

<b>Item No.</b> 4.2	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 28 March 2012	<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**

The councillor introducing or “moving” the motion may make a speech directed to the matter under discussion. This may not exceed five minutes<sup>1</sup>.

A second councillor 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 debate the issue and any amendments on the motion will be dealt with.

At the end of the debate the mover of the motion may make a concluding speech, known as 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 councillors 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 2.10 (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.

---

<sup>1</sup> Council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9)

1. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE** (Seconded by Councillor Chris Brown)

**Universal credit**

1. Council assembly notes that, starting in October 2013, universal credit will begin to replace income support, job seekers allowance, employment and support allowance, housing benefit, working tax credit, child tax credit and support for mortgage interest.
2. Council assembly recognises that universal credit is a household benefit and that the income from universal credit will therefore be critical to the household incomes of thousands of its residents who are both in and out of work.
3. Council assembly therefore believes that the quality of the universal credit 'service' will be important to the lives of its citizens and that the planned reliance on a web based delivery model backed up by remote call centres without the inclusion of a local, easily accessible, face to face service element puts the successful introduction of universal credit at significant risk.
4. Council assembly therefore calls on the cabinet:
  - 1) To approach Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and raise its concerns.
  - 2) To develop jointly with DWP local arrangements for the delivery of universal credit and to report back on progress to the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety, specifically addressing the resources required and responses to the following basic questions:
    - How will someone apply locally?
    - Where will they apply locally?
    - Where will they take required documents locally?
    - Where will the local 'universal credit' office be and what office accommodation will be required?
    - How will the skills and experience of existing benefits staff be utilised and how many staff will be needed?
    - How does an individual citizen get face to face advice and help if they have a problem?

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

**2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN** (Seconded by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai)

**Post offices for Southwark**

1. Council assembly notes the importance of local post office branches in Southwark for local people, small businesses and the community as a whole.
2. Council assembly regrets the closure of a number of vital post offices by the previous Labour government including Peckham Road, Old Kent Road, East Street, Nunhead, East Dulwich, Dockhead and Brandon Estate.
3. Council assembly further regrets Southwark Labour's decision to close the Bermondsey One Stop Shop.
4. Council assembly welcomes the fact that after more than 20 years of reductions of service and closures of post offices, the current government is investing £1.34 billion to stabilise, improve and extend the services of post offices throughout the UK.
5. Council assembly notes the request from the coalition government for councils to enter into strategic relationships with the post office to:
  - Review the current location of post offices
  - Review the services in which they specialise
  - Look at ways of enhancing co-operation between the post office and all public sector bodies, particularly councils
  - Develop methods for working together to deal with problems of financial inclusions.
6. Council assembly calls on the leader to write to the chair of the post office to invite talks for the establishment of such a partnership in areas where there is a particular need, such as on the Brandon Estate.
7. Council assembly further calls on the leader to fully investigate re-providing council services that were at Bermondsey One Stop Shop at Southwark Park Road post office and other post offices across the borough.

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

**3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS** (Seconded by Councillor Mark Glover)

**South London line replacement**

1. Council assembly notes that the South London Line is a well-used regular train service linking Victoria and London Bridge. Thousands of Southwark residents use it on a daily basis, as it serves Denmark Hill, Peckham Rye, Queens Road, Peckham Station, South Bermondsey and London Bridge from early morning until late evening seven days a week.

2. Council assembly regrets that this service is due to be cancelled later this year when the East London Line spur from Surrey Quays to Clapham Junction is opened. There will be a reduced service from Peckham Rye, Queens Road and South Bermondsey to London Bridge. As a consequence of the cancellation of the South London Line, Southwark residents will no longer have a train connection to Victoria in the evenings and early mornings and half the current service at other times.
3. Council assembly notes that the service that will remain if no replacement is offered is the Victoria to Dartford service that starts at rush hour and finishes in the early evening. The Victoria to Dartford service is already unfit for purpose. Southwark residents are walking to New Cross to get southbound trains in the morning as the service starts too late. Also, residents cannot access by train, a key connection with the Docklands Light Railway/train hub at Lewisham outside Monday to Saturday peak hours. For two years, the First Capital Connect service has been diverted to Victoria in the evenings. The level of use of this service and the soon to be axed South London Line has shown there is great demand for an evening service to Victoria from the Southwark stations.
4. Council assembly believes the new East London Line is a welcome addition to transport links for Southwark residents. It is however, very much a supplement rather than a substitute to existing routes, as Clapham Junction is geographically a very different destination to Victoria. It is understood that due to routing challenges, with the increased line use that changes to the current service may be necessary. However, suitable substitutes need to be in place.
5. Council assembly supports the proposal for the Victoria to Dartford service to become a full, early morning until midnight seven-day a week service (two trains per hour in each direction), complementing a full First Capital Connect Sevenoaks to Bedford service via Blackfriars. Additional service would be provided during peak hours (similar to the current Victoria to Dartford service) with two trains per hour between Victoria and Bellingham. This would result in maintenance of the current train frequency at Denmark Hill and Peckham Rye to and from Victoria and an increase of two trains per hour at Nunhead. Two trains per hour would still be lost from Queen's Road Station; however, Nunhead Station is 10 minutes walk from Queen's Road.

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

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Member Motions	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Andrew Weir 020 7525 7222

## AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	15 March 2012