

Item No. 3.2	Classification: Open	Date: 22 March 2023	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motion on the Theme: Safer Southwark Communities	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The theme for this meeting is Safer Southwark Communities.

The relevant cabinet member shall submit a motion on the theme. All other political groups on the council are allowed to submit one amendment to the motion. The cabinet member's motion and the amendments do not need to be seconded. The cabinet member will present the motion to the meeting, followed by the lead opposition spokesperson's response and moving of their amendment, if any. Following this, the subject matter of the theme will be open to debate. Amendment(s) from other opposition groups on the council can be moved during this part of the meeting.

Motion from Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Councillor Catherine Rose, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks, Streets and Clean Air

1. This council notes:

Safe Streets

- a. The council is committed to ensuring that Southwark is a safe place for everyone, young and old. We are working to make our streets and estates safer, cleaner and greener, with more community safety wardens, upgraded lighting and more CCTV. We work with our communities to prevent and reduce abuse, crime and anti-social behaviour, protecting everyone.
- b. The council is committed to launching a £2 million antisocial behaviour task force to provide a highly visible presence to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots, with more community safety wardens. Work has started on the creation of the task force, commencing recruitment for more community wardens, increasing the number of targeted patrols for crime and anti-social behaviour. This task force will be mobile, able to respond to incidents on estates, in town centres and anywhere they are needed.

- c. Southwark Council has invested in CCTV, increasing the operator capacity by 20%.
- d. The council has carried out over 900 weapon sweeps in the past 12 months.
- e. The council investing in better and more reliable lighting on our streets, over 7,000 lamppost columns have been upgraded to LED lighting.
- f. The council is working with the community to identify areas that will benefits from enhanced lighting.
- g. The council welcome the national Labour party's commitment to five missions for a better Britain, including making Britain's streets safe.
- h. The council has an ongoing commitment to and ambition for, healthier neighbourhoods, cleaner air and safer roads
- i. In December 2022, the council launched 'Streets for People' a bold plan for the transformation of our streets, making it safer to walk & cycle and to make our air healthier to breath.
- j. At last month's council assembly, an additional £2million was announced to make Southwark streets safer, greener and healthier. This included investment into enhanced graffiti removal & fly tipping removal services.

Tackling Violence against women

- k. Southwark Council is committed to ending misogyny and harassment of, and violence against, women. Working with women and men to find solutions to these deep rooted issues. We will challenge ourselves, our partners and men, to take action as allies, so women can live free from violence, abuse and fear.
- l. We will challenge misogyny and take a zero-tolerance approach to violence against women and girls. Always putting victims and survivors first. Girls and women experience harassment every day from boys and men. Staring, unwelcome comments, and jokes of a sexual nature are harassment. These seemingly small acts can grow into violence and abuse.
- m. On last year's White Ribbon Day (25 November), Southwark Council unveiled a new campaign tackling misogyny in the borough. The council's campaign 'Through Her Eyes', has been viewed online over 400,000 times, and has been shortlisted for Campaign of the Year at this year's Local Government Chronical Awards.
- n. During 21/22, the council undertook our first Public Women's Safety Survey, asking residents, workers and visitors to Southwark about safety in the borough; how safe they feel, when and where they do not feel safe. This information along with Police Violence Against

Women and Girls (VAWG) crime data identified 5 areas in the borough which are disproportionately impacted by VAWG. A number of interventions were deployed to reduce crime and improve women's safety in these areas. This included Environmental Visual Audits identifying environmental factors such as lighting which could be removed/improved to make the areas safer.

- o. Southwark have established a network safe havens at businesses in known harassment hotspots where women and other vulnerable people can access safety and support when in need at night-time, staff in these businesses have received training to administer support.
- p. The council have to developed the Safe Spaces Initiative which is now operational in 47 venues, comprising of Children and Family Centres, Secondary and Primary Schools and other community venues.
- q. While the council will continue to provide safe space for women, we are also committed to tackling the root cause of violence against women and girls. We believe women and girls should be able to walk our streets without fear or intimidation. It is not for them to adapt their behaviour, to avoid unwanted attention from men and to feel safe.

Growing up free from crime

- r. The council is committed to working with young people to end youth violence, and ensure you can live your life free from crime as you grow up in our borough. The council works to end youth violence, putting young people, victims and their families at the heart of our community safety work. Our Community Harm and Exploitation Hub continues to engage with young people and their families. These are young people who have been involved in or victims of gangs, county lines and/or serious youth violence.
- s. The council's Youth Justice Service works closely with young people aged 11 – 18 year olds who have either, committed or who are at risk of committing an offence. A thematic review of the services at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic from the HMPPS and MoJ - commended the YJS service as a national exemplar. Praising the Southwark multi agency team for going over and above to support young people to successfully improve their life chances and to them from reoffending.
- t. The council is leading the way with an innovative Youth Independent Advisory Group. This group works with the police to understand the perspective of those subject to Stop and Search, training officers to understand the perspective of young people on anything relating to policing.
- u. Southwark council believes that the best way for young people in our borough to grow up free from crime is to ensure that they have

support and opportunities. That is why Southwark's Youth New Deal, is putting young people at the heart of how we deliver services, delivering employment opportunities, providing mental health support, giving young people a voice and creating a positive future. We want to make sure no young person is left behind.

- v. Southwark works is a free employment support service for residents of all ages, experiences and backgrounds. It offers one to one support to help find a new job or a better job The Southwark post 16 service provides advice and guidance for residents aged 16 or 17-year-old who are not in education, employment or training.
- w. The Nest in Southwark provides free mental health and wellbeing support for young people aged 13 – 25. This supports young people and their families with the opportunities, experiences and tools to enable them to develop their emotional and social skills through one-to-one and group work.
- x. Southwark Youth Parliament supports the council's engagement with young people, as they lead on developing exciting and empowering ways of addressing priority issues that matter most to young people in Southwark.
- y. The Council launched the Positive Future For Young People Fund, part of the council's Youth New Deal. The Youth New Deal is committed to raise the profile of services in Southwark so that every young person have positive lives now and in the future.

Working effectively with the police

- z. We know that in order to work effectively with the police we also need to challenge them to rebuild trust with our communities, especially with women and Black and minority ethnic residents.
- aa. The council is extremely concerned by the Baroness Casey Review into the Metropolitan Police's culture and standards, which highlights serious issues in the Met that must be addressed.
- bb. The council facilitates Walk and Talk sessions, targeted in specific areas identified through local intelligence. There has been a renewed launch of these to increase trust and confidence in the local police.

2. The Council resolves to:

Safe Streets

- a. Ensure the Council's anti-social behaviour task force has a significant impact on reducing crime, crime hotspots and anti-social behaviour, making Southwark residents feel safe.

- b. Campaign with the Mayor of London to fully reverse damaging police cuts. The Conservatives have cut £1 billion from London's policing budget.
- c. Continue to invest in our CCTV network, and explore the options for the installation of HD cameras.
- d. Continue to make our streets safer, greener and healthier so wherever you are travelling across Southwark you can get there easily and safely on foot, bike or public transport.
- e. In order to deliver on Vision Zero, a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all, call on the Government to give local authorities the power of civil enforcement to tackle speeding on our roads, and the resources and powers to increase road safety.
- f. Call on the Government to grant local authorities additional powers to set the fines for graffiti and fly tipping, so that councils can increase the resource that goes into keeping our streets clean and safe.

Tackling Violence against women

- g. Build on the success of the Safe Spaces programme and expand the programme into an even greater number of venues.
- h. Establish a ground-breaking Women's Safety Centre, so women experiencing violence or abuse can access all the support they need in one place and online.
- i. Encourage even more business to sign up to the council's already established women's safety charter.

Working with the Met

- j. Following the Baroness Casey review, challenge the Metropolitan Police Service ("the Met") to work with women and our Black, Asian and Minority ethnic communities to rebuild trust and confidence in the Met.
- k. We will work with the local community and police to ensure stop and search is used fairly.
- l. Build on the brilliant work of the Youth Independent Advisory Group, to create the opportunity for other groups to review and challenge policing practices constructively
- m. Work with the Mayor of London to implement the Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing Action Plan to:

- i. deliver better use of police powers,
- ii. make Black communities safer,
- iii. create a police service that better represents and understands Black communities, and
- iv. hold the police to account for what they do.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet members Motion	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
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