



Council Assembly (Mayor Making/Annual meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Mayor Making/Annual meeting) held on Wednesday 22 May 2024 at 6.00 pm at Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London SE1 9DA

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2023-24, Councillor Michael Situ
The Worshipful the Mayor for 2024-25, Councillor Naima Ali Councillor Michael Situ (Chair)
Councillor Suzanne Abachor
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor Naima Ali
Councillor John Batteson
Councillor Rachel Bentley
Councillor Cassandra Brown
Councillor Maggie Browning
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Sunil Chopra
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Ellie Cumbo
Councillor Sam Dalton
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Esme Dobson
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Sabina Emmanuel
Councillor Natasha Ennin
Councillor Sam Foster
Councillor Renata Hamvas
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Youcef Hassaine
Councillor Adam Hood
Councillor Laura Johnson
Councillor Nick Johnson
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Richard Leeming
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor James McAsh
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 Catherine Rose
Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Joseph Vambe
Councillor Irina Von Wiese
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR

The Mayor of Southwark, Councillor Michael Situ, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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 2024-25.

Councillor Kieron Williams, seconded by Councillor Evelyn Akoto, moved that Councillor Naima Ali be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Southwark for the municipal year 2024-25.

The nomination was put to the vote and it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Naima Ali be elected Mayor for the 2024-25 municipal year.

Councillor Naima Ali accepted the office of Mayor. The clerk declared that Councillor Naima Ali was duly elected Mayor of Southwark for 2024-25.

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

The new Mayor stated that she appointed her daughter, Kafia Elmi, as her Mayoress.

The new Mayor appointed Councillor Sunny Lambe as Deputy Mayor.

The new Mayor gave her incoming speech and announced that her chosen charities would be Speakerbox, Action Aid, and Living Bankside.

2. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

2.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Ketzia Harper, Jon Hartley, Esme Hicks, Emily Hickson, Sarah King, Hamish McCallum, Victoria Mills, Bethan Roberts, Emily Tester, Chloe Tomlinson, and David Watson.

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 20 March 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

3. REPORTS

3.1 EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS 2024-2025

RESOLVED:

1. ***That council assembly received a report from the leader on the following executive issues for the coming municipal year 2024-25:***
 - ***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:***

Cabinet portfolio	Cabinet member
Leader	Cllr Kieron Williams
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Refugees	Cllr Jasmine Ali
Health and Wellbeing	Cllr Evelyn Akoto
Climate Emergency, Jobs and Business	Cllr John Batteson

Equalities, Democracy and Finance	Cllr Stephanie Cryan
New Homes and Sustainable Development	Cllr Helen Dennis
Community Safety and Neighbourhoods	Cllr Natasha Ennin
Council Homes	Cllr Sarah King
Clean Air, Streets and Waste	Cllr James McAsh
Leisure, Parks and Young People	Cllr Portia Mwangangye

3. ***That the leader reported to council assembly on the appointment of deputy cabinet members and determination of their duties and responsibilities.***

Deputy Cabinet members:

Supported Housing	Cllr Sam Dalton
Green Finance	Cllr Emily Hickson
Resident Engagement	Cllr Bethan Roberts
Neighbourhoods	Cllr Joseph Vambe

4. ***That the leader reported on the establishment of the cabinet committees:***

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

Delegation of executive functions

5. ***That the leader reported on the delegation of executive functions between full cabinet, individual decision makers, chief officers and any other delegations.***
6. ***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.***
7. ***That council assembly noted that as a consequence of recommendation 6, 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 2024-2025

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

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

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 Sunil Chopra 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 Leo Pollak 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 David Watson

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

Group	Members	%
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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 2024-25 and noted the amended calendar of planning committee meetings for the 2024-25 municipal year as shown in 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
Committee 4 Planning (Smaller Applications) Committee	7	5	2
Committee 5 Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	7	6	1
Committee 6 Corporate Parenting Committee	7	6	1
Total	42	35	7

Table 3: Other committees - Total number of seats 26

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
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
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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 cabinet member with responsibility for health 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:
- 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
Vice-chair: Councillor Graham Neale
- 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 2024-25 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.	Sunil Chopra	North-west
2.	Leo Pollak	North-east
3.	Jason Ochere	West-central
4.	Sabina Emmanuel	East-central
5.	Andy Simmons	South

DEPUTY COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

	Councillor	Multi-ward area
1.	Joseph Vambe	North-west
2.	Bethan Roberts	North-east
3.	Sam Foster	West-central
4.	Reggie Popoola	East-central
5.	Richard Leeming	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

That council assembly noted the cabinet and other committees will make appointments to all other outside committees and bodies for the municipal year 2024-25 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 2024-25

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 Kieron Williams**

Deputies

Labour nominations -

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 -

4. GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM

1 representative and 1 deputy

Labour nomination **Councillor Stephanie Cryan**

Deputy

Labour nomination **Councillor John Batteson**

5. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE/SAFEGUARDING AND SCHOOLS

Labour nomination **Councillor Jasmine Ali**

6. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

- Labour nomination** **Councillor John Batteson**
7. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – COMMUNITIES
- Labour nomination** **Councillor Stephanie Cryan**
8. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/BUSINESS
- Labour nomination** **Councillor John Batteson**
9. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CRIME AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
- Labour nomination** **Councillor Natasha Ennin**
10. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ARTS/CULTURE, TOURISM, SPORT AND LEISURE
- Labour nomination** **Councillor Portia Mwangangye**
11. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INCLUDING ADULT SERVICES
- Labour nomination** **Councillor Evelyn Akoto**
12. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HOUSING AND REGENERATION
- Labour nomination** **Councillor Helen Dennis**
13. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – PLANNING/ INFRASTRUCTURE/DEVELOPMENT
- Labour nomination** **Councillor Helen Dennis**
14. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
- Labour nomination** **Councillor John Batteson**
15. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – LICENCING AND REGULATORY SERVICES
- Labour nomination** **Councillor Natasha Ennin**

16. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – DIGITAL INNOVATION LEADS

Labour nomination

Councillor Stephanie Cryan

17. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – DEVOLUTION AND LEVELLING UP

Labour nomination

Councillor Stephanie Cryan

18. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

Labour nomination

Councillor Stephanie Cryan

3.4 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

The report was deemed to be formally moved. After debate (Councillor Ian Wingfield, Councillor Irina von Wiese), it was put to the vote and

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly noted the scrutiny activity for the 2023/24 municipal year as detailed in paragraphs 6 - 54 of the report.

4. AMENDMENTS

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: