

<b>Item No.</b> 9.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 20 October 2010	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Motions	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (9), the member moving the motion may make a speech directed to the matter under discussion. This may not exceed five minutes without the consent of the Mayor.

The seconder will then be asked by the Mayor to second the motion. This may not exceed three minutes without the consent of the Mayor.

The meeting will then open up to debate on the issue and any amendments on the motion will be dealt with.

At the end of the debate the mover of the motion may exercise a right of reply. If an amendment is carried, the mover of the amendment shall hold the right of reply to any subsequent amendments and, if no further amendments are carried, at the conclusion of the debate on the substantive motion.

The Mayor will then ask members to vote on the motion (and any amendments).

## **IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION**

The constitution allocates responsibility for particular functions to council assembly, including approving the budget and policy framework, and allocates to the cabinet responsibility for developing and implementing the budget and policy framework and overseeing the running of council services on a day-to-day basis. Therefore any matters that are reserved to the cabinet (i.e. housing, social services, regeneration, environment, education etc) cannot be decided upon by council assembly without prior reference to the cabinet. While it would be in order for council assembly to discuss an issue, consideration of any of the following should be referred to the cabinet:

- to change or develop a new or existing policy
- to instruct officers to implement new procedures
- to allocate resources.

Note: In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (7) & (8) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which motions appear in the agenda may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

**1. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON** (Seconded by Councillor Michael Mitchell)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

**Free school breakfasts**

Council assembly notes:

1. The current administration's manifesto commitment to provide a "free healthy school meal" for every primary school child studying in the borough.
2. That officers are currently working on proposals and costs to implement this commitment.

Council assembly believes:

3. There is a considerable body of evidence, both academic and within the education profession in our borough, supporting the introduction of "breakfast clubs", especially in primary schools. This has mainly been driven by concerns that a substantial proportion of pupils are not eating breakfast and arriving at school hungry, impacting on learning and behaviour during the school day. Breakfast clubs have a wider impact in assisting pupils to arrive at school at time and provide a safe and calm environment before the school day.
4. Evaluations have taken place in inner city boroughs similar to Southwark (Camden, Haringey and Lambeth in particular) where schools participating believed that benefits derived were; children no longer hungry at the start of the school day, more focused on their work, improved punctuality and less unauthorised absences. It was also concluded that the introduction of a "breakfast club" in schools in deprived neighbourhoods was associated with an improvement in pupils' Key Stage 2 average point score.

Council assembly therefore requests the cabinet:

5. Many of our schools in Southwark have different needs and circumstances. It is often the headteachers, the education professionals at each school, who best understand the needs of their schools pupils rather than politicians.
6. In taking forward its proposals to introduce a "free healthy school meal" for every primary school child, to consult the headteachers' forum and individual schools on whether they would prefer the funding allocated to their school to be spent on providing a "free school breakfast".

**Note:** If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

**2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI** (Seconded by Councillor Paul Noblet)

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

**Labour's broken election pledges**

1. Council assembly notes the following promises made to Southwark residents by Labour in opposition before May 2010's elections:
  - 1) A commitment to save Maydew House.
  - 2) A commitment to build thousands of affordable homes at the Elephant and Castle.
  - 3) A commitment to include a new leisure centre at the Elephant and Castle, including the provision of a new swimming pool and a like-for-like replacement of existing facilities.
  - 4) A commitment to retain Southwark's historic town halls for council use.
  - 5) A commitment to continue with Liberal Democrat plans to refurbish Southwark Park Athletics Track.
  - 6) A commitment to keep council tax rises at or below inflation.
  - 7) A commitment to introduce universal free, healthy school meals for primary school children by 2014.
  - 8) A commitment to cut the council's communications budget.
2. Council recognises that the failure of the previous Labour government's economic policies, that saw the UK build up a record peacetime deficit, means the council faces a reduction in central government funding over the next few years.
3. Council assembly welcomes the comments by the new Labour leader Ed Miliband that "there will be cuts, and there would have been if we had been in government. Some of them will be painful, and would have been if we were in government. I won't oppose every cut."
4. Council assembly further notes with concern that:
  - 1) The cabinet has been unwilling to guarantee a future for Maydew House under council ownership and its only achievement has been to agree the forced removal of Maydew tenants, without a guaranteed right of return.
  - 2) Labour's deal at the Elephant and Castle reportedly cost the council in reduced capital receipts compared to the draft deal with the previous Liberal Democrat-led administration, and will only deliver a guaranteed 25% affordable housing, or around 600 affordable homes for rent – half the number that currently exist on the Heygate.
  - 3) Despite the longstanding wish of local residents for a new and improved leisure centre at the Elephant & Castle, Labour have decided to embark on a poorly managed and costly consultation exercise which does not even include options for the much-used, and revenue generating, squash courts.
  - 4) The administration is considering options to sell-off Southwark's historic town halls, which could mean the closure of the current Bermondsey One Stop Shop and block any future plans to improve Newington Reference Library.

- 5) Labour's inaction on the refurbishment of Southwark Park Athletics Track has led to Sport England withdrawing their funding, leaving the whole project in severe jeopardy and setting back Southwark's plans for an Olympic legacy.
  - 6) The pledge to introduce universal free and healthy school meals for every primary school child and the expectation of the leader that they would be in place for year one in September have not been met and there is no indication from the current Labour administration that this pledge will ever be fulfilled.
5. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to confirm its commitment to keeping council tax increases to the level of inflation or below and to reducing the council's communications budget.
  6. In light of the slow progress on delivery of its pledges and its abandonment of other key pledges, council assembly calls on the Labour administration to:
    - 1) come clean with Southwark's residents and admit that they over-promised, despite knowing that there would be cuts in central government funding regardless of who won the general election.
    - 2) immediately implement a reduction of 10% in special responsibility allowances (SRAs) for all cabinet members to reflect their poor performance in delivering on their promises.

**Note:** If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration. Any proposals on SRAs will be submitted to the constitutional steering panel for consideration.

### **3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON (Seconded by Councillor Eliza Mann)**

Please note that, in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (6), council assembly shall consider this motion.

#### **Thames Water sewage tunnel**

1. Council assembly notes the proposal by Thames Water to close Kingstairs gardens for seven years and the Alfred Salter playground, Druid Street, for two years for the construction of the new Thames Tunnel.
2. Council assembly further notes that if the Thames Water proposals go ahead both sites will be used to construct massive permanent sewage ventilation towers with significant loss of local green space and residential amenity.
3. Council assembly supports the Thames Tunnel scheme, but believes these two sites – which provide welcome recreational and green spaces in some of the most densely populated parts of the capital – are entirely inappropriate for the task of constructing a major infrastructure project.
4. Council requests that the cabinet calls on Thames Water to find less environmentally damaging alternative sites and make every effort to convince them of this case.

**Note:** If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Member Motions	Town Hall Peckham Road London SE5 8UB	Constitutional Team 020 7525 7228

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager
<b>Report Author</b>	Sean Usher, Constitutional Officer
<b>Version</b>	Final
<b>Dated</b>	7 October 2010