

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY)

WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 2013

**STATEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY
CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY**

Members will be aware that the council has recently been consulting residents in the Old Kent Road area of Southwark about the relocation of Ellison House approved premises to the area. Approved premises are used by the probation service to help ex-offenders readjust to society following a prison sentence.

We have listened to local views about the relocation and the future use of the site on the corner of Old Kent Road and Rotherhithe New Road. We have decided, based on that feedback, to seek an alternative site for Ellison House. This will most likely be as part of the regeneration of the Aylesbury estate where Ellison House is currently located.

I would like to thank residents and local businesses for their involvement in discussions about our plans. What has been evident from the conversations that I, and colleagues, have had with local people is the strength of local feeling regarding the need for regeneration of the Old Kent Road. I have taken this on board and have asked officers to consider alternative plans for this prominent site as well as the wider area. One thing we are considering is bringing more affordable housing to the area, and we hope to consult on our plans later this year.

It was always the council's aim to be open and transparent in conversations about the relocation about Ellison House, and local feedback has been a crucial factor in our decision-making.