

Item No. 5.2	Classification: Open	Date: 17 October 2012	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motions	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The councillor introducing or “moving” the motion may make a speech directed to the matter under discussion. This may not exceed five minutes¹.

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.

¹ Council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9)

1. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI (Seconded by Councillor Michael Bukola)

Social housing in mixed communities

1. Council notes the publication of the 'Ending Expensive Tenancies' report by Policy Exchange in August 2012, which called on councils to sell off higher valued social homes and replace them with others in cheaper areas.
2. Council also notes the warm reaction to the report by the leader of the council who said the report advocated a "variation on work we are doing in Southwark".
3. Council recognises that there is a need for affordable housing in all parts of the borough, and that many key workers and other residents in lower pay brackets live in social homes in those parts of the borough where land values are highest.
4. Council is concerned that, despite a desperate need for affordable homes, the current administration is worsening the situation in many parts of Southwark by selling family sized council homes and letting developers off their obligations to provide affordable housing through Section 106 agreements, particularly in higher cost areas.
5. Council is also concerned that the policy of selling higher value social homes would further push lower income residents out of expensive areas, furthering social segregation in the borough.
6. Council welcomes Southwark Council's plans to build more council homes, which has been made possible by changes to financing rules put in place by the present government, however is concerned that any new homes built will be negated by those sold off.
7. Council calls on cabinet to reject the proposals of the 'Ending Expensive Tenancies' report, and implores cabinet to retain council homes in all parts of the borough now and for future generations.

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

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS (Seconded by Councillor Chris Brown)

Tuition fees apology

1. Council assembly notes:
 - (1) the apology by the Deputy Prime Minister for making and breaking his pledge to vote against any increase in tuition fees.
 - (2) that the coalition government's decision to treble tuition fees to £9,000 a year at the same time as cutting funding for higher education has put thousands of people off university. Indeed the Independent

Commission on Fees report published in August found that university applications are 15,000 lower this year.

- (3) there was a 7.2% fall in numbers of 18 and 19-year-old applicants in England between this year and 2010, the last year of applications before the cap on tuition fees was raised.
- (4) Southwark Council's scholarship scheme launched last year which will pay the tuition fees of six talented youngsters from Southwark for the duration of their university course. This year it will pay the tuition fees of an additional seven Southwark scholars.

2. Council assembly therefore resolves:

- (1) to call on the deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, Simon Hughes MP, to make his own apology to the young people of Southwark for making and breaking his pledge to vote against any increase in tuition fees.

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	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Constitutional Officer
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