

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	20 November 2024
Report title:	Creating Good Lives Together: Southwark 2030 strategy
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not applicable
From:	Rhona Cadenhead – Interim Assistant Chief Executive for Strategy & Communities

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Assembly approves the Southwark 2030 strategy (Appendix 1).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Southwark 2030 is an ambitious placed-based strategy that sets out our partnership vision for a fair, green, and safe Southwark where everyone can live a good life as part of a strong community. It is our plan for the borough, written jointly with the community and built on the views of people who live, work, study, and visit Southwark, and what residents told us they want Southwark to be and feel like in 2030. It will guide our strategic action as a partnership for how we will deliver on our shared ambitions for our residents and communities.
3. Southwark is home to more than 300,000 people, 18,000 businesses, a thriving community, and a world class cultural scene. Southwark's strengths are numerous, real and the envy of many boroughs.
4. Together with our partners, Southwark has much to be proud of. We are building more council homes than any other area, in just 2 years 3,000 new homes have been started and over 650 completed. Almost all children can access a high-quality education in our borough, as 98% of our schools are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. We've created more than 16,000 jobs and apprenticeship opportunities and doubled the number of local employers paying the living wage. We are the first inner London council to have over 100,000 trees, planting over 13,000 trees in the last two years, making our borough greener.
5. However, we know our residents face complex economic, societal, and technological challenges, and we need to do more to tackle the inequalities that hold too many people back from living a good life. Only 60% of residents agree that the police in their local area treat everyone fairly, showing we have more work to do to build trust in the police. Over 50,000 adults in Southwark

have a mental health disorder, and rough sleeping was up 70% in 2023, demonstrating our need to provide further support to our borough's most vulnerable residents.

6. The Southwark 2030 strategy, *Creating Good Lives Together* (Appendix 1), sets out our long-term commitment to help address these challenges, building on our strengths. We will focus on the areas that provide the foundations for creating a good life in Southwark; good jobs, good incomes, good health, good homes, a good education and a good environment.
7. The development of the strategy was supported by a population needs assessment (Appendix 2), which gathered data to better understand our place. This focused on our borough's economy, the shape of society and demography, the lives of our adults and children, housing, crime and safety, climate, and our environment.
8. This strategy has been developed through deep engagement and discussions with residents, community groups, businesses, and wider local partners. We have conducted borough-wide engagement to understand our residents' experiences of living in Southwark and their ambitions for the future, building on our strengths. The 18-month engagement process enabled over 2,200 residents to give us their views through information events across the borough, including events hosted by local organisations, youth services, and an online survey. Full details of the process and findings are set out in Appendix 3.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

9. The Southwark 2030 strategy was endorsed by Cabinet in July 2024. As the Southwark 2030 strategy is part of the policy framework comprising the Borough plan, it must also be approved by Council Assembly (as set out in Southwark's constitution).
10. Southwark 2030 sets out a vision to build a fair, green, and safe Southwark where everyone can live a good life as part of a strong community.
11. Southwark 2030 is founded on three principles that will guide our work:
 - **Reducing inequality** – we are determined to ensure everyone can access the opportunities, resources, and power they need to thrive.
 - **Empowering people** – we want to empower strength in everyone, growing skills, and resilience to enable participation and leadership.
 - **Investing in prevention** – we will invest our time, capacity, and resources towards early help so that residents can live empowered, healthy, and fulfilling lives.
12. We will deliver our vision by focusing on six goal areas, as shaped by the ambitions of our residents:
13. **Decent homes for all** – *People live in safe, well-maintained homes.*

A good home is fundamental to a good life. While residents told us they love

living in Southwark, too many struggle with the cost of a good home and worry that their children will not be able to afford to stay in the borough - since 2018, private rents have increased by almost 20%. This has meant that 17,000 households remain on council housing waiting lists and homelessness is back on the rise. We need to do more to ensure everyone in Southwark has a warm, safe, healthy home.

Our priority areas to deliver decent homes for all are:

- Improve the standards of council, social and private rented homes.
- Increase the number of genuinely affordable homes in our borough.
- Reduce the number of people who are homeless or live in overcrowded housing.

14. **A good start in life** – *Children and young people have a great childhood that builds on a very solid foundation for adult life.*

Residents told us that they think children and young people's lives have been disproportionately affected in recent years. This has been compounded with the devastating and lasting effects of the pandemic on key years of development. We also know that our children have more special educational needs than ever - the third highest prevalence in London. We want to be ambitious in the support we provide to ensure all children and young people benefit from growing up in Southwark.

Our priority areas to deliver a good start in life are:

- Support families to give their children the best start in their early years.
- Improve outcomes for children who face disadvantage, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Ensure all young people can participate in positive activities.

15. **A safer Southwark** – *Crime is low and people feel safe.*

Tackling crime and keeping our communities safe is one of the most important issues for Southwark residents. While progress has been made in key areas, residents remain fearful of crime in our streets, estates, and public spaces, and are concerned about the increase in antisocial behaviour (11% between 2022/23 and 2023/24). Partners are committed to support the Metropolitan Police's improvement plans, and to building greater trust in order to tackle crime in Southwark and keep people safe.

Our priority areas to deliver a safer Southwark are:

- Make our borough safer by tackling crime & antisocial behaviour hotspots and their causes.
- Reduce violence against women, children and young people.
- Improve trust and confidence in local policing.

16. **A strong and fair economy** – *We all benefit from Southwark's economic strength and growth.*

Southwark is an economic powerhouse in London, but the strength of our economy is not felt by everyone locally. Despite over 90% of jobs paying above

the London Living Wage, many residents are still struggling with the rising cost of living. We need to create more opportunities for local people to grow their skills, access apprenticeships and gain good employment, so that we can grow our economy in a way that is fairer to everyone.

Our priority areas to deliver a strong and fair economy are:

- Create even more good jobs and apprenticeships, and help Southwark residents into them.
- Support people out of poverty and low pay.
- Ensure our town centres thrive and serve our whole community.

17. **Staying well** – *People across our whole community can have good health and wellbeing.*

Southwark has some of the best hospitals in the world that provide globally leading treatment. But there are significant health inequalities within our borough, resulting in a gap in life expectancy of 11.8 and 9.8 years for males and females respectively from different parts of the borough. Many residents face challenges in staying healthy due to struggling to access healthcare and GP appointments, with particular barriers for those who do not speak English as a first language. We want to work with partners to break down these barriers, working to prevent health issues from emerging and escalating in the first place.

Our priority areas to deliver a borough where people can stay well are:

- Ensure every child and adult can get the mental health support they need when they need it.
- Help more people stay well, reducing inequalities in health across our community.
- Improve the wellbeing of people with long term conditions and disabilities and their carers.

18. **A healthy environment** – *Our environment is clean, green and healthy.*

Climate action is one of the most important priorities for our residents. There is a strong desire for climate policies that improve people's lives, such as reducing energy costs and protecting and enhancing our green space, without creating additional cost pressures in their lives. While much has been achieved, with a 46% reduction in CO₂e emissions over the last decade, we need to be brave and innovative to ensure a clean, green, and healthy environment for our residents.

Our priority areas to deliver a healthy environment are:

- Create more green space and biodiversity for our community to enjoy.
- Help people and businesses switch to healthy, clean and green transport.
- Make our buildings energy efficient with clean, green power.

19. We know that Southwark 2030 is just the beginning. This strategy sets out the strategic objectives for Southwark and we will continue to work with Council Assembly, Cabinet, anchor partners and residents to ensure we deliver its ambitious vision.

Policy framework implications

20. Southwark 2030 sets out the overarching policy goals and principles for our borough, so will impact on all wards and activities delivered by the council and our partners. It will set the strategic direction for the council, uniting the breadth of the borough's policies under a single set of goals. It supports transparent and open working with the people of Southwark, both through the collaborative approach to the development of Southwark 2030 and in continued discussions with stakeholders about delivering our goals.
21. As set out in the Cabinet report (July 2024), the implementation of the Southwark 2030 strategy will be taken forward through a Southwark 2030 Delivery Plan and Outcomes Framework for how all partners will deliver strategic action on our shared ambition for our residents and communities. This will also include a launch event in early 2025 and broader external engagement with residents and partners from January 2025, where we will share our approach to delivering this ambitious vision.
22. Southwark 2030 has also been developed in line with the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and we will closely monitor the interaction between these two documents, ensuring that ambitions set out in Southwark 2030 are realistic and that resources are prioritised effectively to support its delivery.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

23. Southwark 2030 is our shared vision for the borough, co-designed with our communities. We have actively sought engagement from a diverse range of individuals and communities to reflect the diversity of Southwark. We have also considered the socio-economic data as part of our Equality Impact and Needs Assessment (EINA). Our approach has helped us to ensure that Southwark 2030 can deliver for all of our communities.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

24. An Equalities Impact and Needs Assessment (EINA) report has been completed to assess Southwark 2030 against the council's Public Sector Equality Duty. The report can be found at Appendix 4.
25. Reducing inequalities is a core principle of Southwark 2030. This supports our Equalities Framework and builds on the progress we have made through our work on Southwark Stands Together. Through the delivery of the Southwark 2030 strategy, we will go further to tackle existing inequalities and ensure that everyone in our borough can achieve the best outcomes.
26. Any equalities implications will continue to be monitored as the delivery plan is developed. A further EINA will be completed for this purpose.

Health impact statement

27. This strategy has been developed with a focus on supporting improved health and wellbeing for Southwark residents. This has been prioritised as one of the six goals, and the goals also recognise the interaction between health and other priority areas, e.g. supporting children and young people, helping people to engage in our economy and ensuring people live in houses and an environment that supports better health outcomes.

Climate change implications

28. This strategy has been developed with a particular focus on supporting a cleaner and greener environment in Southwark and reducing our contribution to climate change. In particular, this will be supported by commitments to create more green space and biodiversity for our community to enjoy, improve green transport options and support our buildings to become more energy efficient and powered by cleaner energy.

Financial and resource implications

29. Financing of the strategy will be contained within agreed budgets and the £3m revenue reserve fund set aside for Southwark 2030. Following the approval of this strategy and alongside the development of the Southwark 2030 Delivery Plan and Outcomes Framework with our partners, we will determine the allocation of the Southwark 2030 fund.
30. The strategy also sets out the strategic framework for future resourcing decisions across Southwark which will be assessed and reviewed as part of the council's normal budget process.

Consultation

31. Southwark 2030 is our shared vision for the borough, designed by people who live, work, and study in Southwark. It has been developed through extensive and wide-ranging engagement and research to understand Southwark today. We have proactively sought engagement from a diverse range of individuals and communities to reflect the diversity of Southwark. Our approach has helped us to reflect the voice of our people and communities, centring this work on their needs for today and their hopes for 2030.
32. Specifically, we worked with our communities to co-develop this strategy through:
 - 8 in-depth conversation events with over 200 residents.
 - Listening events with over 750 residents. We proactively reached out to communities that are usually missed in consultations, and delivered listening events in different places and at different times to maximise inclusion.
 - An online survey with over 1000 responses made widely accessible through different formats.

- Testing what we had captured with three workshops, online surveys, and post boxes in public spaces to test what we heard and the themes and ambitions from the engagement activity.
 - Three partner workshops (with more planned to consider implementation of the strategy).
 - 10 detailed research groups with 70 randomly selected residents who were representative of the Southwark community.
33. Full detail of the consultation to inform this strategy is set out in the Southwark 2030 Engagement Report (Appendix 3).

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance (NBC 06/11/2024)

34. The Southwark 2030 strategy was agreed by Cabinet in July 2024. As this strategy is part of the policy framework comprising the Borough plan, it must also be approved by Council Assembly in accordance with Part 3A of the constitution.
35. The council is required under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination harassment and victimisation.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not.
36. As stated, an Equalities Impact and Needs Assessment (EINA) report has been completed to assess Southwark 2030 against the council's Public Sector Equality Duty. The report can be found at Appendix 4.

Strategic Director of Resources, (FC24/016)

37. The Strategic Director of Resources notes the financial implications set out in paragraph 28 and 29. The costs of the programme will be met from current agreed budgets, as well as through the normal budget process together with the £3m set aside in earmarked reserves.
38. The SDR acknowledges that the strategic ambitions are not fully costed as a lot of the vision will require collaborative working, input and funding from both the Council and other stakeholders and will require specific reports addressing funding amongst other things as each proposal is developed.

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Southwark 2030 Strategy
Appendix 2	Southwark 2030 Population Needs Assessment
Appendix 3	Southwark 2030 Engagement Report
Appendix 4	Southwark 2030 Equality Impact Needs Assessment

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rhona Cadenhead, Assistant Chief Executive – Strategies & Communities (Interim)	
Report Author	Tricia Boahene, Head of Strategy and Impact	
Version	Final	
Dated	06 November 2024	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director, Resources	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		07 November 2024