

AMENDMENTS

ITEM 3.2: THEMED DEBATE – Giving our children and young people the best start in life

(see pages 23-29 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT A

Proposed by: Councillor Irina von Wiese

Delete “2. We are delivering excellent schools:”

Replace with “2. Southwark’s schools need council support:”

2.a – **delete** “is delivering”

Replace with “is aspiring to deliver”

After 2.c, **insert:**

- a. However, schools and nurseries across the borough are struggling. Funding issues, failure to provide sufficient affordable housing and falling pupil rolls have led to multiple closures with many more schools under threat.
- b. Southwark’s leadership has not provided sufficient support for schools who are struggling to stay open. Inadequate communication and engagement with schools named for closure or amalgamation have left teachers and parents in limbo.
- c. It is unacceptable that two separate schools had to appear at the Education Scrutiny Commission to highlight the lack of engagement from the council whilst they faced possible closure.

Delete “3. We are delivering free healthy school meals:”

Replace with “3. Southwark must expand free school meal provision:”

Delete 3.c. and replace with:

- c. However, the current proposals to expand provision to secondary school children from eligible families for just one year are insufficient and will lead to many vulnerable children falling through the cracks.
- d. Southwark must aim to provide long-term free school meals to all eligible children in the borough, in primary and secondary schools.

After 4.d, **insert:**

e. The council must be aware of the damage to young peoples' mental health caused by the pandemic, with 1 in 4 children aged 8 to 17 saying they are lonely.

8. delete "and Liberal Democrat"

After 8.b, **insert:**

c. Too many young people are growing up in poor quality, unhealthy or overcrowded conditions. These young people are being deprived of the best start in life due to the inadequate provision of affordable, good quality housing in Southwark.

i. Southwark has 3,520 households in temporary accommodation (second highest in the country) including 1806 with children.

ii. Over 17,500 households are on Southwark's housing waiting list.

d. The Conservative government's cruel two-child benefit cap has affected an estimated 1.5 million children and is forcing families into poverty. It is estimated that scrapping the policy would lift 250,000 children out of poverty, yet the Labour Party leadership has said it will keep the two-child benefit cap if they win the next election - keeping families and young people living in poverty.

After 10.o, **insert:**

"p. Commit to the long-term provision of healthy free school meals for all eligible pupils.

q. Improve support for struggling schools, ensuring no parents or teachers have to appear at a scrutiny commission in order to receive appropriate engagement from council officers and cabinet members.

r. Call on the UK Government to scrap the two-child benefit cap. Ask the Council's Chief Executive to write to each of the Members of Parliament representing areas within the borough, expressing the Council's support for the scrapping of the two-child benefit cap."

Renumber all paragraphs and sub-paragraphs accordingly.

ITEM 5.2.1: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Protect Southwark Parks from Anti-Social Behaviour (see pages 38-39 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT B

Moved: Councillor Sarah King

Seconded: Councillor Richard Leeming

Delete all and replace with:

Protecting Southwark Parks from Anti-Social Behaviour

1. Council assembly notes
 - a. We know how much residents value our award winning parks and green spaces. We will protect and invest in them, as well as creating new ones, ensuring that everyone has access to nature. Our satisfaction rates for our parks are between 90% and 96%.
 - b. Parks teams provide vital support to our many and diverse friends of groups and other volunteers throughout the borough, helping with planting activities, supplying materials and offering advice and supporting grant funding bids for park improvements. The average yearly number of volunteer hours delivered across our parks is 30,000, with thousands more hours delivered in other settings, green spaces, nature reserves and woodlands.
 - c. Groups are also consulted with as vital stakeholders for new development applications, park improvement projects, events and filming projects. We have a £35m capital improvement programme for our parks and a £5m tree planting delivery plan that will see Southwark exceed 100,000 directly maintained trees.
 - d. Developing strong relationships with “Friends of...” groups is key to fostering valuable community engagement, maximising the enjoyment of our parks and open spaces for the widest range of our residents.
 - e. We have a team of six officers who provide a vital service in tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) across our parks. Regular visits are undertaken to sites, issues are dealt with using a calm, friendly and educative approach. If necessary, further action is taken for breaches of parks bylaws or escalated to the police in order to tackle criminal activity.
 - f. We are very proud to have successfully retained all 30 Green Flag Awards this year for our outstanding parks and open spaces. This prestigious status stands as a testament to the

relentless efforts made by volunteers, community groups, park staff and our contractors Quadron/Idverde, in maintaining well-managed, safe and welcoming open spaces for park-goers.

- g. We are equally proud to have won the overall Good Parks for London award for 2022-2023 which has recognised outstanding performance and innovation across a wide range of criteria, including community engagement.
 - h. The grounds maintenance contract has recently entered a 3-year extension period with Quadron/Idverde following successful delivery over the initial 7-year term. Performance tracked through KPIs has consistently scored at above 95% along with positive feedback from members of the public, “Friends of...” groups and our other stakeholders.
 - i. At Nursery Row Park, a partnership between Parks, Parks Liaison Officers, the Safer Neighbourhoods Team and a mediator resulted in an improvement in ASB reported by residents living to the north of the park. The same partnership was reformed in response to the recent increase in ASB and reported criminal behaviour when a new group also became active on site. This has resulted in considerable resources being allocated to Nursery Row Park in attempting to resolve issues.
 - j. This model of collaboration is one we adopt across all of our parks, green spaces and other areas of public realm. All year round, we work to design out ASB, prevent crime and deliver activities in our parks that support the safety and well-being of all our residents in these natural settings.
 - k. We develop specific strategies to tackle ASB and crime for organised events of varying size and complexity in our strategic parks and larger green spaces.
2. Council assembly resolves:
- a. To continue to work with our Parks Liaison Officers, the Metropolitan Police Service and local residents to find a resolution to the issue of ASB in our parks.
 - b. To develop plans to improve areas of Nursery Row Park through capital funding; with the designs being subject to public consultation.
 - c. To invest in all our parks, providing large scale capital investment in sports facilities, new and refurbished playgrounds, improved open gym equipment and better walking and cycling routes to connect them to communities around them.

- d. To tackle the ecological emergency, by making our council the first in inner London to have over 100,000 trees, and creating more parks, woodlands, nature sites, wildflower meadows and community gardens. People, birds, bats and bees can all thrive in Southwark.
- e. To deliver even more high quality green spaces, working with local people to create more parks, nature sites, woodlands and urban planting. This includes brand new parks at Canada Water and off the Old Kent Road, and strengthening further through the council's response to the recent land commission.

ITEM 5.2.2: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Homelessness and rough sleeping (see pages 39-41 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT C

Moved: Councillor Emily Tester

Seconded: Councillor Victor Chamberlain

1. a. **Delete** 'and Liberal Democrat'

Delete 1. b, **insert:**

'the number of people sleeping rough in England has more than doubled under Conservative governments'

After 1. h, **insert:**

'that recent GLA figures show the number of new rough sleepers in Southwark is the highest since Covid'

Delete 2. b, **insert:**

'that Southwark Council has failed to uphold its 2020 commitment to being a Borough of Sanctuary'

Delete 2. c, **insert:**

'that at various times in recent history, focused government intervention has reduced rough sleeping, including during the 'everyone in' initiative during covid'

After 2. f, **insert:**

'That the council too bears responsibility for homelessness and rough sleeping, particularly with an ongoing housing crisis'

Delete 2. g and 2. h, **insert:**

'That boasting about housebuilding in Southwark is only spin, and the actual facts tell a different story:

- i. The social housing waiting list is still over 17,500
- ii. At current building rates, supply of council houses would not meet the waiting list until late next century
- iii. The only reason the council might appear at the top of any national league tables is simply that most councils are building few, if any, council homes at all

- iv. The former director of housing stated to a Parliamentary committee that the 11,000 houses target was unfunded
- v. Recent council reports confirmed that the housebuilding programme must be put on ice, as the HRA faces a £13.8 million deficit
- vi. Southwark has one of the highest rates of empty homes in the country'

Insert after 3. f.

- g. To not repeat in Southwark the shocking scenes witnessed in Camden of tents being crushed in rubbish vans
- h. To condemn in the strongest terms the rhetoric and policies floated by the former Home Secretary regarding people experiencing homelessness, which were not just offensive, but life threatening.

Renumber accordingly.

ITEM 5.2.3: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Ending violence against women and girls (see pages 41-43 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT D

Moved: Councillor Renata Hamvas

Seconded: Councillor Joseph Vambe

At 1. h, after 'year.', **insert:**

The video was accompanied by a poster campaign focused in three local areas disproportionately impacted by violence against women and girls. Since its launch in Q2 2022/23, the campaign has registered 396,400 social media views, surpassing our target of 200,000. The campaign has been circulated to all secondary schools and youth provisions in the borough. The campaign has been circulated to all Metropolitan Police Service Safer Schools Officers operating across London as part of a suite of materials delivered and is therefore available to 1,033 schools across the whole of London.

Insert new paragraph 2

2. Council assembly acknowledges:
 - a. After a consultation the council identified the five hotspots where women told the council they felt less safe. All five of these had an Environmental Visual Audit undertaken by a specialist design out crime officer and each of which now has an action plan of short, medium and longer term works. Not all identified lighting as an issue they include other works. The first audit to have works carried out identified lighting remedial works as an issue and these works are now underway, including LEDs and some upgrades designed as part of the capital programme. The council has also put in place enhanced patrols by council wardens and Anti-Social Behaviour Officers complemented by enhanced police activity. In addition to the audits, walk and talks have also taken place in the area with police and local residents to identify any concerns and deal with them. This area of work is included in the council delivery plan and regularly monitored.
 - b. The Safe Spaces scheme was launched in 2021-22, providing safe locations across the borough where victims of domestic abuse can access support services. The scheme was initially targeted at Children and Family Centres, primary and secondary schools. This year saw the expansion of the scheme to other community sectors including libraries and leisure centres, cultural and arts venues, places of worship, community venues. 48 venues have now signed up to the scheme.

- c. Southwark also launched its Safe Havens scheme jointly with Lambeth. The safe haven network is the first of its kind in London to cross borough boundaries in a joint bid to target harassment hotspot areas along their border. Staff at the 39 licensed premises and other businesses in both boroughs undergo bespoke training with the Safer Business Network, a crime reduction agency. Women who feel unsafe or have been harassed can get assistance at safe haven businesses, including staff helping organise safe transport home or calling family, friends or the police.
- d. The council developed the Women's Safety Charter, with venues in the borough. The charter is based on a number of key principles, which ensure that all staff working at licensed premises act in a responsible and supportive manner, taking all reports seriously, sending out a clear message that female harassment in their premises will not be tolerated.

Delete 3. b

Delete 3. e

Insert:

- e. Finish the roll out of upgraded street lighting across the whole borough to LED, which provides better quality lighting and helps to improve street safety.
- f. To ask the Cabinet to re-launch the Women's Safety Charter, encompassing a range of regional and nation campaigns, including 'Ask for Angela', to ensure an ever-evolving programme to tackle women's safety across the borough by delivering a robust and standardised training programme to licensed premises whilst at the same time, increasing public awareness on the topic.

Renumber accordingly.

ITEM 5.2.4: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Towards a greater provision of public toilets (see pages 43-45 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT E

Moved: Councillor Margy Newens

Seconded: Councillor Barrie Hargrove

Delete all and replace with:

1. Council assembly notes:
 - a. We are committed to improving access to public toilets for all our residents and visitors. This access is important to enable people to get out and about, shop, socialise and live life to the full. We are exploring ways to improve access to toilet facilities.
 - b. The council has created a directory and map of all the facilities currently available, including opening times.
 - c. We currently manage and maintain 33 public toilets across the borough.
 - d. Changing Places Toilets (CPTs) are fully accessible toilets that include a hoist, adult-size changing bench and enough space for people with complex care needs to receive safe and dignified personal care away from home. There are currently seven such facilities in Southwark.
 - e. From January 2021 a significant change was made to building regulations, requiring the installation of CPTs in any new builds or major refurbishment.
 - f. In April 2022, the Children & Adult Services secured £120,000 from the government's Changing Places scheme to increase provision in Southwark.
 - g. The funding is being used to develop provision in two locations, in line with feedback from key stakeholders.
 - h. The council reached out to local shops, coffee chains and other public buildings to join the Community Toilet Scheme. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown rules made it impossible to continue the work of the Community Toilet Scheme.
2. Council assembly further notes:

- a. In January 2023, the council committed to explore the costs and practicalities of providing free period products in all of the council's public toilets and buildings, including the town hall, libraries and community centres.
 - b. In April 2023, Corporate Facilities Management drew up plans to install free vending machines at 63 sites and work on this has begun. These machines cost £115 per unit. This includes six additional vending machines, which are being installed in the Tooley Street and Queen's Road Council offices.
 - c. Since April, the council has spent circa £7,500 per month on providing free sanitary products in council buildings.
3. Council resolves to:
- a. Open new CPTs at Peckham Pulse and Dulwich Park, and explore plans for other CPTs in Southwark
 - b. As part of our strategy to create a connected network of streets, provide additional facilities to support pedestrian journeys, including information on where to find toilets and other local amenities.
 - c. Explore ways to reinvigorate the Community Toilet Scheme, ensuring the way forward represents good value for money for the council and builds on existing relationships with businesses.
 - d. Continue the roll out of additional sanitary product vending machines in council owned buildings.

ITEM 5.2.5: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Southwark stands with the trans community (see pages 43-45 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT F

Moved: Councillor Stephanie Cryan

Seconded: Councillor Natasha Ennin

After 1. b, **insert:**

- c. Southwark Council is proud to have worked with our LGBTQ+ community and the Mayor of London to open an LGBTQ+ centre in our borough to serve our whole city. The centre provides a safe, inclusive, intergenerational and intersectional space run by the community for the community. Work is now underway to build a permanent LGBTQ+ cultural space in Blackfriars in partnership with the community.

Delete 2 c, 2. d, and 2. e, and **replace with:**

- c. Some people, including the government, have sought to create division in our community through the stoking of culture wars on LGBTQ+ issues.

Delete 3. and **replace with:**

3. Council assembly resolves to:

- a. Stand united with trans, non-binary and gender diverse people, assert that trans rights are human rights, and reject attempts to create division in our society for political gain.
- b. Call on national government to:
 - i. Introduce full, no loopholes, trans-inclusive ban on conversion therapy.
 - ii. Reform the gender recognition law. The current process of gender recognition is intrusive, outdated and humiliating. The government must introduce a modernised, simplified and reformed process, taking into account international evidence of what works effectively.
 - iii. Strengthen and equalise the law on hate crime to further protect trans people by extending the aggravated offences regime for all protected characteristics.
- c. Ask Cabinet to:

- i. Prioritise the delivery of permanent LGBTQ+ cultural space in Blackfriars in partnership with the community to open in 2024-25 financial year.
- ii. Work with Southwark's LGBTQ+ community to develop and deliver an action plan to address inequalities experienced by LGBTQ+ people in the borough.
- iii. Produce and implement an updated Equalities Framework for Southwark to further promote equality for all those with protected characteristics recognised under the Equality Act 2010.
- iv. Ensure this work addresses the intersectional inequalities that compound the impact on life chances for many people.
- v. Continue to ensure trans people have access to the services they need, including changing rooms, and homeless and domestic violence services, in line with the council's duties under the 2010 Equality Act, including the legal requirements for single sex exemptions.
- vi. Create gender neutral bathrooms in addition to single sex bathrooms in council buildings, and work with local businesses across Southwark to try and improve the provision of gender neutral toilets across the borough.
- vii. Ensure the council's equal opportunities, recruitment and anti-bullying and harassment policies make specific reference to trans equality and ensure that trans equality is included in all induction and training, including staff handbooks.
- viii. Ensure the council continues to take a zero tolerance approach to all forms of hate crime, including against LGBTQ+ people.
- ix. Encourage services across the council to be sensitive to the preferred pronouns of staff and residents.

Re-number accordingly.