

AMENDMENTS

ITEM 3.2: THEMED DEBATE – Safer Southwark Communities

(see pages 25-28 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT A

Proposed by: Councillor Jane Salmon

Insert after section 1b:

- c. The essential work of the Southwark Anti-Social Behaviour Unit is undermined by a lack of staff and resources. This team has insufficient capacity to respond to the numerous reports and complaints from residents in Southwark.
- d. Southwark has lacked the necessary ambition in regards to its community warden taskforce. Currently, there are only 22 officers dedicated to Estates and Town Centres across the entire borough. This is insufficient if Labour plans for this taskforce to have a meaningful presence amongst our communities.

Insert after section 1q:

- r. Violence against women is not limited to public spaces. The council must also provide support to those helping women at risk of domestic violence in Southwark. The council commends the fantastic work done by charities in Southwark, such as Bede House and Su Mano Amiga, supporting victims of domestic abuse.
- s. The council supports the 'ask for Angela' and 'ask for Clive' campaigns that have helped create welcoming and inclusive spaces for women and LGBTQ+ residents in venues across Southwark.

Insert after section 1y:

- z. Labour has overseen a huge reduction in youth services funding. From 2016/17 to 2017/18 the youth services budget fell from £2,701,104 to £1,469,513, a reduction of nearly 50%. This lack of funding undermines the good work done by the council regarding youth offending and must be addressed.

Insert after section 2f:

- g. Expand the community warden teams dedicated to town centres and estates to 25 officers each plus a team leader, with a view to

expanding that to 50 officers per team as a long-term commitment, ensuring the taskforce has a visible and positive impact throughout the borough.

- h. Review the Southwark Anti-Social Behaviour Unit with a view to increasing the size of the team in order to increase capacity for a currently over-stretched resource.

Insert after section 2i:

- j. In order to build on the success of the 'Through Her Eyes' campaign, instruct the cabinet member for community safety to visit schools throughout the borough in order to gauge the effectiveness of, and engagement with, the campaign amongst young people in Southwark.
- k. Work with schools, colleges, universities, and workplaces to ensure that consent and bystander intervention training are available as standard, which are known to be effective, and commits to offering such training to employees to set an example.
- l. Work with venues across Southwark to ensure they embody these values and staff are sufficiently trained to deal with vulnerable people, sexual violence and harassment, and associated offences such as spiking, and security and measures such as CCTV are adequate and effective.
- m. Undertake a review of street lighting to see where gaps and dark spots may exist across Southwark and for the improvements recommended in the review to be built into the Council's capital programme. Good street lighting will not just help people feel safer, but also make a valuable contribution towards improving their safety.
- n. Work with partners to ensure that non-contact sexual offences, such as voyeurism and indecent exposure, are treated as the serious crimes they are, with support for victims, full investigations, and early intervention for perpetrators, as these crimes are known to be associated with an escalation to more serious offences.
- o. Write to the Government to request funding into research into these offences and how they escalate and invest in local police forces to ensure they have access to the technology and other resources to enable them to link up related offences and catch perpetrators before their actions result in further incidents

Growing Up Free of Crime

- p. Back up commitments to supporting Southwark youth by restoring the youth services budget to £2.7m per year –

equivalent to the youth service budget prior to the 50% cut in 2016.

Renumber all paragraphs and sub-paragraphs accordingly.

ITEM 5.2.1: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Tackling second homes with council tax premiums (see pages 29-30 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT B

Moved: Councillor Richard Livingstone

Seconded: Councillor Kath Whittam

Delete all, replace with:

1. Council assembly notes that:
 - a. The UK is in the midst of a housing crisis.
 - b. As of 1 February 2023, Southwark had 17,509 residents on the housing waiting list. This is a national issue, and we as a council are determined to tackle it. Figures compiled by London Councils suggest there are currently 166,000 homeless Londoners living in temporary accommodation within the capital. Out of these, 81,000 are children, meaning one in every 23 children in London is homeless.
 - c. While thousands in our borough wait years for decent accommodation, those with means continue to buy up properties, reducing the housing supply even further and exacerbating housing inequality.
 - d. To the detriment of ordinary residents, London has become fertile ground for the development of 'investment properties' – destined to be second homes for, or left empty by, the lucky few who can afford them. In response, Cabinet approved the Southwark Empty Homes Action Plan in October 2021 to bring empty homes back into use and increase the supply of homes for homeless households in Southwark.
 - e. Our two best means to tackle the housing crisis are through our own council home delivery programme and through the planning process. Since 2010, Southwark has delivered, or started on site, 3,020 new council homes. Through the planning process, we demand at least 25% social housing in all new developments, as part of our overall commitment to 35% affordable housing, and this target has been exceeded in every quarter this year.
 - f. Southwark has one of the most clear and direct requirements for private developers, to ensure they build social rent homes, and since 2010 this had led directly to 5,024 new social rent homes being delivered or under construction in Southwark.

- g. Investment properties contribute the housing crisis. The council welcome the work already done to encourage developers to market new homes locally first, and the work to encourage developers in signing up to the Mayor of London's initiative to offer Londoners 'first dibs' on new homes in the capital.
- h. These are important steps, and more robust legislation is needed from central government to make it easier for local authorities to ensure that house builders market locally first.
- i. However, local authorities like Southwark cannot tackle the housing crisis alone. We need action from central government. Instead, the housing crisis has been made worse by 12 years of government failure. Notably, in 2010 the Liberal Democrat and Conservative coalition slashed funding for subsidised housing by 60%.
- j. By contrast, the Labour Party has committed to building a "new generation of council housing." Under a Labour government, the country would deliver more than 400,000 social homes, by building and bringing homes back into the ownership of local councils and communities.

2. Council assembly further notes that:

- a. The council currently applies the maximum allowable premium on council tax for empty homes.
- b. Thanks to lobbying from the Labour Party and local government, councils will be granted additional powers by central government to tackle second homes.
- c. Clauses 73 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill will allow councils to charge an additional 100% council tax premium on second homes.
- d. These additional powers will discourage purchase of second homes and bring in additional revenue for the council.
- e. Southwark must ensure residents now that it will use these new powers to the full effect as soon as they are implementable.
- f. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill does not go far enough in granting new powers to local authorities. The council has been lobbying for additional powers to tackle empty homes and to simplify the existing powers to make them easier and cheaper to use, such as empty dwelling management orders (EDMO) and compulsory purchase orders (CPO).
- g. Thanks to lobbying and campaigning from the Labour Party, there has been some movement from the government on this issue,

with potential changes to the application of council tax premiums to empty but substantially furnished properties, and potentially reducing the vacant period to one year from two before a premium can be applied. The council will continue to push for these new powers as the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill progresses.

h. Further powers are needed to tackle this issue. The government must introduce:

i. Simpler, swifter and more cost effective enforcement powers, such as simplifying EDMO and CPO procedures and allowing for community impact and housing need to be accepted reasons to seek enforcement actions.

ii. New planning powers to allow local authorities to revert property to local authority's affordable housing supply where it remains empty following completion. Current planning powers do not allow for planning consent to require homes to be occupied. If new powers are introduced the council would quickly implement these new powers.

iii. Greater flexibility over council tax premiums on empty homes – government should allow unlimited council tax premiums on empty homes and greater flexibility to enable local authorities to charge the premium on homes empty for less than 2 years. We will also seek further flexibilities to charge premiums on second homes and other furnished empty properties.

iv. Increased resources for grants and loans

i. The current council tax receipt revenue is all allocated into the general fund, and is assigned to spending that was agreed by the Labour group and the Liberal Democrat group of councillors at last month's budget and council tax setting Council Assembly.

3. Council assembly resolves to:

a. Continue to charge the highest possible rates of council tax on empty homes and second homes, and continue to lobby for the inclusions of clause 73 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

b. Carefully consider how best to use any additional revenue from the premium to improve the lives of Southwark residents and to tackle the housing crisis.

c. Lobby central government to introduce further legislation allowing councils to impose higher council tax premiums on empty and second homes.

- d. call for a general election at the earliest opportunity so that any future Labour Government elected would tackle the housing crisis through an expansion of council houses, and has committed to building a “new generation of council housing” and tackle the housing crisis.

ITEM 5.2.3: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – One year on, Southwark stands with Ukraine (see pages 32-33 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT C

Moved: Councillor Michael Situ

Seconded: Councillor Jasmine Ali

Delete 1.b and replace with:

1. b. Southwark is a borough of sanctuary for refugees and has welcomed nearly 500 refugees since the invasion began

Insert

2.
 - c. Southwark council provides tailored support to refugee's living in Southwark; providing regular welfare checks for guests, help with school places for children, registering with GPs, advice and support as needed on employment, benefits, access to housing in the PRS, opening bank account, referrals to other agencies for support where that is required including health and mental health.
 - d. Southwark Council also support refugee families with any other integration support that is needed, deal with any safeguarding issues that arise, arrange emergency financial support prior to people accessing benefits or employment, deliver support in finding new hosts or moves into other forms of accommodation where relationships with the original host do not work out. Alongside this, every individual or family has a named caseworker.
 - e. The Council is fully supporting host families in Southwark, ensuring quality accommodation and supporting families to make any changes needed, making thank you payments to hosts of £350 per month, and offering advice and support as required to hosts through the named caseworkers.

Delete section 3.a, b, c, and insert

3. a. Southwark council fully supports and carefully observes the economic sanctions brought against the Russian federation following its brutal invasion of Ukraine.

Delete 4.a and insert

4. a. Continue to support and carefully observe the economic sanctions brought against the Russian federation following its brutal invasion of Ukraine.

ITEM 5.2.5: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Local climate action bonds for Southwark (see pages 33-34 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT D

Moved: Councillor Margy Newens

Seconded: Councillor Sam Foster

Delete 'Local climate action bonds for Southwark', replace with 'Southwark Green Finance'

Delete all and replace with:

1. Council assembly notes that:
 - a. The commitment to 'launch Southwark Green Finance, to create new ways for local people and businesses to invest in making our borough net zero and expanding community energy' was a key commitment in the recent Southwark Labour manifesto. Southwark Green Finance can be a vital part in tackling the climate emergency.
 - b. The council's delivery plan sets out a timeline to scope out this project and consider different options, including climate bonds.
 - c. The Environment and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission is also considering climate finance this year and will issue recommendations to the council in coming months, based on evidence and testimonials from leading experts.
 - d. Southwark Council must prioritise tackling the climate emergency, dedicating sufficient funding and investment in positive policies that reduce emissions, improve air quality and promote biodiversity protection in Southwark and across the globe.
 - e. The Southwark Citizen's Jury on Climate showed us all the pivotal role the local community can and must take in the council's climate strategy.
 - f. 'Southwark Green Finance' can further engage residents in Southwark's approach to tackling the climate emergency.
 - g. Schemes like 'Southwark Green Finance' will allow residents, from Southwark or elsewhere, to invest their money in specific income generating projects that benefit the local community and have a positive climate impact.

- h. Investors can choose to give back the interest on their investments to fund smaller, non-income generating projects such as wildflower meadows.
- i. Our climate change agenda across the whole council is hugely ambitious and we are spending many millions of pounds across every part of the council to tackle the climate emergency. Climate action bonds may play a role in raising the capital for the project, but it is worth noting that a 1 million pound fund would represent a relatively small part of the funding needed to tackle climate change.

2. Council assembly further notes that:

- a. The UK's first Community Municipal Investment in West Berkshire raised £1m which was used in part to fund solar panel installation on public buildings.
- b. Neighbouring Labour Council Lewisham has just launched a Climate Action Bond, aiming to raise £1m for local climate initiatives.
- c. Labour-run councils Islington, Camden and local authorities around the UK have funded similar projects through launching Community Municipal Investment using the 'Abundance Investment' platform.

3. Council assembly resolves to:

- a. Launch 'Southwark Green Finance' in the next financial year, as a means to use community investment to tackle climate change.
- b. Determine which projects would bring the most benefit to each local community and reduce the most carbon emissions, ensuring decision making is both guided by science and informed by resident consultation via multi-ward forums, Southwark 2030 events and events such as the recent Southwark Climate Day.
- c. Reinvest any returned interest in socially and environmentally positive schemes around Southwark.
- d. Call for a general election at the earliest opportunity so that any future Labour Government elected would make Britain a clean energy superpower to create jobs, cut bills and boost energy security with zero-carbon electricity by 2030, accelerating to net zero.

ITEM 6.1: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Adjustment of member allowances in line with the national local government officer pay scheme 2022-23 and Member Allowances Scheme 2023-24 (see page 36-66 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT E

Moved: Councillor Victor Chamberlain

Seconded: Councillor Nick Johnson

Delete section 27 and replace with:

27. It is recommended that the following changes are made to the current SRAs:
- Revalue band 1b at £6,311, half way between 1a and 1c (currently £8,211)
 - Revalue band 2b to £24,025 (currently £25,665; £26,412 with the 2.91% uplift)
 - Regrade the community champion role to 1a (currently 1b)
 - Regrade the deputy mayor role to the new 1b (currently 1c)
 - Cease provision of SRAs to deputy cabinet members.
 - Regrade the chair of planning committee and chair of licensing committee to 1b (currently 2a)
 - Regrade chair overview and scrutiny to 1b (currently 2b)
 - Regrade scrutiny commission chair roles to 1a

The above changes amount to a total saving of £108,681 in the SRA budget compared to 2022/23 spend.

Insert after section 27:

28. Introduce a new cap on total SRA budget paid for cabinet member positions of £156,872 – equivalent to four full-time cabinet position SRAs in 2023/24 scheme.
29. Changes outlined in sections 27 and 28 amount to a saving of £265,553 per year.

Delete section 29 and replace with re-numbered 30:

30. The revised member allowances payments for 2023-2024 (i.e. from 1 April 2023) are as follows:

Basic Allowance	
All councillors	£12,736

Licensing sub-committee	
Per meeting	£140.57

Independent persons and co-optees (i.e. statutory co-optees to the education committee)	
Annual allowance (paid monthly)	£1,275

Band 1a	SRA
Vice-chair overview and scrutiny	£3,235
Chair audit & governance committee	£3,235
Deputy leader majority opposition	£3,235
Leader minority opposition	£3,235
Opposition whip	£3,235
Scrutiny commission chair	£3,235
Planning sub-committee chair	£3,235
Community champion	£3,235
Band 1b	SRA
Deputy Mayor	£6,495
Chair planning committee	£6,495
Chair licensing committee	£6,495
Chair overview and scrutiny	£6,495
Band 2a	SRA
Chief Whip	£16,866
Leader majority opposition	£16,866
Band 2b	SRA
Mayor	£24,045
Band 3	SRA
Cabinet member	£39,218
Deputy leader	£39,218
Band 4	SRA
Leader	£58,427

Renumber all paragraphs and sub-paragraphs accordingly.