

<b>Item No.</b> 6.1	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 10 July 2013	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Report back on motions referred to cabinet from council assembly	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Cabinet	

**MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 2.10 (6) – GENUINELY AFFORDABLE COUNCIL HOUSING FOR SOUTHWARK COUNCIL**

Cabinet on 19 March 2013 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on 23 January 2013 which had been moved by Councillor Rebecca Lury and seconded by Councillor Darren Merrill.

1. That council assembly welcomes the fact that the current Labour administration is:
  - Investing £326 million to ensure every council home in Southwark is warm, dry and safe by 2016
  - Building 1000 new council homes in Southwark over the next eight years - more than have been built in all of London in the last 10 years
  - Engaging in a borough-wide consultation into the proposals put forward by Southwark’s groundbreaking independent housing commission which explored future housing options for strategy over the next 30 years
  - And rejecting the government’s definition of affordable housing as up to 80% market rents, by ensuring rents on phase 1 of the Heygate were lowered from 65% to 50% market rents to reflect the wishes of local residents.
  
2. That council assembly regrets the complete failure of the previous administration when it came to housing, including:
  - No new council homes approved between 2002-2010
  - An unworkable and unfunded decent homes programme which was millions of pounds over budget and left many Southwark residents without decent homes.
  - 7,800 fewer council homes in Southwark by the end of their time in office.

3. That council assembly believes the Tory Liberal Democrat government's housing policy is not geared towards providing more affordable and social housing and opposes:
  - The housing benefit cap
  - "Affordable rent" of up to 80% of market rent
  - The ending of secure tenancies
  - The slashing of the social housing budget by £3.9 billion
  - The Growth and Infrastructure Bill which allows developers to deliver 0% affordable housing on new developments
  - Right to buy discounts of up to £75,000.
4. That council assembly notes that Simon Hughes MP and the Liberal Democrats have supported all of these measures.
5. That council assembly notes that sites for the first phase of the council's 1000 new homes have already been identified throughout the borough and calls on cabinet to draw up plans for consultation on the next phase of new council homes.

We agreed this motion.

**MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 2.10 (6) – MAJOR WORKS AND HOUSING REPAIRS**

Cabinet on 19 March 2013 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on 23 January 2013 which had been moved by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, seconded by Councillor Catherine Bowman and subsequently amended.

1. That council assembly regrets the incident at Draper House and notes that the council is doing everything in its power to ensure people feel safe in their homes. It notes that:
  - An investigation was immediately begun into the cause of the incident and that the council has agreed to fully adopt any recommendations to ensure residents' safety
  - Properties where similar work was carried out are undergoing inspection by the council's compliance team to ensure work has been done properly and to the required safety standards
  - The council has also alerted the health and safety executive as safety is its top priority.
2. That council assembly notes that at Four Squares the project has been completely turned round. The uncertainty for residents caused by the previous Liberal Democrat administration's failed housing investment programme and failure to complete security works has now been replaced with certainty as the works start driving forward the £26 million investment on the estate. The cabinet member for housing and council officers have met regularly with residents

throughout the process and the first of the packaged works is now being delivered on time, despite some unforeseen structural issues.

3. That council assembly welcomes the steps taken by the current administration to improve major works project management and performance it inherited from the Liberal Democrats, including:
  - Labour's £326 million warm dry safe programme which is realistic, fully-costed and sets out a clear timetable so residents know exactly when their works will take place
  - A substantial programme of fire risk assessment works, refurbishment of hostels and a programme of improvement to tenants and residents association halls - with 2013/14 individual heating programme brought forward into 2012/13, meaning inefficient boilers are being replaced with more efficient models helping to deliver savings for resident and tackle fuel poverty
  - The restructure and the setting up of project management teams to give improved focus to project management on site and a more open and transparent culture where problems can be quickly identified and resources committed accordingly
  - A comprehensive resident consultation process "Putting Residents First" which ensures the council is clear with residents from the outset about what we are delivering and how they can be involved.
4. That council assembly notes the good progress has been made in improving the repairs service but acknowledges that the service started from a low base thanks to the arrangements put in place by the previous Liberal Democrat administration. It notes that contracts have been terminated with Just Housing, Morrison and the council is a few months away from bringing the call centre in-house. It notes that overall contract management is improving. There is a greater focus on completing repairs quickly and to a high standard leading to reduced costs and a reduction in duplication. Repairs completed right first time is improving as is satisfaction with the repairs service. Complaint escalations are at an all time low as are the number of overdue orders.
5. That council assembly notes that the telephone answering performance at the customer services centre (CSC) for repairs was poor in the last quarter of 2012. This is because the repairs contractor for the south of the borough changed which caused some disruption and resulted in an increase in demand for the telephone service that lasted longer than we predicted. It notes that the council provided further resources and call waiting times have reduced considerably in the first two weeks of 2013. It notes that a customer access strategy has been developed to improve the quality of customer services, ease of accessibility and reduce costs and that the new My Southwark, customer service point opened at The Blue in Bermondsey in mid December and represents the prototype for the future of face to face customer services in Southwark.
6. That council assembly believes an immediate review of major works will be to the detriment of tenants with regards to their works and upgrades being completed on time and would result in severe costs to leaseholders.
7. That council assembly therefore resolves on cabinet to:

- Continue to deliver its £326 million housing investment programme which will make every council home in Southwark warm, dry and safe by 2016
8. Continue to improve management of major works contracts and to develop its customer access strategy which will help to improve the quality of the council's customer services.

We agreed this motion and noted the comments of the strategic director of housing and community services.

**MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 2.10 (6) – SAVE SOUTHWARK EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Cabinet on 19 March 2013 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on 23 January 2013 which had been moved by Councillor Peter John, seconded by Councillor Richard Livingstone and subsequently amended.

1. That council assembly believes that the safety and security of Londoners and the residents of our borough is being put at risk as a result of cuts to emergency services being pushed through by the Mayor of London and the Tory Liberal Democrat government to our key emergency services – the Metropolitan Police Service, the London Fire Brigade alongside the London Ambulance Service and the city's accident and emergency departments.
2. That council assembly believes that the cuts are going too far and too fast and that the many millions of pounds being cut from the budgets of the NHS, the Metropolitan Police Service and the London Fire Brigade will inevitably endanger families and communities across the capital.
3. That council assembly believes that the cuts are being carried out without consideration of the impact on Londoners' safety. The mooted closures of police front desks in Rotherhithe and East Dulwich, fire stations in Borough and Peckham and Lewisham A & E department will mean various pockets of London could see the safety of residents threatened by longer response times.
4. That council assembly rejects the position of the Mayor of London and of Simon Hughes MP that the scale of the cuts are necessary and acceptable and calls on both to stand up for Southwark residents against the cuts being imposed by the Tory Liberal Democrat government to the emergency services on which we rely to keep Londoners safe.
5. That council assembly notes that since the substantive motion was drafted the Mayor has published his draft police and crime strategy for London, and that this document makes a number of recommendations which will have serious consequences for Southwark if they are implemented:
  - (a) The proposed closure of East Dulwich, Gipsy Hill and Sydenham police stations, which will leave a 'black hole' in counter service provision for the residents of College, Village and East Dulwich wards.
  - (b) The proposed closure of Rotherhithe police station, which will leave an isolated peninsula community without adequate access to dedicated police resources.
  - (c) The proposed dismantling of the neighbourhood policing model such that the current dedicated ward based teams of six staff members (one

sergeant, three police constables and two police community support officers) will be reduced to one dedicated police constable plus a 'named sergeant'.

6. That council assembly notes the Mayor's election manifesto commitment not to close any police station facility without opening an 'equivalent or better' facility in the same area, and notes that the draft police and crime strategy breaks this pledge.
7. That council assembly deplores the lack of cross-borough co-ordination in planning police station closures which has resulted in the 'black hole' in counter service provision in the Dulwich and Crystal Palace areas, which are close to the boundary with four other London boroughs.
8. That council assembly further deplores the dismantling of the neighbourhood policing model which will see the majority of officers deployed to high crime areas, to the detriment of the very important and successful community liaison and crime prevention roles which have helped to keep crime low.
9. That council assembly records its grave concern at the impact of both police station closures and the dismantling of the neighbourhood policing model on vulnerable residents, victims of domestic violence and others for whom the local police station is a place of safety; and on the ability of the police to record crime statistics accurately. Further, council assembly is concerned at the impact of police station closures on the management of local police teams and the potential for valuable police time to be lost to wards in the south of the borough due to officer travel time from operational bases in the north of the borough.
10. That whilst council assembly acknowledges the need to make budget savings, it believes the 20% cut imposed by the Tory Liberal Democrat government goes too far and too fast. In addition whilst council assembly recognises the inappropriateness of some current police station buildings for on-going use, for example the current East Dulwich police station building, it is extremely concerning that the draft police and crime plan contains no proposals for alternative provision, no definition of 'equal or better' against which future performance can be measured, and no creative thinking. Council assembly requests that the cabinet calls upon the Mayor to honour his manifesto commitment concerning police counter facilities, and to rethink the proposals for the south of the borough and for Rotherhithe, working creatively with the council and local communities, to ensure that the dangerous 'black hole' scenario is averted.
11. That council assembly recognises the council's commitment to working creatively with the Metropolitan Police in identifying alternative premises which have the potential to meet police security criteria in the south of the borough and in Rotherhithe.

We agreed the motion and noted that a full response had been submitted to the Metropolitan Police and MOPAC on the 28 February 2013 concerning their recent consultation on policing in London. We also noted the Council's offer to invest up to £750,000 of capital in improving council facilities in order that the Police may continue to operate front office counters across the borough.

**MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 2.10 (6) – DNA DATABASE**

Cabinet on 19 March 2013 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on 23 January 2013 which had been moved by Councillor Graham Neale, seconded by Councillor Rosie Shimell and subsequently amended.

1. That council notes that in a fair society it is simply not right that innocent people can have their DNA stored by the state.
2. That council also notes with concern that since 2004 the UK's national DNA database (NDNAD) has been permitted to hold DNA samples of any individual arrested of an offence, regardless of whether that individual was actually charged or convicted.
3. That council notes that over million people, who have never been given a conviction, caution or formal warning are estimated to be on the national DNA database and acknowledges that the European Court of Human Rights found indefinite DNA retention to be in violation of Article 8.
4. That while council recognises that DNA evidence can be an important tool in criminal investigations, council believes that the indefinite retention of the DNA of innocent people constitutes a disproportionate intrusion by the state.
5. That council assembly notes the announcement that DNA samples held for innocent people will be destroyed in four months time in May 2013 and supports the Metropolitan Police Service's early deletion request scheme.
6. That in particular, council urges council officers to provide a link to the early deletion request scheme on Southwark Council's website and highlight the scheme in the next edition of Southwark Life.

We agreed this motion and noted that an article had been placed in Southwark Life highlighting the 'early deletion scheme'.

**MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 2.10 (6) – BASIC SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR RESIDENTS**

Cabinet on 14 May 2013 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on 27 March 2013 which had been moved by Councillor Michael Bukola, seconded by Councillor Adele Morris and subsequently amended.

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.

We agreed this motion.

**MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 2.10 (6) – LOCALISING PLANNING DECISIONS**

Cabinet on 14 May 2013 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on 27 March 2013 which had been moved by Councillor Toby Eckersley and seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson and subsequently amended.

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.

We agreed this motion.

**MOTION FROM MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 2.10 (6) – FIRE AT WALWORTH TOWN HALL / CUMING MUSEUM**

Cabinet on 14 May 2013 considered the following motion referred from council assembly on 27 March 2013 which had been moved by Councillor Peter John and seconded by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai.

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.

We agreed this motion and noted the comments of the chief executive.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet agenda and minutes – 19 March 2013. The document is available on this web page (item 16) <a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;MId=4252&amp;Ver=4">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;MId=4252&amp;Ver=4</a>	Constitutional Team, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Everton Roberts 020 7525 7221
Cabinet agenda and minutes – 14 May 2013. The document is available on this web page (item 15) <a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;MId=4254&amp;Ver=4">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;MId=4254&amp;Ver=4</a>		

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Alexa Coates, Principal Constitutional Officer	
<b>Report Author</b>	Everton Roberts, Constitutional Officer	
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