

SOUTHWARK BUDGET PRINCIPLES

1. At a time of unprecedented cuts proposed by central government, the 2011 Southwark budget should continue to prioritise the commitments made by the Cabinet at its first meeting as a new administration in June and its vision to create a fairer future for all by promoting social and economic equality in an economically vibrant borough.
2. We recognise that some services currently provided by the council may be lost, and some may change. However, we will do all that we can to protect our front-line services and support our most vulnerable residents.
3. We will ensure that the services which the council delivers provide value for money, value for council tax payers and contribute towards delivering our vision of creating a fairer future for all in Southwark.
4. We will explore alternative ways of providing a service prior to proposing any cut or reduction. This will include talking to partner organisations, the voluntary sector, the trade unions, the business community and other local authorities.
5. We will be transparent with any specific group or groups of users who may be affected by any cut or reduction in service provision as soon as possible and explore with them other ways to provide the service. We will conduct an equalities impact assessment for our budget proposals.
6. Before proposing any cut or reduction we will have a clear and comprehensive explanation for why that service should be cut, reduced or no longer provided by the council, and this explanation should be capable of being subject to robust challenge.
7. Budget proposals should be based on a three year approach and should have regard to innovative ways of providing services and maintaining employment in the borough.

Agreed by Cabinet on 21 September 2010

A Fairer Future for All

1. Provide improved value for money and keep council tax increases below inflation.
2. Work with residents and the police to make the borough safer for all by cracking down on antisocial behaviour and implementing our new violent crime strategy.
3. Deliver the first three years of our five year plan to make every council home warm, dry and safe.
4. Improve our customer service with more online services, including delivery of a better housing repairs service, independently verified by tenants.
5. Introduce free healthy school meals for all primary school pupils, and champion improved educational attainment for our borough's children.
6. Support vulnerable people to live independent, safe and healthy lives by giving them more choice and control over their care.
7. Encourage healthy lifestyles by transforming Burgess Park, opening a new swimming pool at Elephant and Castle and awarding £2m to local projects to leave a lasting Olympic legacy.
8. Open Canada Water library in autumn 2011, open a library in Camberwell and conduct a thorough review of the library service.
9. Bring the full benefits and opportunities of regeneration to all Southwark's residents and build new family homes on the Aylesbury Estate and at Elephant and Castle.
10. Double recycling rates from 20% to 40% by 2014 and keep our streets clean.

Agreed by Council Assembly on 6 July 2011