



Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting) held on Wednesday 28 March 2012 at 7.00 pm at The Charter School, Red Post Hill, London SE24 9JH

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2011/12, Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE

Councillor Kevin Ahern	Councillor Peter John
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Paul Kyriacou
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Linda Manchester
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Chris Brown	Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Michael Bukola	Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Poddy Clark	Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton	Councillor Helen Morrissey
Councillor Rowenna Davis	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Patrick Diamond	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Toby Eckersley	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Mark Gettleson	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Norma Gibbes	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Stephen Govier	Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Geoffrey Thornton
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Claire Hickson	
Councillor Jeff Hook	
Councillor David Hubber	

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor:

- Thanked The Charter School for allowing council assembly to use their school.
- Reminded everyone that her “Black Tie and Diamonds” Charity Ball is to be held on Saturday 19 May 2012 at Vinopolis at 7.00pm.
- Announced that Councillor Michael Situ will be running in the London Marathon on the 22 April 2012 to raise funds for the 'Tayo Situ Foundation' which aims to work with young people in the borough. The meeting wished both Michael Situ and Peter John all the best in their endeavours on 22 April.

1.2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

With the meeting’s consent the Mayor announced that she intended to accept one late item of business: Late motion on gay marriage.

The Mayor announced that following consultation with the political group whips, she intended to vary the order of business so that all deputations set out in supplemental agenda 2 would be considered followed by the late motion on gay marriage. Thereafter the meeting would consider the themed debate on older people.

The meeting agreed to suspend the following council assembly procedure rules: 2.6 (11) No more than three deputations shall be considered at any one meeting, and 2.10 (3) Deadlines for motions.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillors made the following declarations:

Item 3: Themed Debate – Older People

Councillor Andy Simmons declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this item as he works for the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust.

Councillor Neil Coyle declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this item as he is Director of Policy at the Disability Alliance.

Item 4.2: Members' Motions

Councillor Ian Wingfield declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this item as he works for an organisation involved in the postal industry.

Item 5: Canada Water Area Action Plan

Councillors David Hubber, Jeff Hook and Lisa Rajan declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this item as they live in or near the area action zone.

Councillor Paul Noblet declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this item as he is a trustee of Surrey Docks farm, a governor of Redriff primary school and he lives in the area action zone.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Adele Morris, Wilma Nelson, Althea Smith, Veronica Ward and The Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole. Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillors Darren Merrill, Lewis Robinson, Nick Stanton and Columba Blango.

1.5 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the meeting held on 29 February 2012 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

2.1 PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no general questions from the public.

2.3 DEPUTATION REQUESTS

(See pages 1 - 4 of supplemental agenda 2)

Deputation from Southwark Pensioners Forum

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from Southwark Pensioners Forum.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Charles Cherrill, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, cabinet member for health and adult social care, who provided an oral response.

Councillors Abdul Mohamed, Paul Noblet and Barrie Hargrove asked questions of the deputation.

Deputation regarding post offices

Council assembly considered whether to receive a deputation request regarding post offices.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Mr. Tatana, addressed the meeting.

Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, Stephen Govier and Peter John asked questions of the deputation.

Deputation from Southwark Pensioners Centre

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from Southwark Pensioners Centre.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Julia Honess, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, cabinet member for health and adult social care, who provided an oral response.

Councillors Graham Neale, Neil Coyle, Anood Al-Samerai and Rowenna Davis asked questions of the deputation.

Deputations from Southwark Carers

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from Southwark Carers.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Verinder Mander, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, cabinet member for health and adult social care, who provided an oral response.

Councillors Patrick Diamond and Neil Coyle asked questions of the deputation.

Deputation from Entelechy Arts

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from Entelechy Arts.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson addressed the meeting.

Councillor Poddy Clark asked a question of the deputation.

Deputation request regarding Rotherhithe Community Council

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request regarding Rotherhithe community council.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, John Taylor, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Peter John, the leader of the council, who provided an oral response.

Councillors Jeff Hook and Abdul Mohamed asked questions of the deputation.

The Mayor announced that the time had expired for councillors questions.

Councillor Toby Eckersley, seconded by Councillor Mark Gettleson, moved that council assembly procedure rule 2.6 (14), time for members questions to the deputation, be suspended in order to allow a further question to the deputation.

The procedural rule was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Councillor Michael Mitchell asked a question of the deputation.

3. THEMED DEBATE - OLDER PEOPLE

3.1 CABINET MEMBER STATEMENT

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, cabinet member for health and adult social care, introduced the theme of the meeting.

The lead opposition spokesperson on health and adult social care, Councillor David Noakes, replied to the cabinet members' statement.

3.2 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE THEME

(See supplemental agenda 2, page 5 of the green paper circulated at the meeting)

There was one question from the public on the theme, the answer to which was circulated on green paper at the meeting. The question and written response is attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

3.3 MEMBERS' MOTIONS ON THE THEME

MOTION 1

(See pages 5 - 6 of the main agenda)

The meeting agreed in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (4) to allow for a single debate on the Motion 1 and Amendment A.

Councillor Michael Situ, seconded by Councillor Kevin Ahern, moved the motion.

Councillor Tim McNally, seconded by Councillor Michael Bukola, moved Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Andy Simmons, Poddy Clark, Helen Hayes, Norma Gibbes, Columba Blango, Mark Williams, Graham Neale, Cleo Soanes, David Hubber and Sunil Chopra), Amendment A was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly acknowledges that:
 - 10 million people in the UK are over the age of 65 and this will rise to 15.5 million by 2035
 - 3 million are over the age of 80 and this is set to double in 20 years time.
2. That council assembly welcomes and celebrates the fact that we are all living longer and pays tribute to the amazing contribution older people make to Southwark's diverse communities, economy and society as a whole.
3. That council assembly calls on members to recognise this contribution and discuss how more can be made of the opportunities that longer lives bring with particular focus on:
 - How the council can recognise the role that people in later life often play in their communities, through volunteering, caring and by playing an active role in neighbourhood life
 - How people in Southwark can take advantage of the wide variety of sporting, educational and social activities available as they get older
 - How the council can promote the greater role that more active grandparents play in their families' lives

- How the council can work with the NHS and other partners to give older people more choice in the services they receive, enabling them to live healthy lives and stay in their own homes and communities for longer.
4. That council assembly also recognises the council's important role in caring for older people who require care and support.
 5. That council assembly notes that £1.3 billion has already been cut from local council budgets for older people's social care and believes the council should strive to create an adult care system that helps older people to find the support they need, enabling them to live healthy, independent lives in their own communities and homes, rather than retaining a long-term dependency on council services, whilst also protecting our most vulnerable older residents.
 6. That council assembly also recognises that many of the groups in Southwark that provide services to older people have lost their funding through government cuts and so welcomes the council's "innovation fund" which is enabling local organisations to become more self-sustaining going forward.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

MOTION 2 – FAIRER PENSIONS FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN SOUTHWARK

(See pages 6 - 7 of the main agenda)

The time allocated for the themed debate having expired, Motion 2 and its amendment were formally noted having not been moved and seconded at the meeting.

4. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

4.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

(see pages 8 - 14 of the main agenda and the blue and cream papers circulated at the meeting)

There was one urgent question to the leader, the written response to which was circulated on blue paper at the meeting. Two supplemental questions were asked of the leader. All questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 2 to the minutes.

There were 44 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated on cream paper at the meeting. There were 10 supplemental questions, all questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 3 to the minutes.

At 10.05pm the bell was rung and the Mayor informed the meeting that the guillotine had fallen. The remainder of members' questions were formally noted.

4.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

MOTION 1 – UNIVERSAL CREDIT

(see page 16 of the main agenda)

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Richard Livingstone and Chris Brown, formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Paul Noblet and Rosie Shimell, formally moved and seconded Amendment C.

Amendment C was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That 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. That 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. That 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. That 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?
 - 3) To support the Local Government Association in pressing for universal credit to be administered by local authorities.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

MOTION 2 – POST OFFICES FOR SOUTHWARK

(see page 17 of the main agenda)

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Catherine Bowman and Anood Al-Samerai, formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Richard Livingstone and Helen Morrissey, formally moved and seconded Amendment D.

Amendment D was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly notes the importance of local post office branches in Southwark for local people, small businesses and the community as a whole.
2. That council assembly regrets the closure of post offices in Southwark in 2002 and 2008. It notes that Essex Council acted to save the post offices in Essex that were under threat in 2008. It further notes that Labour in Southwark campaigned for the Liberal Democrat/Tory council in Southwark to take similar action at the time, but that it chose not to.
3. That council assembly notes that 48% of the £1.34 billion of 'new money' announced by the government for investment in the post office to aid the privatisation of Royal Mail is existing subsidy and that the four year package of funding is £360m less than the last Labour government's funding package of £1.7bn in 2006.
4. That council assembly notes that under the government's network transformation plans thousands of post offices will be closed and replaced with counters in shops, off licences and petrol stations – known as 'Post Office Locals'. Locals will not provide:
 - international parcels and parcels weighing over 5kg and 6kg respectively
 - Parcel Force Express Services parcels
 - manual cash deposits and withdrawals
 - change giving service to small businesses
 - post office financial services and insurance products
 - manual bill payment services
 - passport, car tax and DVLA services
 - on-demand foreign currency
 - payment by cheque.
5. That council assembly notes the widespread concern about the effects of network transformation has led to 75 MPs, including five Liberal Democrats, to call for a moratorium on the plans, and the Business, Innovation and Skills select committee will be holding an inquiry in May.

6. That council assembly notes the comments of the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety in 5 January's Southwark News, welcoming the Southwark Liberal Democrats' "Damascene conversion" and committing the council to working "with the post office to look into whether it is possible to combine post office services with other facilities".
7. That council assembly calls on the cabinet to follow through with this commitment and report back on progress in not more than six months
8. That council assembly notes the previous Liberal Democrat and Tory administration's decision to relocate Bermondsey One Stop Shop and welcomes the decision to locate alternative facilities at 11 Market Place in The Blue.
9. That council assembly condemns Southwark Liberal Democrats' proposal to delay the introduction of these facilities at The Blue which could potentially result in a period where those services would be unavailable in the north-east of the borough.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

MOTION 3 - SOUTH LONDON LINE REPLACEMENT

(see pages 17 - 18 of the main agenda)

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Renata Hamvas and Mark Glover, formally moved and seconded the motion.

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That 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. That 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. That 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. That 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. That 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: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

LATE MOTION – GAY MARRIAGE

(see page 6 of supplemental agenda 2)

This motion was considered after the deputations and prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor David Noakes, seconded by Councillor Abdul Mohamed, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillor Mark Gettleson), the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That this council acknowledges the role of individual parliamentarians, of all parties and no parties, and successive governments since the early 1990's to introduce legislation to provide equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the UK.
2. That this council notes and welcomed the introduction of civil partnerships for same-sex couples by the last government.
3. That this council supports the current government's proposals to consult on how to enable same-sex couples to have a civil marriage and the subsequent introduction of legislation in this parliament to make this a reality.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

5. REPORT(S) FROM THE CABINET

5.1 CANADA WATER AREA ACTION PLAN

(see pages 20 - 59 of the main agenda)

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

It was noted that paragraph 10 of the report – penultimate line should read: “(these are shown on the map on page 56 of Appendix 2 of this report)”.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (1), Councillor Fiona Colley, cabinet member for regeneration and corporate strategy, moved the report.

Following debate (Councillors Jeff Hook and Paul Noblet), Councillor Fiona Colley exercised her right of reply.

The recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report of the Planning Inspector on the Canada Water Area Action Plan (Appendix 1 of the report), be noted.
2. That the consultation report (Appendix 3 of the report), sustainability appraisal (Appendix 5 of the report), and equalities impact assessment (Appendix 4 of the report), be noted.
3. That the Canada Water Area Action Plan (Appendix 2 of the report), incorporating the recommendations of the Inspector and the sustainability appraisal (Appendix 5 of the report), be adopted.

5.2 REPORT BACK ON MOTIONS REFERRED TO THE CABINET FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(see pages 60 - 62 of the main agenda)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

6. OTHER REPORTS

7. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK AND PERFORMANCE OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE IN 2011/12

(see pages 63 - 75 of the main agenda)

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (1), Councillor Renata Hamvas, chair of the audit and governance committee, moved the report.

The recommendation contained within the report was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

That the work and performance of the audit and governance committee in 2011/12 be noted.

8. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

(see pages 76 - 86 of the main agenda)

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

It was noted that officers had advised that recommendation 2 should read “paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report”.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (2), the report was formally moved by the Mayor.

Councillor Geoffrey Thornton, seconded by Councillor Tim McNally, moved Amendment E.

Following debate (Councillor Richard Livingstone), Amendment E was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

Councillor Catherine Bowman, seconded by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, moved Amendment F.

At this juncture the bell was rung and the Mayor announced that the fifteen minutes allocated to debate the report had expired.

Amendment F was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

The recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the council's pay policy statement, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be agreed.
2. That the arrangements be agreed to determine the salary package for new appointments to top manager posts, as set out in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report.

9. AMENDMENTS

Amendments are set out in Supplemental Agenda 2.

10. ANY CLOSED ITEMS IDENTIFIED AS URGENT AT THE START OF THE MEETING

There was no closed items of business.

The meeting closed at 10.34pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: