

## AMENDMENTS

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### ITEM 3.2: THEMED DEBATE – Tackling the cost of living crisis

(see pages 13-17 of the main agenda)

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#### AMENDMENT A

**Moved:** Councillor Emily Tester

Amend the title to “**Declaring a cost-of-living emergency**”

**Delete** all and **replace** with:

1. Council assembly notes that:
  - a) The rising cost of living combined with the Conservative government’s inaction has created an emergency across the UK and in Southwark.
  - b) The unprecedented rise in energy costs is forcing people to choose between heating and food.
  - c) Rising costs are forcing the most vulnerable into food poverty.
  - d) Food banks are providing a life line to those struggling, giving out over 9,000 food parcels to residents in Southwark between March 2021 and April 2022 – a 37% increase from pre-covid levels.
  - e) Nationally and locally politicians need to implement policies that tackle the cost-of-living emergency directly. The national Liberal Democrat party have led the way by being the first party to propose the windfall tax.
2. Council assembly calls on cabinet to:
  - a) Immediately declare a cost-of-living emergency in Southwark. This should result in the council making the emergency its highest priority and direct it to marshal resources to help Southwark residents. This would include undertaking urgent cost-of-living assessments for the most vulnerable residents.
  - b) Commit to freezing council tax in the 2022/23 financial year and keep council tax low in future years.
  - c) Reduce bills by 100% for all council tax reduction recipients.
  - d) Create a programme or boost efforts to pro-actively contact residents regarding returning council tax overpayments.

- e) Stop using bailiffs or enforcement agents for council tax arrears and other debts owed to the council by residents during the cost-of-living emergency.
- f) Arrange for a citizens' assembly on the cost-of-living emergency in order to discover from residents themselves how the council can best provide support.
- g) Review current funding for food banks and local charities providing support for residents struggling with the cost of living - increasing where possible.
- h) Start a campaign for residents that do not need council rebates to donate their allocation to Southwark charities that do.
- i) Continue our free healthy school meals provision for all primary and nursery school children and our holiday food programme for children during the summer period. Offer universal free healthy school meal provision to secondary school children for the duration of the summer period.
- j) Implement innovative policies to help residents drive down energy and cooking costs, including Eastbourne Borough Council's programme that provides free slow cookers for vulnerable households in the town.
- k) Investigate offering more universal basic services, such as the free Travelcards for unemployed people that Camden Council is exploring.
- l) Help reduce energy bills for residents with a commitment to making our council homes warmer and greener with better insulation and modern heating. Work toward this by:
  - i. Allocating the remaining £11m in the climate emergency fund to environmental projects that will help residents save money and improve energy efficiency.
  - ii. Replicating Portsmouth City Council's policy of providing free installation of solid wall insulation, air source heat pumps and solar PV for low-income households.
- m) Create a new Southwark Living Wage Unit to double the number of London Living Wage employers in our borough and make work pay for more of our residents.
- n) Deliver 5,000 new apprenticeships and 3,000 new training opportunities and free support to get a job for people who face the most barriers, so local people can take up careers in our

borough's growth industries. Create 250 paid internships for young people from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.

- o) Launch a Southwark Energy Savers Service, so residents can access the best advice to keep gas and electricity bills down while prices continue to spiral.
- p) Make Southwark a Right to Food Borough. This means working with local businesses, community groups and schools to ensure everyone in Southwark has access to healthy, affordable food within a short walk of their home. Meanwhile the council will do all it can to campaign for the national action needed to end food poverty for good.
- q) Accelerate delivery of new council homes and ensure 50% of homes in private developments are affordable.
- r) Strengthen Southwark's network of community-led hubs, continuing to invest in our local voluntary sector, including independent advice services, so wherever you live you can access free advice on money matters and find free local activities.
- s) Create a new Cost of Living fund with over £5 million of critical funding that will support families who are struggling to make ends meet.

3. Council assembly resolves to:

- a) Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to demand:
  - i. An above inflation increase in the government's National Living Wage, to lift millions of people out of poverty
  - ii. A Great Homes Upgrade, to save on energy bills now and in the longer term by insulating millions of homes, whilst cutting carbon emissions too.
  - iii. A fair benefits system that ensure everyone in our country can afford the basics in life including enough food to eat, a warm home and a roof over their head. Including; reversing the Conservative Party's £20 cut to universal credit, ending the two child limit which now impacts nearly a million children and has forced many thousands families into poverty, and uplifting the Local Housing Allowance which is currently set so low that it does not cover the cost of renting a home in the private sector in Southwark.
  - iv. Better targeted approach to support people hardest hit by the cost of living crisis, rather than the Government's current system that disproportionately benefits second homeowners.

- v. A new national industrial strategy, to ensure we buy, make and sell more in Britain. Ending the Conservative Party's failed economic policies that have delivered the worst decade for wages in two centuries and replacing them with a new national plan to invest in our industries and infrastructure to deliver good jobs and real social and environmental benefits. Including an ambitious green new deal.
  - vi. Increased investment in council house building and the building of other social rent homes, given the transformative impact of having a truly affordable home in lifting people out of poverty.
  - vii. Increased funding for all public bodies and services, so public sector workers, from the nurses to the refuse collectors, who have supported our country through the pandemic can receive a fair pay rise.
- b) Ask Cabinet to work with the Community Support Alliance and other voluntary and statutory partners in our borough to alleviate the cost of living crisis for residents and to lobby for the changes that the Government needs to make to ensure we can end this cost of living crisis.
- c) Join the Southwark Liberal Democrat campaign for central government to extend the notice period for private tenants facing eviction, as they did during the covid pandemic.

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**ITEM 5.2.1: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – SAVING SOUTH LONDON BUSES** (see pages 25-26 of the main agenda)

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**AMENDMENT B**

**Moved:** Councillor Reginald Popoola

**Seconded:** Councillor Emily Hickson

1.a. Delete 'Transport for London (TfL)'s' and insert 'The current'

After 'proposal to cut bus services by up to a fifth' insert 'as a result of the Conservative government's financial decisions'

After 1d., insert:

'1.e. The Conservative party is imposing deep cuts to Transport for London's funding.

- i. In 2015, they agreed to remove £1bn a year of government funding from TfL and since the pandemic they have forced through hundreds of millions of further cuts
- ii. None of the £500m raised every year from Londoners paying Vehicle Excise Duty collected by central Government is used to fund TfL's maintenance of London's roads. Instead, London's roads are effectively being cross-subsidised from fare-paying bus and tube passengers.'

3a. Delete 'an independently led' and replace with 'a robust detailed'

3b. Delete 'Lobby TfL and the Labour Mayor of London Sadiq Khan' and replace with 'Campaign with the Mayor of London for the Conservative government to'

3b.i. Before 'immediately', insert: 'Agree a long term funding settlement for TfL that ensures there can be continued investment in sustainable and affordable public transport in London, including the funding necessary to maintain current bus routes, so TFL can'

3b. ii. Delete 'Scrap the environmentally damaging and widely unpopular Silvertown tunnel' and insert 'Invest in' before 'maintaining'

3b. ii. After 'buses', insert 'step-free access at stations' that Londoners need.

3b. iii. After 'including', insert 'a river-crossing at Rotherhithe, reopening Camberwell station'

After 3b. iii, insert '3c. Ask TfL to:'

Replace '3b.iv' with '3c.i.' and insert:

'Explore all options to prevent the need for reductions to bus and other public transport services'

Replace '3b.v.' with '3c.ii'

Delete 3c. points i and ii

and renumber all paragraphs and sub-paragraphs accordingly.

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**ITEM 5.2.3: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Fixing Southwark’s Housing Disrepair Crisis** (see pages 28-30 of the main agenda)

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**AMENDMENT C**

**Moved:** Councillor Suzanne Abachor

**Seconded:** Councillor Gavin Edwards

Delete all, replace with:

1. Council notes that:
  - a) In 2010, an incoming Labour administration inherited one of the poorest standards of housing stock in London from the previous Liberal Democrat and Conservative administration. Only half of council homes met the decent homes standard, with 18,000 homes in disrepair.
  - b) By 2020 Southwark’s Labour-run council had nearly doubled this number with 95% of homes meeting the decent homes standard.
  - c) In 2014, Labour also began a programme of replacing old kitchens and bathrooms in all our council homes. By 2020, more than 5,000 council homes were fitted with a new kitchen and/or bathroom.
2. Council also notes that:
  - a) The Covid-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown had a severe impact on services.
  - b) Southwark is one of the largest council housing landlords in the country, therefore the proportional impact of the pandemic in terms of the number of repairs that were delayed (with officers not able to visit residents apart from essential repairs) was substantial. Residents report an average of 4,500 repairs requests per month.
  - c) Furthermore, the pandemic continues to affect repair staff, with staff testing positive for Covid (and therefore unavailable to visit residents).
  - d) That over £1 billion is required to fully decarbonise and replace inefficient heating systems and increase the insulation of homes to a modern energy efficient and low carbon standard.
  - e) The impact of the Conservative party’s hard Brexit which has had a catastrophic impact on supply chains in the construction

industry, with waiting times for many essential repairs materials having increased from days to months..

3. Council assembly thanks member of the repairs services for
  - a) the role they played getting support to vulnerable people during the peak of the pandemic, delivering food and support to thousands of Southwark residents
  - b) the work they have done to clear the whole backlog of repairs from the pandemic, that had been accumulated during the period when non urgent repairs had to be suspended.
4. Council resolves to
  - a) Ask cabinet to bring forward the repairs improvement plan to ensure an effective and efficient repairs services, that gets repairs right first time
  - b) Ask cabinet to bring forward a housing asset management plan which aims to bring every council home up to a decent standard, including within this an updated damp and mould strategy.
  - c) Welcome the pilot of a dedicated repairs task team comprising of specialist operators such as electricians, wet traders and decorators, with the view to roll services out where they are effective in terms of value for money and efficiency of service.
  - d) Publish an updated damp and mould strategy and make the council's specialist leaks team permanent.
  - e) Implement the heat networks strategy which aims to replace old heating systems with new, reliable, affordable and greener alternatives. This forms part of the commitment to decarbonise council housing stock.
  - f) Ask Cabinet to lobby the Government for the national investment needed to deliver a Great Homes Upgrade to bring homes in the UK, including all council homes, up to a modern highly energy efficient and green standard, with upgraded insulation and low cost zero carbon heating.

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**ITEM 5.2.5: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Make Cycle Storage Accessible for All**  
(see page 32 of the main agenda)

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**AMENDMENT D**

**Moved:** Councillor Cassandra Brown

**Seconded:** Councillor Ketzia Harper

1.a. Delete 'urgently'

Delete points 1.a. i-iii, 1.b, 1.c., 1.d.

In point 1.e., delete 'e' and replace with 'b'.

After point 1.b, insert:

- c. The Labour administration delivered over 500 cycle hangars since 2020. It has also already created 2,616 secure bike hangar spaces, the third highest of all London boroughs.
- d. A comprehensive exercise has been undertaken by the council to identify many more residents who require cycle storage, with a website where people can request new cycle hangars.
- e. Local ward councillors have access to funding streams such as Local Community Infrastructure Levy, Cleaner Greener Safer funds and Devolved Highways Funding which they can prioritise to deliver more cycle hangars. Wards with Liberal Democrat councillors delivered the lowest level of cycle hangars since 2020.
- f. that the Labour administration's investment in cycle hangars and cycle lanes has led to Southwark having one of the highest cycling rates in London
- g. That the council plans to bring cycle hangar provision in-house, meaning that we can roll out more at a faster pace.

Delete point 2a and replace with:

2. a. Make Southwark a Cycle Friendly Borough by:

- i. Offering free cycle lessons for all Southwark residents
- ii. Doubling the number of cycle hangars so you can store your bike close to your home, stations and in town centres.
- iii. Rolling out more segregated cycle lanes,
- iv. Extending cycle hire

- v. Creating new ways for residents on low incomes to access an affordable bike.
- vi. work with local communities to design safer, greener and healthier streets for walking and cycling, including safer junctions and crossing.
- vii. ensure no group is left behind as we change all our streets for the better. Ensuring older and younger people, women and our Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities all have a full say, so we design streets that works for everyone.

Delete point 2c.

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**ITEM 5.2.8: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – The closure of St Francesca Cabrini Primary School** (see page 35-36 of the main agenda)

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**AMENDMENT E**

**Moved:** Councillor Rachel Bentley

**Seconded:** Councillor Adam Hood

Change title to: 'Addressing the causes of primary school closures'

Insert after Section 1:

2. Council assembly also notes that:
  - a. 16 schools across the borough are in crisis and face closure because of falling pupil numbers.
  - b. As of October 2021 there were 5,274 unfilled primary school places in Southwark.
  - c. Last year, St John's Walworth CofE primary school closed due to falling pupil numbers.
  - d. The lack of affordable housing, along with the cost of living emergency, is a key factor forcing families out of the borough, leaving schools under-filled and at risk of closure.
  - e. The council has failed to foster communities that are attractive to families; building over green spaces and cutting funding for youth services by 82% between 2010 and 2020.

Insert after Section 3:

4. Council Assembly calls on the cabinet to address the causes of declining pupil numbers:
  - a. Require developers to provide 50% genuinely affordable homes on all private developments
  - b. Expand and accelerate the council's buyback scheme for council housing and bring empty homes back into use.
  - c. Formally protect and enhance Southwark's green spaces in order to make areas more attractive to families with children.

Renumber all paragraphs and sub-paragraphs accordingly.

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**ITEM 6.1: MEMBER ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2022-2023** (see pages 37-45)

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**AMENDMENT F**

Proposer: Councillor Graham Neale

Seconder: Councillor Jane Salmon

1. Council Assembly agrees to amend the report “Members Allowances Scheme – Appendix 2” by:

- a. Deleting paragraphs 49-52:

49. Members entitled to a full band 3 or full band 4 SRA will be entitled to a payment for loss of office when they cease to be eligible for a full band 3 or 4 allowance except if it is the last year of their term and they are not seeking re-election.

50. Members must have served at least one year in cabinet to claim a payment for loss of office. Members are eligible to claim a payment for loss of office no more than once in any 4-year council term.

51. The level of payment is set at 4 weeks of the full band 3 or band 4 SRA plus 1 week for every year in continuous full time service. The maximum level any member can receive is 13 weeks of the full band 3 or band 4 SRA. Where a member has not served for a years' continuous full time service, the plus 1 week will be on a pro rata basis.

52. The audit, governance and standards committee (or its relevant sub-committee) will adjudicate on any dispute as to entitlement and any allegation of abuse, and shall be authorised to determine any reduction or withholding of a loss of office payment.

Renumber all sections accordingly.