

Council Assembly (Annual Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Annual Meeting) held on Saturday 20 May 2023
at 11.00 am at Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London SE1 9DA

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2022-23, Councillor Sunil Chopra,
The Worshipful the Mayor for 2023-24, Councillor Michael Situ

Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Naima Ali
Councillor John Batteson
Councillor Rachel Bentley
Councillor Cassandra Brown
Councillor Maggie Browning
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Ellie Cumbo
Councillor Sam Dalton
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Sabina Emmanuel
Councillor Natasha Ennin
Councillor Sam Foster
Councillor Renata Hamvas
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Ketzia Harper
Councillor Emily Hickson
Councillor Adam Hood
Councillor Laura Johnson
Councillor Nick Johnson
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Richard Livingstone

Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Kimberly McIntosh
Councillor Darren Merrill
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 Charlie Smith
Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Emily Tester
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 Sunil Chopra, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Mayor announced the sad news of the death of Coral Newell, free person of the borough and former councillor.

Councillor Richard Livingstone and councillor Rachel Bentley spoke in her memory.

The meeting took one minute's silence.

The Mayor 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.

The Mayor asked for nominations for Mayor for the ensuing municipal year 2023-24.

Councillor Kieron Williams, seconded by Councillor Evelyn Akoto, moved that Councillor Michael Situ be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Southwark for the municipal year 2023-24.

The nomination was put to the vote and it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Michael Situ be elected Mayor for the 2023-24 municipal year.

Councillor Michael Situ accepted the office of Mayor. The clerk declared that Councillor Michael Situ was duly elected Mayor of Southwark for 2023-24.

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

The new Mayor stated that he appointed his wife, Itunu Ajeigbe, as his Mayoress.

The new Mayor appointed Councillor Naima Ali as Deputy Mayor.

The new Mayor gave his incoming speech and announced that his chosen charities would be London Community Kitchen, Salem Academy of Music, and St Giles' Trust.

2. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

2.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Suzanne Abachor, Jasmine Ali, Esme Dobson, Jon Hartley, Esme Hicks, Sarah King, Richard Leeming, Alice Macdonald, Victoria Mills, Chloe Tomlinson and Joseph Vambe.

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 and extraordinary meetings of council assembly on 22 March 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

3. REPORTS FOR DECISION FROM THE CABINET

3.1 EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS 2023-2024

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly received a report from the leader on the following executive issues for the coming municipal year 2023-24:
 - Noted the appointment by the leader of cabinet members
 - Noted the appointment of 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 other delegations.

Appointment of the cabinet

2. 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 and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Refugees	Cllr Jasmine Ali
Health and Wellbeing	Cllr Evelyn Akoto
Communities, Democracy and Finance	Cllr Stephanie Cryan
New Homes and Sustainable Development	Cllr Helen Dennis
Community Safety	Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle
Climate Emergency, Clean Air and Streets	Cllr James McAsh
Council Homes	Cllr Darren Merrill
Neighbourhoods, Leisure and Parks	Cllr Catherine Rose
Jobs, Skills and Business	Cllr Martin Seaton

Deputy Cabinet:

Equalities	Cllr Natasha Ennin
Green Finance	Cllr Emily Hickson
Young People	Cllr Portia Mwangangye
Housing Allocations	Cllr Leo Pollak

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

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

Delegation of executive functions

4. That the leader reported on the delegation of executive functions between full cabinet, individual decision makers, chief officers and any other delegations.
5. That council assembly noted the leader's report on changes to the delegation of executive functions to the full cabinet, cabinet committees, individual cabinet members, chief officers and any other delegations.
6. That council assembly noted that as a consequence of recommendation 5, 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 2023-2024

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

Council assembly noted an amendment to the membership of planning small applications committee – Councillor Richard Livingstone in place of Councillor Victoria Mills.

Council assembly also noted an administrative error in the membership of the west central area multi ward forum, which should include Councillors Naima Ali and Ellie Cumbo.

There were four 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 vice chair of planning committee B was put to the vote, and it was agreed that Councillor Kath Whittam be appointed vice chair of planning committee B.

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 Rachel Bentley
Chief Whip	Councillor Jane Salmon

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

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

3. That council assembly noted that there is no change to proportionality and the allocation of seats on committees and panels as agreed by council assembly on 21 May 2022 except for changes to the planning committee as set out in the report.
4. That council assembly established the following committees for the coming municipal year 2023-24 and noted the amended calendar of planning committee meetings for the 2023-24 municipal year as shown at Appendix 1 of the report.

Table 2: Ordinary Committees - Total number of seats 42

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
Committee 1 Appointments Committee	7	6	1
Committee 2 Planning Committee A	7	6	1
Committee 3 Planning Committee B	7	6	1
Planning (Smaller Applications) Committee	7	5	2
Committee 4 Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	7	6	1
Committee 5 Corporate Parenting Committee	7	6	1
Total	42	35	7

Table 3: Other committees - Total number of seats 26

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
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Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11	9	2
Licensing Committee	15	12	3
Total	26	21	5

Table 4: Multi-ward areas

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

Health and wellbeing board

5. That the health and wellbeing board be established as a committee of the council under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
6. That it be noted that the leader of the council nominates the local authority membership. In accordance with committee procedure rules, the leader chairs the board.

Appointment of chairs and vice chairs

7. 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 A
Chair: Councillor Richard Livingstone
Vice-chair: Councillor Kath Whittam
- Planning committee B
Chair: Councillor Richard Livingstone
Vice-chair: Councillor Kath Whittam
- Planning small applications committee
Chair: Councillor Cleo Soanes
Vice-chair: Councillor Jane Salmon

- Audit, governance and standards committee
Chair: Councillor Barrie Hargrove
- Corporate parenting committee
Chair: Councillor Jasmine Ali
- Overview and scrutiny committee
Chair: Councillor Ian Wingfield
Vice-chair: Councillor Irina von Wiese
- Licensing committee
Chair: Councillor Renata Hamvas

Note:

All outstanding appointments will be referred to the first meeting of the respective committees in the 2023-24 municipal year.

Appointment of community champions

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

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

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

DEPUTY COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

	Councillor	Multi-ward area
1.	Sam Dalton	North-west
2.	Cassandra Brown	North-east
3.	Naima Ali	West-central
4.	Reggie Popoola	East-central
5.	Charlie Smith	South

Establishment of the council's panels

9. That council assembly established the following council panels (see paragraph 53 of the report):

Table 5: Panels - Total number of seats 16

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

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

10. That council assembly appoints a chair to the following panels:

- Constitutional steering panel: Councillor Maggie Browning
- Voluntary bodies appointments panel: Councillor Stephanie Cryan

Urgency committee

11. 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

12. That council assembly appointed three representatives and allocates the seven votes to representatives to attend the LGA General Assembly.

Councillor Kieron Williams	3
Councillor Jasmine Ali	3
Councillor Victor Chamberlain	1

Other appointments to joint committees/outside bodies

13. That council assembly noted the cabinet and other committees will make appointments to all other outside committees and bodies for the municipal year 2023-24 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 2023-24

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 James McAsh

Deputies

Labour nominations

Councillor Helen Dennis

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 Stephanie Cryan

Deputies

Labour nominations

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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 – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE/SAFEGUARDING AND SCHOOLS
- Labour nomination Councillor Jasmine Ali
7. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT
- Labour nomination Councillor Martin Seaton
8. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/BUSINESS
- Labour nomination Councillor Martin Seaton
9. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – COMMUNITIES, EMPOWERMENT AND INCLUSION
- Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan
10. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/BUSINESS
- Labour nomination Councillor Martin Seaton
11. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CRIME AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
- Labour nomination Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle
12. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ARTS/CULTURE, TOURISM, SPORT AND LEISURE
- Labour nomination Councillor Catherine Rose
13. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

INCLUDING ADULT SERVICES

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| | Labour nomination | Councillor Evelyn Akoto |
| 14. | LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HOUSING AND REGENERATION | |
| | Labour nomination | Councillor Helen Dennis |
| 15. | LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – PLANNING/ INFRASTRUCTURE/DEVELOPMENT | |
| | Labour nomination | Councillor Helen Dennis |
| 16. | LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER –ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (NOT COVERED BY NOMINATIONS TO THE TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (TEC), E.G. CLIMATE CHANGE, FLOODING ETC. | |
| | Labour nomination | Councillor James McAsh |
| 17. | LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – DIGITAL AND CONNECTIVITY LEAD | |
| | Labour nomination | Councillor Stephanie Cryan |
| 18. | LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – DEVOLUTION AND LEVELLING UP | |
| | Labour nomination | Councillor Stephanie Cryan |
| 19. | LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES | |
| | Labour nomination | Councillor Stephanie Cryan |
| 20. | LONDON COUNCILS LIMITED | |
| | <u>1 representative</u> | |
| | Labour nomination | Councillor Kieron Williams |

3.4 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

Councillor Ian Wingfield and Councillor Irina von Wiese spoke to the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly noted the scrutiny activity for the 2022-23 municipal year

as detailed in the report.

4. AMENDMENTS

There were none.

The meeting closed at 1.10 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: