

Item No. 15.	Classification: Open	Date: 14 May 2013	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Motions Referred from Council Assembly – 27 March 2013	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Council Assembly	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the cabinet considers the motions set out in the appendices attached to the report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Council assembly at its meeting on Wednesday 27 March 2013 agreed several motions and these stand referred to the cabinet for consideration.
3. The cabinet is requested to consider the motions referred to it. Any proposals in a motion are treated as a recommendation only. The final decisions of the cabinet will be reported back to the next meeting of council assembly. When considering a motion, cabinet can decide to:
 - Note the motion; *or*
 - Agree the motion in its entirety, *or*
 - Amend the motion; *or*
 - Reject the motion.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10(6), the attached motions were referred to the cabinet. The cabinet will report on the outcome of its deliberations upon the motions to a subsequent meeting of council assembly.
5. The constitution allocates responsibility for particular functions to council assembly, including approving the budget and policy framework, and to the cabinet for developing and implementing the budget and policy framework and overseeing the running of council services on a day-to-day basis.
6. Any key issues, such as policy, community impact or funding implications are included in the advice from the relevant chief officer.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Council agenda 27 March 2013 http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=4242&Ver=4	Report on the council's website	Lesley John Constitutional Team 020 7525 7228

LIST OF APPENDICES

Number	Title
Appendix 1	Basic Safety and Security for Residents
Appendix 2	Localising Planning Decisions
Appendix 3	Late Motion – Fire At Walworth Town Hall / Cuming Museum

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	1 May 2013	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Chief Executive	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	Yes	Yes
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	1 May 2013	

BASIC SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR RESIDENTS

At council assembly on Wednesday 27 March 2013 a motion entitled 'Basic safety and security for residents' was moved by Councillor Michael Bukola and seconded by Councillor Adele Morris. The motion was subsequently amended and the amended motion stands referred to the cabinet as a recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly believes that crime and the fear of crime are among our residents' main concerns and notes the council's fairer future promise to crack down on anti-social behaviour and implement a violent crime strategy.
2. That council assembly notes the progress being made against the 5 priorities in the violent crime strategy including:
 - 9% reduction in violence with injury
 - 4% reduction in most serious violence
 - 22% reduction in knives used to injure
 - 19% reduction in youth violence
 - 10% reduction in domestic abuse.
3. That council assembly notes that despite savings to Southwark's anti-social behaviour unit, the number of anti-social behaviour cases that have been managed by Southwark antisocial behaviour unit (SASBU and housing officers over the last three years has actually increased by 40%; the number of acceptable behaviour contracts issued increased by 19% on last year.
4. That council assembly welcomes the establishment of the Southwark anti-violence unit (SAVU), a multiagency team working together to support individuals and families affected by gang and serious youth violence. It welcomes the fact that, the first 10 months evaluation highlights that following engagement with SAVU, 45% of SAVU clients have not come to police notice, compared with the 12 months prior to their involvement in the scheme when 100% had come to notice. Council assembly further notes the favourable review of this work by the Home Office in October 2012, in which the council was praised by the review team for its 'political leaders recognising and prioritising ending gang and youth violence work and sending out a very strong signal that this is a priority for the borough and will be resourced and supported'.
5. That council assembly also welcomes the announcement in last month's budget of £1.4m to upgrade outdated camera systems on Southwark's housing estates as well as 30 new redeployable cameras and an upgraded control room. It notes that CCTV has supported the police in making around 900 arrests between April and March of 2012/13.

6. That council assembly regrets the government's decision to cut the Met's budget by 20% and the impact this has had on police officer numbers in the borough and on closures to police stations in Rotherhithe and East Dulwich. It welcomes the council's decision to identify £750,000 for community safety initiatives including alternative police front counters.
7. That council assembly asks the cabinet to develop plans to:
 - Work collaboratively with customs and excise, police and neighbouring boroughs to tackle the drugs trade
 - Work with communities and registered social landlords to develop new approaches to resolve conflicts within communities
 - Help communities gain confidence to tackle anti-social behaviour in their midst
 - Continue the excellent work of SAVU despite government cuts
 - Develop further the work with our partners to reduce re-offending
 - Work with Solace, the voluntary sector and local hospitals to develop innovative approaches to tackling violence against women and girls.

Comments of the Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure

- (1) Officers will continue to provide progress reports against the 5 priorities set out in the violent crime strategy. These are monitored along with progress against performance targets across the community safety agenda, as set out in the council plan.
- (2) Officers will also develop plans to address the areas of focus highlighted by council assembly. The established mechanism for this is the Safer Southwark Partnership 4 year rolling plan 2013-2016 which is currently in development. The SSP is the borough's community safety partnership which brings together all departments of the council with an interest in this agenda together with partners in the police and other agencies to work.
- (3) The council, through its budget, has provided funds to keep SAVU going in spite of the uncertainties about whether it will continue to be funded by government grant. Some areas of focus for community safety were dependent on the success of the council's bid to Mayors Officer Policing and Crime (MOPAC) for funding to replace the funding that was lost when the Home Office's Community Safety Fund ceased.
- (4) Cabinet are pleased that most of the councils bids to MOPAC have now been agreed, with four out of five areas receiving funding. Reducing offending, gangs and serious youth violence, violence against women and girls and intervention and prevention were successful in securing 100 percent of the funds bid for.
- (5) We are disappointed that the bid for funds to support tackling antisocial behaviour was rejected. Officers are looking at how to prioritise the essential parts of the bid, including the area as highlighted above, and how the funding gap can be met.

LOCALISING PLANNING DECISIONS

At council assembly on Wednesday 27 March 2013 a motion entitled 'Localising planning decisions' was proposed by Councillor Toby Eckersley and seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson. The motion was subsequently amended and the amended motion stands referred to the cabinet as a recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly notes the concerns which residents and members from all parties have raised about travel times to Tooley Street from the south of the borough.
2. That council assembly recognises the need to make planning decision-making as accessible to all residents as possible.
3. That council assembly further recognises the need for financial efficiency across all departments in this time of austerity, and the additional unsustainable costs which would be incurred by holding planning committee meetings in a range of different venues across the borough.
4. That council assembly therefore proposes that some planning sub-committee meetings should be held at the council offices at Queen's Road Peckham as soon as it is practical.
5. That council assembly requests the director of planning to report back on the impact of this change of venue in terms of the attendance of members of the public at planning sub-committee meetings in one year's time.

Comments of the Chief Executive

- (1) The director of planning will consult the chairs of the planning and planning sub-committees and prepare a programme to trial holding some planning sub-committee meetings at the Queens Road offices. The impact of the use of the Queens Road and the Tooley Street locations for holding planning meetings will be monitored between June 2013 and March 2014 so that a report can be prepared for the cabinet outlining the cost, the effect on service delivery including decision time targets, the impact on customer experience and other relevant matters.

LATE MOTION – FIRE AT WALWORTH TOWN HALL / CUMING MUSEUM

At council assembly on Wednesday 27 March 2013 a late motion entitled 'Fire at Walworth Town Hall / Cuming Museum' was moved by Councillor Peter John and seconded by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai. The motion was agreed and stands referred to the cabinet as a recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

That council assembly:

- Expresses great sadness at the devastating fire this week at Walworth Town Hall and the damage it has caused to the Cuming museum and adjoining buildings
- Thanks the emergency services, council staff and local residents and businesses for their dedicated efforts to protect lives and heritage.
- Supports the work of officers in finding alternative temporary premises for the One Stop Shop and library study space.
- Recognises the need for community conversations to now take place to allow residents to share their thoughts about the buildings and the future, including preserving the external facade in any rebuilding work.
- Notes that the first fire engine on the scene came from Southwark Fire Station, which is currently on the Mayor of London's list for closure, and that other fire engines assisting were from stations also under threat of closure.
- Calls on the Mayor of London to have regard to this event before finalising the planned fire station closures in light of the events of this week, given how much worse the situation could have been without the quick response from our local fire stations.

Comments of the Chief Executive

- (1) Conversations with the community about the future of the Walworth Town Hall and library complex have already started. The leader, chief executive and other officers attended a public meeting hosted by the Walworth Society on the evening of Thursday 4 April 2013. This was attended by about 60 local residents as well as ward councillors and the local MP. In addition to giving their views many of those present expressed their desire to volunteer to help and opportunities will be found to respond to this offer of support as the work progresses.
- (2) The key themes that emerged from this initial meeting were:
 - The need to have a longer term plan for the Walworth town Hall in addition to the short term plans already in place for library, museum and one stop shop provision

- The aspiration to retain a strong civic presence on the Walworth Road ideally using the existing Walworth Town Hall building
 - A multi-use civic space that could be used for meetings as well as other uses
 - A bigger museum with more on display
 - A better library facility
 - Re-provision of the Walworth one stop shop
 - Involvement of the Voluntary & Community Sector in options for the future. A number of VCS organisations including the Pensioners Centre had been in discussion over possible uses of the Walworth Town Hall
 - The need to consider the future use of the Walworth Town Hall in the wider context of the Elephant & Castle regeneration. There are plans for a civic presence on the site of the former Heygate Estate as part of the development. The fire provided an opportunity to think about this alongside the possible future uses of the Walworth Town Hall building subject to the building being made safe
 - More consultation on the future of the building.
- (3) Officers were already in the process of planning a more detailed conversation/consultation on the proposal in the masterplan for a civic building as part of the development of the Heygate estate. This consultation will now take into scope the Walworth Town Hall site. This consultation should commence in May 2013.