

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 14 July 2010	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motions	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (9), the member moving the motion may make a speech directed to the matter under discussion. This may not exceed five minutes without the consent of the Mayor.

The seconder 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 open up to debate on the issue and any amendments on the motion will be dealt with.

At the end of the debate the mover of the motion may exercise 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 members 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 2.9 (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. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN (Seconded by Councillor Victoria Mills)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Southwark's response to the emergency budget

1. Council assembly notes the unprecedented, game-changing cuts that government is making to public sector spending. It notes that local government will not be protected from those cuts and that, while we will know more after the comprehensive spending review in October, the council will face upwards of a 25% reduction in funding over the next five years.
2. Council assembly notes that the poorest Southwark residents and families will be hit hardest personally by the budget, with significant changes to:
 - Housing benefits
 - Tax credits
 - Child benefits
 - Disability Living Allowance
3. It further notes the 2.5% increase in VAT, which as a deeply regressive tax will hit the poorest hardest, and will more than swallow up any savings Southwark residents make through changes to the income tax personal allowance and council tax freeze.
4. Council assembly notes that these changes will take place at a time of rising unemployment and that the Office of Budget Responsibility's figures show that the actions in the budget itself will lead to weaker employment growth and more serious unemployment levels.
5. Council assembly notes that the cabinet has already committed to cutting waste and making efficiency savings, but that they will not be enough to prevent loss of services. It believes that the council will have to change the way it works by being innovative if we are to both continue delivering for Southwark residents and also try to meet the greater needs that the welfare reforms, VAT changes and persistent unemployment will cause in the community.
6. Council assembly further believes that meeting this challenge will require greater cooperation between the council, its neighbours, residents, businesses, local trade unions and stakeholders. It believes that the council's response will be stronger if local consensus can be achieved between the local parties wherever possible and resolves to go forward on that basis.
7. Council assembly therefore resolves to call on cabinet to open up the council's budget making process by finding innovative ways of involving residents in the tough choices that lie ahead and being honest with them about the scale of the challenge.

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

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON (Seconded by Councillor Toby Eckersley)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Publication of spending on goods and services over £500

1. Council assembly notes the cabinet resolution of 15 June 2010 in which it states it will "Open up the budget making process for public scrutiny so we make better decisions."
2. In light of this commitment to the residents of Southwark, council assembly requests the cabinet to bring forward proposals, as requested by the secretary of state for communities and local government to make details of spending on all goods and services over £500 for the public to see and scrutinise.
3. Council assembly believes that local people should be able to hold politicians and public bodies to account over how their hard earned cash is being spent, and welcomes these proposals, following the coalition government's own commitment demonstrated by the online publication of the COINS database, and urges the cabinet to follow this example.
4. Council assembly notes that by September, councils will be expected to make these details available and should be doing this as a matter of course by the start of next year and request the cabinet to take the appropriate steps to meet this deadline.

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

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBO BLANGO (Seconded by Councillor Jeff Hook)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Southwark Park and the Olympics

1. Council assembly notes the likely quashing of the council's planning permission for the refurbishment of the sports and athletics facilities at Southwark Park.
2. Council assembly shares the leader's "disappointment" at this setback, but is determined to complete this project in time for the Olympics in London in 2012 and so secure an Olympic legacy for Southwark.
3. Council assembly calls on the cabinet member for culture, leisure, sport and the Olympics to make all efforts to expedite the project, including an early redetermination of the planning application in order to meet the Olympic deadline.

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

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI (Seconded by Councillor Paul Noblet)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

Southwark's capital programme

1. Council assembly notes that in the budget on Tuesday 22 June, the Chancellor of the Exchequer specifically excluded capital spending from budget reductions and said he wished to focus on capital "projects with a significant economic return to the country".
2. Council assembly believes that this announcement allows Southwark to make progress on delivering a variety of capital projects that will bring significant economic benefits to the borough and more widely across London. By continuing to invest in major capital schemes the council will ensure the borough's residents have access to affordable housing, libraries, leisure centres, schools and sporting and youth facilities fit for the 21st century.
3. Council assembly therefore calls on the cabinet to deliver the existing capital commitments of the council, such as a full refurbishment of Seven Islands Leisure Centre including the reopening of the children's pool and the completion on time of Canada Water Library.

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Member Motions	Town Hall Peckham Road London SE5 8UB	Constitutional Team 020 7525 7228

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager
Report Author	Sean Usher, Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	25 June 2010