

Council Assembly (Annual meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Annual meeting) held on Saturday 21 May 2022
at 11.00 am at Southwark Cathedral, Montague Close, London Bridge SE1 9DA

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2021-22, Councillor Barrie Hargrove
The Worshipful the Mayor for 2022-23, Councillor Sunil Chopra
Councillor Suzanne Abachor
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor Naima Ali
Councillor John Batteson
Councillor Rachel Bentley
Councillor Cassandra Brown
Councillor Maggie Browning
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Sunil Chopra
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Ellie Cumbo
Councillor Sam Dalton
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Esme Dobson
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Sabina Emmanuel
Councillor Natasha Ennin
Councillor Sam Foster
Councillor Renata Hamvas
Councillor Ketzia Harper
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor Esme Hicks
Councillor Emily Hickson
Councillor Adam Hood
Councillor Laura Johnson
Councillor Nick Johnson
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Richard Leeming
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Kimberly McIntosh
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Vikki Mills
Councillor Portia Mwangangye
Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Reginald Popoola
Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Bethan Roberts
Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Chloe Tomlinson
Councillor Joseph Vambe
Councillor Irina Von Wiese
Councillor David Watson
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR

The Mayor of Southwark, Councillor Barrie Hargrove, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The clerk announced that the leaders of each political group wished to make a statement.

Thereafter, Councillors Kieron Williams and Victor Chamberlain paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor and welcomed the new chief executive, Althea Loderick.

The clerk asked for nominations for Mayor for the ensuing municipal year 2022-23.

Councillor Kieron Williams, seconded by Councillor Jasmine Ali, moved that Councillor Sunil Chopra be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Southwark for the municipal year 2022-23.

The nomination was put to the vote and it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Sunil Chopra be elected Mayor for the 2021-22 municipal year.

Councillor Sunil Chopra accepted the office of Mayor. The clerk declared that Councillor Sunil Chopra was duly elected Mayor of Southwark for 2022-23.

The new Mayor signed the declaration of acceptance of office and took the chair.

The new Mayor stated that he appointed Varsha Chopra as his Mayoress.

The new Mayor appointed Councillor Michael Situ as Deputy Mayor.

The new Mayor gave his incoming speech and announced that his chosen charities would be Kings Cross Hospital Charity and BlindAid.

2. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

2.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Helen Dennis, Alice Macdonald, and Emily Tester.

2.2 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There were none.

2.3 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

2.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

2.5 MINUTES

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of council assembly on 23 March 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

3. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION FROM THE CABINET

3.1 APPOINTMENT OF LEADER AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS - 2022-2023

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly appointed Councillor Kieron Williams as leader of the council.
2. That council assembly noted that the leader's term of office shall commence from 21 May 2022, and end at the start of the first annual meeting of the council following the next ordinary election¹, unless otherwise specified by a resolution of council assembly (see paragraphs 14 – 17 of the report).
3. That council assembly received a report from the leader on the following executive issues for the coming municipal year 2022-23:
 - Noted the appointment by the leader of cabinet members
 - Noted the appointment of any deputy cabinet members
 - Noted the establishment and appointment of any cabinet committees
 - Noted the leader's report on the delegation of executive functions to the full cabinet, cabinet committees, individual cabinet members, chief officers and any other delegations.

Appointment of the cabinet

4. That the leader reported to council assembly on the appointment of members of the cabinet and determination of their executive functions:

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Leader | Cllr Kieron Williams |
| Deputy Leader, Children Young People and Education | Cllr Jasmine Ali |
| Health and Wellbeing | Cllr Evelyn Akoto |
| Finance, Democracy and Digital | Cllr Stephanie Cryan |
| Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development | Cllr Helen Dennis |

¹ Article 6.3 of the Constitution

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Community Safety | Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle |
| Equalities, Neighbourhoods and Leisure | Cllr Alice Macdonald |
| Council Homes and Homelessness | Cllr Darren Merrill |
| Parks, Streets and Clean Air | Cllr Catherine Rose |
| Jobs, Business and Town Centres | Cllr Martin Seaton |

Deputy Cabinet:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Employment | Cllr John Batteson |
| Diversity | Cllr Natasha Ennin |
| Financial Support | Cllr Kimberly McIntosh |
| Young People | Cllr Portia Mwangangye |

5. That the leader reported on the establishment of the cabinet committees:

- Cabinet (Livesey Trust) Committee,
- Better Placed Joint Committee
- Joint IT Committee (Brent, Lewisham and Southwark).

Delegation of executive functions

6. That the leader reported on the delegation of executive functions between full cabinet, individual decision makers, chief officers and any other delegations.
7. That council assembly noted the leader's report on any changes to the delegation of executive functions to the full cabinet, cabinet committees, individual cabinet members, chief officers and any other delegations.
8. That council assembly noted that as a consequence of recommendation 6, the proper constitutional officer will update Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the leader's report on the delegation of executive functions.

3.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES, PANELS AND RELATED MATTERS 2022-2023

The nominations for chairs and vice chairs of committees and the nominations to the Local Government Association General Assembly were circulated.

There were three contested positions.

The position of chair of overview and scrutiny committee was put to the vote, and it was agreed that Councillor Ian Wingfield be appointed chair of overview and scrutiny committee.

The position of community champion for North-west multi-ward area was put to the vote, and it was agreed that Councillor Joseph Vambe be appointed community champion for North-east multi-ward area.

The position of community champion for North-east multi-ward area was put to the vote, and it was agreed that Councillor Bethan Roberts be appointed community champion for North-east multi-ward area.

The substantive motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly noted the appointment of political group leaders deputies and whips.

LABOUR GROUP

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Leader | Councillor Kieron Williams |
| Deputy Leader | Councillor Jasmine Ali |
| Chief Whip | Councillor Maggie Browning |

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Leader | Councillor Victor Chamberlain |
| Deputy Leader | Councillor Emily Tester |
| Chief Whip | Councillor Graham Neale |

2. That council assembly noted the political balance of the council as follows:

Table 1: Political balance

| Group | Members | % |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Labour | 52 | 82.54 |
| Liberal Democrat | 11 | 17.46 |
| Total | 63 | 100.00 |

Table 1b: Political balance before the election on 5 May 2022

| Group | Members | % |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Labour | 48 | 76.19 |
| Liberal Democrat | 14 | 22.22 |
| Independent (not a group) | 1 | 1.59 |
| Total | 63 | 100.00 |

3. That council assembly noted the change to proportionality and the new

allocation of seats on committees and panels as set out below.

Note: The political balance rules require that the political groups represented on council have proportionate representation on council committees. A political group must comprise at least two members. Councils can allocate seats on committees to members not aligned to a group, but are under no statutory obligation to do so. The below tables are based on the committees as agreed by council assembly on 24 May 2021. The allocations prior to the borough wide elections on 5 May 2022 are shown in brackets.

| Committee | Total | Lab | Lib Dem |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Committee 1 Appointments Committee | 7 (7) | 6 (6) | 1 (1) |
| Committee 2 Planning Committee | 8 (8) | 7 (6) | 1 (2) |
| Committee 3 Audit, Governance and Standards Committee | 7 (7) | 5 (5) | 2 (2) |
| Committee 4 Corporate Parenting Committee | 7 (7) | 6 (6) | 1 (1) |
| Total | 29 (29) | 24 (23) | 5 (6) |

Table 3: Other committees - Total number of seats 26

| Committee | Total | Lab | Lib Dem |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 11 (11) | 9 (8) | 2 (3) |
| Licensing Committee | 15 (15) | 12 (12) | 3 (3) |
| Total | 26 (26) | 21 (20) | 5 (6) |

Table 4: Multi-ward areas

| | |
|----|--------------|
| 1. | North-west |
| 2. | North-east |
| 3. | West-central |
| 4. | East-central |
| 5. | South |

Note: The composition of multi-ward areas is set out in Article 8 of the constitution (see paragraph 42 of the report).

Health and wellbeing board

- That the health and wellbeing board be established as a committee of the council under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 with the membership set out below:

- Leader of the Council
- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
- Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
- Opposition Spokesperson for Health (Southwark Councillor)
- Chief Executive Officer of Southwark Council
- Strategic Director of Children's and Adults' Services
- Director of Public Health of Southwark Council
- NHS South East London Clinical Commissioning Group representatives x2
- Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust representative
- Community Southwark representative (Voluntary Sector)
- King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (Kings Health Partners) Representative
- Independent Chair of Partnership Southwark (Partnership Southwark representative)
- South London and Maudsley (SLAM) NHS Foundation Trust (King's Health Partners) Representative
- Healthwatch Southwark Representative
- Southwark Headteachers Representative
- Voluntary Sector Representative

Note: The health and wellbeing board membership is reviewed periodically. This is to ensure that the right partners are represented on the board. Any proposed change to the membership will be put forward to the health and wellbeing board for agreement.

Appointment of chairs and vice chairs

5. That council assembly appointed chairs and vice chairs for the following committees:

Committees

- Appointments committee
Chair: Councillor Kieron Williams
Vice-chair: Councillor Jasmine Ali
- Planning committee
Chair: Councillor Richard Livingstone
Vice-chair: Councillor Kath Whittam
- Audit, governance and standards committee
Chair: Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Vice-chair: Councillor Graham Neale

- Corporate parenting committee [see note 1 below]
Chair: Councillor Jasmine Ali (Appointment of cabinet member with the responsibility for children and schools formally noted)
Vice-chair: Vacant
- Overview and scrutiny committee
Chair: Councillor Ian Wingfield
Vice-Chair: Councillor Irina von Wiese
- Licensing committee
Chair: Councillor Renata Hamvas
Vice-chair: Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall

Notes:

1. In 2021-22, the cabinet member responsible for children's services chaired the corporate parenting committee. Council assembly is asked to formally approve this appointment in 2022-23.
2. All outstanding appointments will be referred to the first meeting of the respective committee in the 2022-23 municipal year.

Appointment of community champions

6. That council assembly appointed community champions for the following multi ward areas:

Multi-ward areas

| | Councillor | Multi-ward area |
|----|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Joseph Vambe | North-west |
| 2. | Bethan Roberts | North-east |
| 3. | Naima Ali | West-central |
| 4. | Sabina Emmanuel | East-central |
| 5. | Andy Simmons | South |

Multi-ward areas: Deputy Community Champions

| | Councillor | Multi-ward area |
|----|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Sam Dalton | North-west |
| 2. | Cassandra Brown | North-east |
| 3. | Ketzia Harper | West-central |
| 4. | Reginald Popoola | East-central |
| 5. | Margy Newens | South |

Establishment of the council's panels

Table 5: Panels - Total number of seats 16

| Panel | Total | Lab | Lib Dem |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Council assembly business panel | 4 (4) | 3 (3) | 1 (1) |
| Constitutional steering panel | 4 (4) | 3 (3) | 1 (1) |
| Pensions advisory panel | 3 (3) | 2 (2) | 1 (1) |
| Voluntary bodies appointments panel | 5 (5) | 4 (4) | 1 (1) |
| Total | 16 (16) | 12 (12) | 4 (4) |

Note: This table is based on the panels established in 2021-22.

Appointments of chair to constitutional steering panel and voluntary bodies appointments panel

7. That council assembly appointed a chair to the following panels:
- Constitutional steering panel: Councillor Maggie Browning [see note 1 below]
 - Voluntary bodies appointments panel: Councillor Alice Macdonald.

Notes:

1. The group whip of the majority group chaired the constitutional steering panel in 2021-22. Council assembly is asked to formally approve this appointment in 2022-23.
2. That it be noted that the Mayor chairs the council assembly business panel.

Urgency committee

8. That the role of the urgency committee between a municipal election and the annual meeting of council assembly, as agreed by council assembly on 26 March 2014, be noted as set out in paragraphs 55 and 56 of the report.

Appointments to Local Government Association (LGA) General Assembly

9. That council assembly appoints up to three representatives and allocates the sever votes to representatives to attend the LGA General Assembly (see paragraphs 57 and 58 of the report).

Other appointments to joint committees/outside bodies

That council assembly notes the cabinet and other committees will make appointments to all other outside committees and bodies for the municipal year 2022-23 as required by part 3Q of the constitution.

3.3 NOMINATIONS TO LONDON COUNCILS COMMITTEES, GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM, BOROUGH LEAD MEMBERS, LONDON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS) COMMON INVESTMENT VEHICLE (CIV) LTD AND LONDON COUNCILS LIMITED 2022-23

RESOLVED

1. LONDON COUNCILS LEADERS' COMMITTEE (S101 JOINT COMMITTEE)

Note: Council Assembly may only nominate cabinet members as representatives or deputies to this joint committee.

1 representative and up to 2 deputies

Labour nomination Councillor Kieron Williams

Deputies

Labour nominations Councillor Jasmine Ali

2. LONDON COUNCILS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (S101 ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE)

Note: Council Assembly may only nominate cabinet members as representatives or deputies to this joint committee.

1 representative and up to 4 deputies

Labour nomination Councillor Catherine Rose

Deputies

Labour nominations -

3. LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE (ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE)

Note: Council Assembly may only nominate cabinet members as representatives or deputies to this joint committee

1 representative and up to 4 deputies

Labour nomination Councillor Alice Macdonald

Deputies

Labour nominations -

4. LONDON LGBS COMMON INVESTMENT VEHICLE (CIV) LIMITED

1 representative and up to 2 deputies

Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan

Deputy

Labour nomination -

5. GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM

1 representative and 1 deputy

Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan

Deputy

Labour nomination -

6. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ARTS/CULTURE, TOURISM, SPORT AND LEISURE

Labour nomination Councillor Alice Macdonald

7. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE/SAFEGUARDING AND SCHOOLS

Labour nomination Councillor Jasmine Ali

8. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CRIME AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

Labour nomination Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle

9. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/BUSINESS

Labour nomination Councillor Martin Seaton

10. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan

11. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INCLUDING ADULT SERVICES

Labour nomination Councillor Evelyn Akoto

12. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HOUSING AND REGENERATION

Labour nomination

Councillor Darren Merrill

13. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – PLANNING/ INFRASTRUCTURE/DEVELOPMENT

Labour nomination

Councillor Helen Dennis

14. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

Labour nomination

Councillor Martin Seaton

15. LONDON COUNCILS LIMITED

1 representative

Labour nomination

Councillor Kieron Williams

3.4 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

Councillor Ian Wingfield spoke to the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly noted the scrutiny activity for the 2021-22 municipal year as detailed in the report.

4. AMENDMENTS

There were none.

The meeting closed at 1.10 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: