and community food resilience.
- c. Implemented completing cultural foods audits which help ensure the cultural appropriateness of food provided by hubs
- d. Implemented a Good Food retail programme that works with convenience stores to improve their healthy, culturally appropriate affordable food offer.
- e. Supported over 16,000 children through food security interventions,
- f. Offered food vouchers to families of all free school meal eligible children, delivering 162,674 meals to over 4,000 children, taking action in advance of the government's shameful U-turn on free school meals during Covid.
- g. Provided over 29,500 food parcels to those who needed them the most during the pandemic.
- h. As a result of Covid, refreshed and extended our current Food Security action plan until April 2022, prioritising resilience, access to affordable food and sustainability.
- i. Being recognised as a Sustainable Food Place and developed a sustainable food strategy to replace current food security strategy post April 2022
- j. Working collaboratively with over 60 organisations locally.

3. Council assembly therefore resolves to:

- a. Give its support to The Right to Food campaign, a national campaign which argues that the 11 million people in food poverty should be central to this strategy, and that 'Right to Food' should be enshrined into law - clarifying government's obligations on food poverty and introducing legal avenues to hold government bodies accountable for violations.
- b. Call for the Unite and Co-op backed 'Right to Food' to be incorporated into the National Food Strategy as well as call for a reversal to the £20 cut to universal credit, and asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Government to make this case.
- c. Build upon its action plan to increase household food security to ensure that no household goes hungry.

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

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN (Seconded by Councillor Eleanor Kerslake)

Tamil Heritage Month

1. Council assembly observes that:
 - a. The London Assembly in December unanimously passed a motion declaring support for Tamil Heritage Month in January.
 - b. Multiple councils celebrate the Tamil community. Harrow Council declared January Tamil Heritage Month in 2020. While, Kingston Council unveiled a plaque dedicated to its twin city, Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka, earlier this year.
 - c. January is significant for the Tamil community as it is also when they celebrate their Harvest Festival, Pongal.
 - d. The Tamil community has made an incredible contribution to the UK. The London Assembly has quoted estimates that 15,000 Tamil doctors, nurses and front-line health professionals work for NHS England. Many of them will have risked their safety by working during the covid-19 pandemic.
 - e. The community has also played a part in a range of fields such as in education and in the business sector. Their role in our society is evident in Southwark, as well.
 - f. Tamil people have encountered devastating violence outside of Britain. This includes the Sri Lankan civil conflict for which the UN opened an investigation into for alleged war crimes.
2. Council assembly resolves to:
 - a. Recognise the contribution of this community by declaring January as Tamil Heritage Month in the borough of Southwark for future years.

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

5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ALICE MACDONALD (Seconded by Councillor Victor Chamberlain)

Southwark's support for Ukraine

1. Council assembly strongly condemns Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and expresses our solidarity with the people of Ukraine. Council assembly:
 - a. Notes that over 1 million Ukrainians have been forced to leave the country fleeing the conflict, and that those people who have remained in the country are facing a humanitarian crisis.
 - b. Stands in solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people against Putin's illegal invasion, their friends and relatives here in Southwark, as well as Russian citizens who are bravely protesting against the war despite the serious risk to their own lives and safety.
 - c. Notes Southwark's commitment to being a borough of sanctuary, and that the council has a proud record of supporting refugees fleeing from Afghanistan, Syria and many other conflicts, helping them to settle in the borough.
 - d. Thanks Southwark residents and organisations who have already made generous donations to support Ukrainian refugees.

2. Council assembly also notes that there is much more the government can and should do, including:
 - a. A humanitarian response to the refugee crisis by opening more routes for Ukrainian nationals to come to the UK, equivalent to those already offered by other European countries.
 - b. Working with local authorities to adequately resource and plan for the potential resettlement of people from Ukraine in order to provide crucial services for refugees including access to housing, employment, education, social care and mental health support.
 - c. Continuing to send crucial aid to Ukraine.
 - d. Making sure that oligarchs in the UK who are linked to the Putin regime have their assets seized before they have the opportunity to sell them.

3. Council assembly therefore calls on the cabinet to:
 - a. Support Ukrainian refugees, working in collaboration with the local voluntary and community sector as part of the council's pledge as a borough of sanctuary for those fleeing conflict.
 - b. Lobby the government to do more to open safe routes for refugees fleeing Ukraine to come to the UK, and to provide resources for councils to support refugees
 - c. Use the council's channels to promote information and resources to support Ukrainian residents and anyone impacted by the conflict, and signpost how residents can help with the effort.

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

6. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN (Seconded by Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall)

Supporting Our Communities in Borough and Bankside, and St George's

1. Council assembly observes that Borough and Bankside councillors:
 - a. Supported residents with the impacts of noise on their homes, such as those generated from busking, licensing and construction activities
 - b. Campaigned for more on-site affordable housing and more council housing to be built in the ward, supporting Styles House residents with their plans for new homes on their estate
 - c. Successfully lobbied for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money that is generated in Borough and Bankside to be spent in Borough and Bankside.
 - d. Led the campaign to save the RV1 zero-emission hydrogen bus and to take polluting traffic off local roads.
 - e. Pushed the council to protect its LGBTQ+ spaces and led the campaign for new LGBTQ+ spaces to open in Bankside.
 - f. Proposed applying for UNESCO World Heritage status for the area, in order to promote more sustainable tourism for residents and our business recovery.
 - g. Launched a successful campaign to install a permanent memorial to the London Bridge and Borough Market terror attack victims.
2. Council assembly notes that St George's councillors:
 - a. Created a one-way traffic system in and around Morley Street. St George's ward councillors also supported the Lancaster Street and Brook Drive traffic changes.
 - b. Found shelter for people sleeping rough by the Imperial War Museum over Christmas 2019.
 - c. Stopped an event and licencing application in 2021 to hold weekly bowling lawn events at Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, which would have included live music and food sales.
 - d. With the help from Southwark's enforcement team, successfully closed an unlicensed burger take-away in the Lancaster Estate.

- e. Helped local residents to present their views and concerns at numerous licensing and planning meetings, including the successful 'Stop The Blocks' campaign in Dugard Way, Lambeth.
 - f. During Covid-19 lockdowns, distributed food to residents and arranged collection of prescriptions from pharmacies. Councillors also made weekly phone calls to elderly residents.
 - g. Established the first councillors' weekly online advice surgery in the UK, now with more than 100 Saturday morning meetings. Councillors also set up local WhatsApp groups and used social media as a mechanism for residents to report local issues to ward councillors.
3. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to do the following for St George's ward:
- a. Open a community centre to replace the facility lost in Elephant and Castle. It would provide a range of activities that reflects the diversity of residents in or near St George's ward and can also operate as a face-to-face contact site for council customer service. The centre would help empower the community.
 - b. Use our links with institutions such as the Imperial War Museum, London South Bank University and University of the Arts London to help residents into work.
 - c. Assist residents in setting up a Friends of St Mary's Churchyard group.
 - d. Formally protect green spaces such as those found in West Square, Dodson and Amigo Estate, Lancaster Estate and Elliott's Row Pocket Park.
4. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to do the following for Borough and Bankside ward:
- a. Better protect the amenity of residents, due to the number and scale of planning applications, by dedicating an officer to bring residents and applicants together, particularly on major schemes, and by creating an enforcement team for the ward.
 - b. Work with Transport for London (TfL) to bring in a zero-emission community bus for the ward (by exploring the potential to work with cultural venues in South Bank and Bankside to create a route like the RV1 that serves tourists and local residents). This remedies Labour's broken 2018 manifesto pledge regarding the RV1 bus

- c. Keep all of the ward's CIL money locally, uncapped. This would allow councillors to use it to protect or enhance our green and open spaces and other community facilities in the ward.
- d. Begin a resident consultation for a new Borough Square. This new town square for Borough would be formed by pedestrianising Union St, Flat Iron Square and O'Meara St. This would also help support the Asset of Community Value (ACV) application to preserve the open space at Flat Iron Square.
- e. Extend the lease of the pop-up London LGBTQ+ Community Centre, which was only set to be open for six months under Labour arrangements.
- f. Introduce a new licensing policy to prevent any new licenced premises from opening in a defined area surrounding Borough Market, and better enforce the Licensing Cumulative Impact Area in the rest of the ward.
- g. Follow the lead of other councils and lobby the government to change rules so that landlords using AirBnB and other short-term lets pay business rates and pay for business waste disposal.

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

7. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR HUMAIRA ALI (Seconded by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai)

Representing our Residents: A Vibrant, Greener and Safer Bermondsey

- 1. Council assembly notes that Liberal Democrat Bermondsey councillors:
 - a. Played an integral part in helping make Maltby Street Market Southwark's first clean air market.
 - b. Founded the Greener Bermondsey group, which aims to lower the area's carbon footprint. One project led to the planting of 10,000 tulip bulbs in memory of Ada Salter.
 - c. Fought to stop Southwark Park being privatised and closed off to residents with long-running events such as Alice in Winterland and the MIK K-pop music festival.
 - d. Campaigned for the council to reduce air pollution on the congested Jamaica Road. This resulted in cycle hire stands and greening on the road.

- e. Renewed street lighting, improved road safety and supported Butler's Wharf Riverside Trust in Shad Thames.
 - f. Ensured that the residential nature of Shad Thames is considered in licensing policy.
2. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to do the following in Bermondsey:
- a. Invest into opening a lido in or near Southwark Park.
 - b. Heavily green the Low Line, with a view to clean associated tunnels more thoroughly and to promote a healthier, friendlier and more inclusive cultural atmosphere for residents and visitors whilst reducing anti-social behaviour around the "Beer Mile."
 - c. Open up a full co-design process with residents around the Bermondsey Street area to properly assess and tackle the issues that are currently poorly dealt with through a road block.
 - d. Make The Blue a hub for residents and shops.
 - e. Fully re-open the Blue Youth Club and support Bermondsey's brilliant voluntary-sector-run youth clubs.
 - f. Agree both a minimum operating standard for all businesses operating late and night-time hours, and ensure businesses provide combined plans for streets such as Druid Street and Enid Street. This includes security industry authorities (SIAs) and street marshals, a street management plan for off sales and crowd control at busy times of the day, and agreed operating hours to ensure residents are not losing sleep (due to issues such as timing for refuse collections).
 - g. Re-open the allotments on Reverdy Road.
 - h. Endorse the resident-led Bermondsey park strategy to prepare for climate change whilst creating links to join Tanner St Park, Leathermarket Gardens and Guy Street park.
 - i. Campaign to rezone Bermondsey tube station to zone one/two in order to help residents with travel costs.
 - j. Refurbish and re-occupy Maydew House urgently, after over a decade of Labour dither and delay.
 - k. Make the ground floor space at the council's Tooley Street office available for residents to work from should they wish and provide opportunities for collaboration.
 - l. Work to protect the identity and heritage of Shad Thames.

- m. Provide entry doors for blocks, where wanted, to improve community safety, following the council's announcement that it will invest into a community warden taskforce.

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

8. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON (Seconded by Councillor Dan Whitehead)

Protecting and Improving Surrey Docks

1. Council assembly observes that Surrey Docks councillors:
 - a. Have invested their time in protecting and improving the ward, with pride in the residents they represent.
 - b. Funded a variety of charitable initiatives on behalf of constituents, including: the Millwall Community Trust's free football training camps for local children and Ballers Academy.
 - c. Battled to have a roll-out of fibre broadband to the Rotherhithe peninsula, with the project set to finalise this year.
 - d. Pushed Southwark Council to vow its support to making a Marine Centre of Excellence around the South Dock Marina and Greenland Dock.
2. Council assembly notes that Surrey Docks councillors:
 - a. Will always protect Surrey Docks Farm and the Russia Dock Woodland.
 - b. Pledge to continue funding important youth initiatives in the ward, which will also be done partially to deter anti-social behaviour.
 - c. Vow to continue providing support to football teams that use St Paul's Sports Ground, with the view to give discounted or free sessions to young residents in the ward.
 - d. Will continue to install more street lighting, bollards and signage to deter anti-social behaviour in the ward.
 - e. Will dedicate more money to the repair and updating of the finger signs in Surrey Docks where needed.
3. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:

- a. Campaign with ward councillors for the Labour London Mayor to expand public bus provision in the Surrey Docks area.
- b. Immediately investigate how to provide a shuttle bus service to improve transport options in the Surrey Docks ward.
- c. Fund a boat-lifting crane for the South Dock Marina and Greenland Dock.
- d. Install extra streetlights and CCTV cameras in crime hotspot areas in Surrey Docks.

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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