

AMENDMENTS

ITEM 3.2: THEMED DEBATE – Southwark 2030: A proud history and a vibrant future: harnessing all of the strengths of our borough to deliver opportunity for all

(see pages 11-15 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT A

Proposed by: Councillor Rachel Bentley

Insert before paragraph 1:

1. Council assembly notes with concern:
 - a. Southwark Labour is failing to get the basics right in delivering for residents.
 - b. The recent peer review stated that the council needs to “collectively to get the basics of some aspects of service delivery right”.
 - c. Housing in Southwark has been in a protracted crisis.
 - i. The repairs service is not functioning, letting down residents and leaving vulnerable people in unacceptable conditions.
 - ii. Recent scandals relating to major works programmes, with millions overspent and unreserved apologies made to residents for a litany of mistakes, have destroyed resident trust in Southwark’s housing department and seriously damaged the reputation of the council. One in four major works have run over schedule and overspent, with overspending by more than £1m.
 - iii. Housebuilding has ground to a halt, with multiple developments being cancelled leaving residents in limbo and living on building sites for the foreseeable future.
 - d. Falling pupil numbers, caused in large part by the lack of affordable housing in Southwark, has caused a crisis for our primary schools and nurseries through which the council has wholly failed to properly support them. Multiple schools have reported an unacceptable lack of communication, openness and transparency leaving staff, parents and children in limbo.
 - e. Southwark Labour have failed to act with the urgency needed to tackle the climate emergency. Since declaring a climate emergency in 2019 the council has dragged its heels, only

spending half of the £25m climate reserve in the following five years. Southwark Council needs to move faster and invest more in green travel, retrofit and emission reduction.

- f. Southwark streets are plagued with litter and flytipping, leading to vermin infestations, accessibility issues and affecting residents' pride in their communities. Southwark was the seventh most flytipped borough in London and Southwark Labour have consistently to address this issue by enforcing the powers they have at their disposal, with just 2% of reported cases of fly-tipping resulting in a Fixed Penalty Notice.
- g. The quality of customer service under Labour in Southwark is appalling and getting worse due to the trend towards centralisation and digitalisation. Residents with serious issues find themselves unable to access the services they need. Southwark needs to urgently re-localise services to ensure communities can access support they need.
- h. Despite all these issues, Southwark Labour have made the insulting decision to spend a further £148k a year on a new spin doctor role. The new 'Director of Communications and Engagement' will serve only to promote the political narrative of the Labour leadership, diverting money away from efforts to solve the very real issues people face right now.

Insert before paragraph 2. a.:

- a. Treat residents with the respect they deserve by immediately ending the ceaseless self-congratulation and acknowledging the lived experiences of people in the borough who are struggling.
- b. Stop looking to the future and instead focus on getting the basics right in order to improve the lives of residents now, not in six years' time.

Delete paragraph 2.d and replace with:

- d. Immediately allocate all resources in the Southwark 2030 fund to projects and services that will solve the issues that are affecting peoples' lives right now.

Renumber all paragraphs and sub-paragraphs accordingly.

ITEM 5.2.1: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Back the Bakerloo Line Extension (see pages 38-39 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT B

Moved: Councillor Irina von Wiese

Seconded: Councillor Jane Salmon

Insert after 2.i

- j. That so far the councils of Southwark and Lewisham, Members of Parliament across Southwark, London Assembly Members, and the Mayor of London, have collectively failed to deliver on the Bakerloo Line Extension.
- k. That this failure has affected the viability of the construction of homes, with the UK Government being forced to step in to keep the Malt St redevelopment viable.
- l. That as of 2023, only 235 homes have been completed for social rent since 2016, an average of 30 a year. That's just 1.8% of the homes promised when the Old Kent Road Opportunity Area was designated in 2016.
- m. That pipeline figures are meaningless when multiple pipeline schemes intended to deliver social housing have been paused within both the Old Kent Road Opportunity Area (Lindley Estate), and elsewhere in the Borough. This is whilst the housing waiting list continues to climb to a record high of 17,700.
- n. That despite this, even the pipeline projects are nevertheless projected to miss the council's own target of social housing a proportion of affordable housing by twenty percentage points.
- o. That against a potential of 20,000 homes, a total delivery of just 708 houses does not represent success, and instead represents a failure to secure funding to realise the opportunity in the Old Kent Road.
- p. That the long-awaited "Bakerloo Bus" is not a sufficient replacement for the vital transport infrastructure that South London desperately needs and hasn't even come to fruition despite repeated promises.

Insert after 3.e

- f. To measure success by completed and pipeline projects as separate KPIs, with the overall impact on the housing waiting list to be the key figure to monitor.

Renumber all paragraphs and sub paragraphs accordingly

ITEM 5.2.2: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – A fair deal for housing in Southwark
(see pages 24-28 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT C

Moved: Councillor Emily Hickson

Seconded: Councillor Kath Whittam

Delete all, replace with:

1. Council Assembly notes the context that Southwark finds itself in:
 - a. In the context of a housing crisis, Southwark Council is building more council homes than any other local authority. Everyone should be able to afford somewhere they can call home. That is why we are focusing on building new council homes that Southwark residents can actually afford.
 - b. Building genuinely affordable homes is the way to tackle the housing crisis. That is why since 2014 we have built or started building over 3,000 new council homes.
 - c. The latest 'London Assembly Affordable Housing Monitor 2023' reported that there were more social rent and London affordable rent starts in Southwark than in any other London council since 2015.
 - d. The council works with external partners to ensure that social rent homes are delivered as part of every major schemes. This has led, directly, to the planning consent being granted to at least 14,985 affordable homes, including 9,623 social rent homes in Southwark since 2010.
 - e. We have a plan to deliver affordable homes for Southwark residents who do not qualify for social housing, and are working on pilots for Keyworker Homes and a Community Land Trust.
 - f. We are the largest social landlord in London, and look after 55,000 homes.
 - g. The council is always working to improve our housing stock, since 2010, we have installed 23,500 new bathrooms and kitchens.
 - h. Satisfaction with repairs is now up to 90%. Feedback from residents shows has been significant improvement in our repairs and maintenance service delivery over the past 12 months, continued implementation of our repairs service improvement

plan will ensure that this pace of progress continues as we head further into 2024.

- i. The council has created a Repair Improvement Residents Board, a panel of residents who can now get involved in making decisions about their home and estates to make improvements to our service.
 - g. One third of our residents live in privately rented homes; that is why Southwark Council introduced the Gold Standard Charter (GSC) which is a voluntary scheme that rewards landlords and managing agents who provide a professional level of service and good practice to their tenants in the private rented sector.
 - h. The council has now rolled out its Private Rented Property Licensing scheme, one of the largest in the country to protect residents in the private rented sector.
 - i. Whilst the challenges around Temporary Accommodation are significant, we have an action plan to address homelessness and rough sleeping, set out alongside our draft strategy published for Cabinet last month. Southwark has also introduced the Good Homes Standard for Temporary Accommodation and signed the London Mayor's Charter to End Rough Sleeping
 - j. We are committed to using all powers at our disposal to reduce the number of Empty Homes in the borough. The council will be extending the council tax premium in 24/25 to homes empty for one year or more, and to second homes. While there is more work to do, we are making significant progress bringing homes borough back into use and have developed a comprehensive action plan to use all the available powers to reduce the number of empty homes in the borough, in the continuing housing crises.
 - k. Last week, Southwark Council hosted the Future of Council Housing summit the first of its kind, bringing together the country's largest local authority social landlords, each managing around 20,000 council homes or more. The Summit will inform a major report, authored by respected housing policy, to be published in June. It will set out a comprehensive plan to fix a broken financial model and enable councils to play their part in addressing the national housing crisis.
2. Council Assembly further notes:
- a. What Southwark has achieved is remarkable against the backdrop of all councils facing extraordinary challenges in delivering and retaining council homes.
 - b. The UK is facing a national housing crisis; the scale of the challenge is huge. Across our country over a quarter of a million

people are homeless, with one and a half million more living in overcrowded homes. 1 in 23 children in London are living in temporary accommodation.

- c. In addition, almost one in five council leaders and chief executives in England surveyed by the Local Government Association think it is very or fairly likely that their chief finance officer will need to issue a Section 114 notice this year or next due to a lack of funding to keep key services running.
- d. Since 2010, Conservative and Liberal Democrat governments have taken political decisions, in the full knowledge it would directly impact local government and most importantly our residents.
- e. The Affordable Housing Grant was reduced by 60% in 2010 by the Coalition, making it much harder to build social rent homes without significant borrowing and private subsidy.
- f. That the increase in overcrowding and escalating need for temporary accommodation is worsened by the Benefit Cap agreed by the Coalition which makes it impossible for low-income families to access appropriate housing in the private rented sector in Southwark.
- g. The Conservatives, with their former Prime Minister Liz Truss, crashed the economy with the disastrous mini budget, and as a result, house building across London and the country has stalled
- h. There has been a significant reduction of income into the HRA when taking inflation into account as a result of 1% rent cap for 4 years, and then a 7% rent cap. This was right decision for our tenants during a cost-of-living crisis, but without central government financial support local councils are bearing this cost.
- i. Significant new spending pressure at approx. £100 million to works from Fire and Building Safety Acts on 180 high-rise buildings, again lacking any funding support from the Government
- j. The impact of the rent cap and the Building Safety Act costs alone will result in £40 million additional cost for Southwark Council in 2024/25.
- k. In contrast to this, in government Labour delivered a huge upgrade to homes social rent homes – through the Decent Homes Programme, over a million homes were improved between 2001 and 2010.including 810,000 new kitchens, 610,000 new bathrooms and 1,140,000 new central heating systems.

- I. Labour in government also presided over a halving in homelessness and all but eliminated rough sleeping
3. Council Assembly recognises:
 - a. It was right that residents of Devon Mansions and Canada Estate received an unreserved apology, due to the frustration and stress caused during recent major works, and the poor communications they received throughout the project. Labour ward councillors pushed hard for residents to be heard, referring these cases to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
 - b. A Task and Finish Group has been established, internal and external audits will be carried out, to put right what is wrong. This root and branch examination of what went wrong here will lead to changes in the Housing Team and how it operates, to ensure this situation never reoccurs.
 - c. The Council is committed to re-establishing trust with residents, dramatically improving communication with residents and to learn from these events. Residents' voices will be heard in the investigation process and residents are helping to appoint an independent surveyor.
 - d. It has been incredibly disappointing to have to temporarily pause the new homes schemes on four sites: Sceaux Gardens, Bells Gardens, Lindley Estate and Styles House. In addition, that the Council is committed to working with residents to bring forward short-term solutions for these sites, as well as viable plans for the delivery of new homes.
4. Council Assembly resolves to:
 - a. Make improving the condition of our council homes the first priority for the council, continuing to improve repairs and bring forward a new Safe, Dry, Warm programme
 - b. Continue to build more council homes, bringing forward plans to deliver the next round of our new council homes programme, including viable schemes on sites which are currently 'paused'.
 - c. Continue to use our planning policy to secure new affordable and social homes.
 - d. Campaign for Bakerloo Line Extension which would directly support an additional 10,500 homes in Southwark.
 - e. Deliver on building safety and fire safety work, ensure that our homes are safe and that our residents feel safe in their homes.

- f. Imbed the learning from Devon Mansions and Canada Estates, committing to re-establishing trust with residents and dramatically improving communication with residents
- g. Roll out more protections and support for private renters, extending our licensing scheme so landlords have to meet higher standards and funding free advice services so support is there if your landlord is acting unfairly. Campaign for further powers to regulate the sector including three-year tenancies and powers to control rents.
- h. Support homeowners affected by the Cladding Crisis, campaigning for remedial costs to be paid for by developers and will do everything within our power to fight for a fair deal so that leaseholders are not left bearing these costs.
- i. We will take a zero tolerance approach to rogue landlords and empty homes, using all the powers available to the council to tackle the worst offenders and campaigning for the resources and powers to bring more long-term empty homes back into use.
- j. Following the general election work with the government to Get Britain building again by reforming planning laws to kick-start 1.5 million new homes, transport, clean energy, and new industries in all parts of the country. Because cheaper bills, the chance to own your own home, and modern infrastructure are key to growth and the foundations of security.
- k. Call on the government to invest supporting local authorities in making future improvements to council homes, and use the finding of the Council House 20 report that will be produced later this year.

ITEM 5.2.4: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Protecting play spaces in Southwark
(see pages 30-32 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT D

Moved: Councillor Joseph Vambe

Seconded: Councillor Esme Hicks

Delete paragraph 1. f and **replace** with:

- f. The Southwark Plan 2022 policies P13-15 and P57 and London Plan 2021 policies D6, H16 and S4 set out the council's requirements in respect of design and open space. These policies are relevant for amenity space, play space and open space. Open spaces are an essential resource for residents and visitors and all development should ensure that there is sufficient amenity and play space in accordance with GLA guidance. Where the council accepts that the policy requirements cannot be met fully onsite, a financial S106 planning obligation is required in order to ensure that the impact of development is mitigated.

Delete paragraph 2 and **replace** with:

2. Council assembly further notes:
- a. The council has just completed an initial phase of an audit of all play provision in Southwark. This has identified 200 play sites, placing Southwark and one of the best provided boroughs for play in London.
- b. In recent years the council has made significant investment into play spaces, investing;
- I. £1.2 million at St Marys Churchyard Playground and Plaza,
 - II. £1.1 million at Camberwell Green Playground,
 - III. £680,000 at Nelson Square Playground and MUGA,
 - IV. £600,000 at Pullens Gardens Playground and park,
 - V. £500,000 at Southwark Park Playground,
 - VI. £4 million at Peckham Rye Park Playground and new playroom building,
 - VII. £1.5 million at Mint Street Adventure Playground and building,
 - VIII. £700,000 at Leyton Square Playground,
 - IX. £3.3 million at Burgess Park West Playground and park expansion and
 - X. £1.5 million at Dickens Square Park Playground and park expansion.

- c. Many playground improvements are instigated by active ward councillors who have access to Cleaner, Greener Safer funding and local CIL. They can and do use this money to prioritise the improvement of play spaces within their ward. Initial development and assessment studies funded by CSG can then ensure that well designed schemes can be consulted on with the local community and additional a or external funding found to deliver these improvements.
- d. Council recognises and is grateful for the efforts made by active ward councillors to improve play spaces in our local parks and housing estates. This can be done with initial funding from the Cleaner, Greener, Safer fund and local CIL.
- e. This is also done, by working with local community partners to support provision of better quality play space; in locations, the Council does not direct responsibility for. An example of this can be seen at Dog Kennel Hill Adventure Playground in Champion Hill ward.

Delete paragraph 3, and **replace** with:

- 3. Council assembly resolves to:
 - a. Complete the next phase on the 2024 Play Audit, which will include a detailed design and costing plan for priority play areas, and consultation with key stakeholders.
 - b. Continue to invest in our 200+ play spaces in parks and on estates.
 - c. Based on information highlighted by the Play Audit, work to secure funding for inclusive play spaces and equipment.
 - d. Based on information highlighted by the Play Audit, work to secure the funding for phase 1 for further playground investment, to encompass a range of possible actions from remedial improvements and better maintenance, additional and more inclusive accessible facilities or the full refurbishment of a site.
 - e. Establish clear prioritisation and delivery programme for further phases of playground investment and improvement.

ITEM 5.2.5: MEMBERS' MOTIONS – Improving inclusivity for people with dyslexia (see pages 32-33 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT E

Moved: Councillor Darren Merrill

Seconded: Councillor Stephanie Cryan

Delete all and **replace** with:

1. Council assembly notes:
 - a. The council has a duty to ensure all services and materials are accessible to everyone.
 - b. Dyslexia is a protected characteristic covered by the Equality Act 2010.
 - c. This year the council launched a new branding and visual identity that includes a guide to be used in all council documents on 'How to write in plain English' and 'Write accessible content for our website and intranet'
 - d. These contain information to ensure that all written documents and webpages are accessible to everyone.
 - e. The 'How to write in plain English guide' contains guidance on layout, headings and structure and writing style that reflect the much of the guidance within the Dyslexia friendly style guide.
 - f. Both the Dyslexia friendly style guide and Southwark's house style guide recommends:
 - I. The use of Arial typeface, no smaller than font size 12.
 - II. Avoiding the use of underlining and italics.
 - III. Avoiding the use of all capital letters and uppercase letters for continuous text.
 - IV. Using headings and styles to create consistent structure to help people navigate through your content
 - V. For headings, use a font size that is at least 20% larger than the normal text.
 - VI. Add extra space around headings and between paragraphs.
 - VII. Ensure hyperlinks look different from headings and normal text.
 - VIII. Using single colour backgrounds, avoiding background patterns or pictures and distracting surrounds.
 - IX. Using sufficient contrast levels between background and text.
 - X. Using dark coloured text on a light (not white) background.

- XI. Left align text, without justification.
 - XII. Being concise, avoiding using long, dense paragraphs
 - XIII. Using simple clear language and every day words.
 - XIV. Using bullet points and numbering rather than continuous prose.
 - XV. Avoiding abbreviations where possible
- g. The new house branding and visual identity does not currently offer specific guidance on:
- I. Inter-character spacing and inter-word spacing
 - II. The use of alternatives to white paper
 - III. The use of matt paper rather than gloss
 - IV. Using images to support text.
 - V. Giving instructions clearly
 - VI. Avoid double negatives
 - VII. Providing a glossary of abbreviations and jargon.

2. Council assembly resolves to:

- a. Implement the full roll out and adoption of the new style guide, continuing to make all staff aware of the guides
- b. Ask officers to explore how we could incorporate guidance on the areas within the Dyslexia style guide that are not currently referenced within the new visual identity guides
- c. Regularly review documents and webpages for internal and external use, to make sure that where possible, the house guide is being followed and that all written documents and webpages are accessible to everyone on the understanding that documents may need to tailored to be accessible to a specific audience.

ITEM 6.1: Proposed constitutional updates 2023-24: Council assembly procedure rules (see pages 34-74 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT F

Moved: Councillor Graham Neale

Seconded: Councillor Adam Hood

In report: **delete** paragraph 8.d

In Appendix 1:

CAPR 2.2: **Reorder** items l, m, and n to before items h, i, and j, such that "Time for Members to bring issues to assembly" is before "Themed Debates"

CAPR 2.7.2: **delete** "one hour", and replace with "30 minutes"

Delete CAPR 2.10.3

Renumber accordingly.

ITEM 6.3: Adjustment of member allowances in line with the national local government officer pay settlement and Member Allowances Scheme 2024-2025 (see pages 141-171 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT G

Moved: Councillor Emily Tester

Seconded: Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall

Delete paragraph 24 and **replace** with:

24. It is recommended that the following changes are made to the current SRAs:

- Regrade the community champion role to 1a (currently 1b)
- Cease provision of SRA for vice-chair of planning.
- Cease provision of SRAs to deputy cabinet members.
- Regrade chair of overview, scrutiny chair of planning committee and chair of licensing committee to 1b (currently 2b)
- Regrade scrutiny commission chair roles to 1a (currently 1c)

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

Insert after section 24:

25. Introduce a new cap on total SRA budget paid for cabinet member positions of £156,872 – equivalent to 3 full-time cabinet position SRAs and one deputy leader SRA in 2024/25 scheme.
26. Changes outlined in sections 24 and 25 amount to a saving of £304,771 per year.
27. Require all members in receipt of an SRA to provide an annual report on their work relating to their role for which they receive an SRA in order to improve transparency and ensure Southwark residents are getting value for money.

Delete paragraph 25 and **replace** with:

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

Basic Allowance	
All councillors	£13,766

Licensing sub-committee	
Per meeting	£148.62

Independent persons and co-optees (i.e. statutory co-optees to the education committee)	
Annual allowance (paid monthly)	£1,348

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.