

Item No. 19.	Classification: Open	Date: 20 September 2011	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Motions Referred from Council Assembly	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the cabinet considers the motions set out in the appendices attached to the report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Council assembly at its meeting on Wednesday, 6 July 2011 agreed a number of motions and these stand referred to the cabinet for consideration.
3. The cabinet is requested to consider the motions referred to it. Any proposals in a motion are treated as a recommendation only. The final decisions of the cabinet will be reported back to the next meeting of council assembly. When considering a motion, cabinet can decide to:
 - Note the motion; *or*
 - Agree the motion in its entirety, *or*
 - Amend the motion; *or*
 - Reject the motion.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9(6), the attached motions were referred to the cabinet. The cabinet will report on the outcome of its deliberations upon the motions to a subsequent meeting of council assembly.
5. The constitution allocates responsibility for particular functions to council assembly, including approving the budget and policy framework, and to the cabinet for developing and implementing the budget and policy framework and overseeing the running of council services on a day-to-day basis.
6. Any key issues, such as policy, community impact or funding implications are included in the advice from the relevant chief officer.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Motions submitted in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (6).	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Lesley John Constitutional Team 020 7525 7228

APPENDICES

Number	Title
Appendix 1	Motion on themed debate: Achievements of Southwark's young people
Appendix 2	Homes for families
Appendix 3	Southwark's housing investment programme
Appendix 4	Protecting Southwark Park

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	8 September 2011	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Environment & Leisure	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Children's Services	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Housing Services	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	8 September 2011	

APPENDIX 1

Motion on themed debate: Achievements of Southwark's young people

At council assembly on Wednesday 6 July 2011 a motion on the achievements of Southwark's young people was moved by Councillor Veronica Ward and seconded by Councillor Renata Hamvas. The motion was agreed and stands referred to the cabinet as a recommendation.

Recommendation

1. That council assembly recognises and celebrates the achievements of Southwark's children and young people; their sporting achievements; their improving attainment including record GCSE results; their contribution to the arts especially music and drama and their contribution to our communities.
2. That it be noted that this administration's support for young people includes free healthy school meals for primary school children, keeping all our children's centres open, setting up a £3 million Youth Fund and setting up a Teenage Pregnancy Commission. This council also notes the investment put into our leisure centres and this administration's commitment to a leisure centre at the Elephant and Castle and to a continuation of community games despite financial constraints.
3. That council assembly believes that sports can make a significant difference to the lives of young people and that it delivers a wide range of benefits, from improving young people's health to encouraging team working and embedding discipline. It is a core offer for all our young people, as well as an important element of our targeted interventions for vulnerable young people.
4. That council assembly notes the significant reductions in funding for sports made by government:
 - Withdrawal of free school swimming
 - Withdrawal of funding to the School Sports Partnership
 - Withdrawal of funding available to the council and to national sporting bodies to support community led sport.
5. That council assembly believes that despite these cuts it is vitally important that the council continues to ensure that young people in Southwark have access to sport and sporting opportunities.
6. That council assembly notes the focus of the debate as outlined to all councillors in advance:
 - Showcasing the talents and potential of young people in Southwark
 - What sport means to young people, and the capacity of sport to open pathways to broader opportunities and achievements
 - How different sectors and partners can work together at a time when budgets are tight to maximise provision and access to sport for young people.

7. That council assembly believes that securing future sporting opportunities in Southwark require the following questions to be discussed:
 - How can the council continue to ensure that young people have access to sport and sporting opportunities, with little direct funding, by working with the voluntary, community, educational and private sectors?
 - How can the council work to make sure that all resources available for sport, both facilities and available funding, are maximised across all departments and communities?
 - What are the most effective ways that the council can use its limited resources to encourage young people to get involved in sport?
8. That council assembly calls on the cabinet to note the content of the debate and points raised to feed into a review of the council's sports strategy which runs to 2013.

Comments of the Strategic Director of Environment & Leisure

Although it is clear that times are challenging, the Community Sport Team will continue to work with clubs and a range of public and private sector partners to build capacity; bring in whatever funding is available and ensure that work is co-ordinated and efforts are maximised.

The Council will also continue to work with 'Proactive Southwark', the local County Sports Partnership. The Partnership brings together all the major providers of sport and physical activity in strategic and service delivery groups. Members include: Sport and Leisure, Children's Services and Regeneration representatives from the Council as well as schools; local community sports providers (eg Millwall, Salmon); the PCT; Southbank University; Fusion; Community Action Southwark; 'Interactive' (which promotes sport for people with disabilities); the Chamber of Commerce and others.

Involving young people in sport and maintaining their interest is a major focus of all the partners in Proactive Southwark, not least the Council's own Community Sports Team. Work streams are specifically aimed at finding ways in which children can be engaged in good quality, well-delivered and enjoyable physical activity programmes which will encourage them to join in school-based competitions and/or out of school. Examples of this include the Southwark Community Games (delivered in schools and on estates) and the London Youth Games. The various partners are also involved in the promotion of coach education and volunteering so that children who wish to develop their interest in sport by joining a club find people there ready to guide and instruct them. Other efforts are geared at ensuring that children are not excluded by virtue of disability and that there are also opportunities for those who wish to be involved in alternative types of physical activity (eg dance; street games or active travel).

In addition to this, one of the key work streams in the Council's Olympics work programme focuses on young people, delivering opportunities for them to gain volunteering experience, to attend the Olympics as spectators and to make continued use of facilities that will be improved or provided as part of the Capital Legacy programme. This work stream involves close working between Leisure and Well-being, the Youth Service, other Council services and community organisations.

Fusion, the Council's leisure management contractor, also offers a wide programme of activity to Southwark's young people with specific youth provision being planned at Camberwell, swimming lessons for young people at the Council's pools, part funding of the Community Games programme, links with schools and pricing policies enabling young people to access services at low cost.

Comments of the Strategic Director of Children's Services

Children's Services, too, continues to provide a wide range of opportunities including sports as well as arts and drama through its youth service. Despite reductions in funding, we are committed to ensuring that our children and young people have the best opportunities to thrive and we will continue to strive to offer good quality youth provision that meets their needs. This involves working with partners including the voluntary and community sector to maximise available resources and use these as effectively and efficiently as possible. For example, the Damilola Taylor Centre continues to provide both excellent sporting opportunities and sporting facilities for young people from across the borough, with up to 100 young people attending these activities on a daily basis throughout the summer holidays. In addition, we have invested in expanding the range of facilities including the Belair Park Recreation Rooms and Camberwell Baths youth wing, with the former already now providing high-quality outdoor sporting opportunities, and the latter due to open shortly.

Homes for Families

At council assembly on Wednesday 6 July 2011 a motion on homes for families was moved by Councillor Rosie Shimell and seconded by Councillor. Michael Bukola. The motion was subsequently amended and the amended motion stands referred to the cabinet as a recommendation.

Recommendation

1. That council agrees that good quality housing can play an important role in shaping the future, health and well-being of young people in our borough.
2. That council therefore regrets the actions of the Tory Liberal Democrat government to threaten Southwark tenants security of tenure, cut Southwark's housing revenue account, halve the amount of decent homes funding Southwark is to receive, cap housing benefit and introduce rents of up to 80% of market value, making many properties unaffordable to people living in the borough – all of which will impact upon the future health, happiness and well-being of young people in our borough.
3. That council also regrets the failure of the previous Liberal Democrat administration to set out a coherent housing programme that addressed the needs of people in Southwark and was based on spending money that was not available to the council at the time.
4. That council welcomes the current administration's pledges to; make every council home warm, dry and safe by 2014/15, and believes the new housing investment programme will help to secure a better future for our young people by bringing every Southwark home up to a decent standard, by letting tenants know when they can expect improvements and by being based on funding available to the council to ensure that it is actually delivered unlike the previous Liberal Democrat administration's disastrous programme.

Comments of the Strategic Director of Housing Services

The Cabinet agreed a revised housing investment strategy on 31 May 2011 which replaced the interim Southwark Decent Homes standard with the Government's Decent homes standard. Approval was also given to a minimum housing investment programme of major works to the value of £326.5m over the next five years to ensure that the council's homes were invested in to make them warm, dry and safe. Consultation on the draft five year programme has been in progress since June 2011. Feedback has been from individual residents, T&RAs, and Area Forums and were analysed during August 2011 before consulting with the Decent Homes Review working party and Tenants Council and Homeowners Council to get their feedback. Any resulting changes will be made to the draft programme which will then be the subject of a report to be considered by the Cabinet in October 2011. When the programme is confirmed, detailed surveys will be undertaken for each package of works and there will be scheme specific consultation with residents.

Southwark's housing investment programme

At council assembly on Wednesday 6 July 2011 a motion on Southwark's housing investment programme was proposed by Councillor Ian Wingfield and seconded by Councillor Gavin Edwards. The motion was agreed and stands referred to the cabinet as a recommendation.

Recommendation

1. That council assembly welcomes the council's key pledge to make every home in Southwark warm, dry and safe by 2014-2015.
2. That council assembly also welcomes the council's proposed new housing investment programme of major works to the value of £326.5m over the next 5 years which will ensure that the council's homes meet the government's decent homes standard and the reestablishment of a separate housing department.
3. That council assembly regrets the previous administration's wasteful and inefficient housing programme which created uncertainty among tenants and leaseholders about when their decent homes works would be done; was based on a commitment that could never be delivered within the funding available to the council and did not offer a solution for all of the council's housing stock or meet central government requirements.
4. That council assembly also regrets that the Conservative/Liberal Democrat government has cut Southwark's housing revenue account by nearly £7 million this year, has only provided half the amount of decent homes funding that was bid for and that the allocation is back-ended in the final two years.
5. That council assembly notes that Southwark's housing revenue account will face a deficit as a result of Conservative/Liberal Democrat government cuts.
6. That council assembly calls on the cabinet and relevant cabinet members:
 - a) To ensure that all of the council's homes are made warm, dry and safe by 2014-15.
 - b) To develop a longer-term sustainable strategy for our housing stock.
 - c) To look at ways to maximise the level of resources available for investment, including savings through new major works contracts, limited disposal of voids, external funding sources and self-financing regeneration options.

Comments of the Strategic Director of Housing Services

The Cabinet agreed a revised housing investment strategy on 31 May 2011 which replaced the interim Southwark Decent Homes standard with the Government's Decent homes standard. Approval was also given to a minimum housing investment programme of major works to the value of £326.5m over the next five years to ensure that the council's homes were invested in to make them warm, dry and safe. Consultation on the draft five year programme is nearing completion and a report to confirm the new programme will be considered by the Cabinet in October.

It was also decided that arrangements should be made for the new Head of Major Works to come back to Cabinet with detailed proposals to develop and agree a 30 year asset management plan. Initial work has begun on this process in the Housing Services Department; it is estimated that the plan should be in place by April 2012 to coincide with the start of delivery of the 5 year programme.

The projected funding for the 5 year programme has been identified based on realistic assumptions about the various streams available, and also the improvements that can be gained in efficiency and cost in the delivery of the programme on the ground. Traditionally, the housing investment programme (HIP) has been delivered in any one year to the full extent of the resources available. The new major works partnering contracts have been geared to respond if additional resources can be made available, and to be more flexible over time. One significant resource strand, the government's Decent Homes backlog funding, is yet to benefit the HIP, but confirmation has been received from CLG that the year 2 (2012/13) allocation to Southwark will be made available as grant rather than as an adjustment to debt.

Protecting Southwark Park

At council assembly on Wednesday 6 July 2011 a motion on protecting Southwark Park was proposed by Councillor Jeff Hook and seconded by Councillor Paul Noblet. The motion was agreed and motion stands referred to the cabinet as a recommendation.

Recommendation

1. That council assembly emphasises the significant environmental, social and community value of the green spaces in our borough.
2. That council assembly notes with regret and concern the suggestions over the last year for tunnels, holes and pipes in Southwark Park.
3. That council assembly and the cabinet clearly state to UK Power Networks that Southwark Park is not a suitable site for their proposals.
4. That councillors and the cabinet work with UK Power Networks to find an alternative brownfield site for their proposals.

Comments of the Deputy Chief Executive

UK Power Network Services approached the council for pre-application planning advice on 25 March 2011, with additional information provided on 26 April 2011. The proposal was for an access shaft in Southwark Park to construct a tunnel 2.8 metres in diameter 25 metres below the ground. A works compound of approximately 4500 square metres was proposed.

Many elements of power supply infrastructure fall within permitted development, such as the tunnel itself, and are therefore not subject to control by the local planning authority. Planning permission is, however, required for the works compound and the follow up remedial landscaping works.

Officers met UK Power Networks in May 2011 and subsequently gave written advice. There were some fundamental land use policy objections to the proposal - the key one being saved policy 3.25 of the Southwark Plan on metropolitan open land. In addition, the disturbance to residents arising from the 24 hour working close to their houses and flats was a major concern. Officers advised that they were not satisfied that this site has been selected after a proper evaluation of alternative options, including a different tunnel route, which may offer less sensitive locations for the works compound. As a result, it was likely that an application for planning permission would be refused.

There has not been any further follow-up contact from UK Power Networks following the issuing of the written advice.