



# Council Assembly (Annual Council)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Annual Council) held on Wednesday 22 May 2013 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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## PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2012/13, Councillor Althea Smith  
The Worshipful the Mayor for 2013/14, Councillor Abdul Mohamed

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Councillor Kevin Ahern      | Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE             |
| Councillor Anood Al-Samerai | Councillor Richard Livingstone             |
| Councillor James Barber     | Councillor Rebecca Lury                    |
| Councillor Columba Blango   | Councillor Eliza Mann                      |
| Councillor Catherine Bowman | Councillor Catherine McDonald              |
| Councillor Chris Brown      | Councillor Tim McNally                     |
| Councillor Michael Bukola   | 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 Adele Morris                    |
| Councillor Rowenna Davis    | Councillor Graham Neale                    |
| Councillor Patrick Diamond  | Councillor Wilma Nelson                    |
| Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle  | Councillor David Noakes                    |
| Councillor Nick Dolezal     | Councillor Paul Noblet                     |
| Councillor Gavin Edwards    | Councillor The Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole |
| Councillor Dan Garfield     | Councillor Lisa Rajan                      |
| Councillor Mark Gettleson   | Councillor Lewis Robinson                  |
| Councillor Norma Gibbes     | Councillor Martin Seaton                   |
| Councillor Mark Glover      | Councillor Rosie Shimell                   |
| Councillor Stephen Govier   | Councillor Andy Simmons                    |
| Councillor Renata Hamvas    | Councillor Michael Situ                    |
| Councillor Barrie Hargrove  | Councillor Cleo Soanes                     |
| Councillor Helen Hayes      | Councillor Nick Stanton                    |
| Councillor Claire Hickson   | Councillor Geoffrey Thornton               |
| Councillor Jeff Hook        | Councillor Veronica Ward                   |
| Councillor David Hubber     | Councillor Mark Williams                   |
| Councillor Peter John       | Councillor Ian Wingfield                   |
| Councillor Paul Kyriacou    |  |

## 1. ELECTION OF MAYOR

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor Althea Smith, welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that the guillotine would fall at 8.35pm.

The outgoing Mayor informed the meeting of an incident that had occurred earlier in the day in which a soldier had been killed outside Woolwich barracks. The meeting sent the soldier's family and the local community its condolences.

The outgoing Mayor announced that the leaders of each political group wished to make a statement.

Thereafter, Councillors Peter John, Anood Al-Samerai and Michael Mitchell paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor.

The outgoing Mayor asked for nominations for Mayor for the ensuing municipal year 2013/14.

Councillor Peter John, seconded by Councillor Lorraine, moved that Councillor Abdul Mohamed be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Southwark for the municipal year 2013/14.

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, seconded by Councillor David Hubber, moved that Councillor Wilma Nelson be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Southwark for the municipal year 2013/14.

The nominations were put to the vote in alphabetical order and it was:

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Abdul Mohamed be elected Mayor for the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

Councillor Abdul Mohamed accepted the office of Mayor. The outgoing Mayor declared that Councillor Abdul Mohamed was duly elected Mayor of Southwark for 2013/14. Thereafter the outgoing Mayor announced that the meeting would stand adjourned to allow the Mayor-elect to be robed. The outgoing Mayor, followed by the Mayor-elect, were escorted to the Mayoral robing room by the mace bearer.

Upon their return the retiring Mayor, Councillor Althea Smith, invested the Mayor-elect, Councillor Abdul Mohamed, with the badge of office. The new Mayor signed the declaration of acceptance of office and took the chair. The new Mayor stated that his Consort would be his wife, Caroline McDonald.

Thereafter the Mayor appointed Councillor Sunil Chopra Deputy Mayor and announced that his consort would be his wife, Varsha Chopra. The Deputy Mayor was invested with the badge of office.

The retiring Mayor, Councillor Althea Smith, gave her outgoing speech. Thereafter, the retiring Mayor and her consort, her daughter Serena Dyett, were presented with a replica of the Mayoral badge of the London Borough of Southwark.

The Mayor gave his incoming speech and announced that his chosen charity would be the

Evelina Children's Hospital.

## **2. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

### **2.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Mayor reminded members of two up and coming civic ceremonies:

- The Civic Service at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 22 June at 11am.
- The Armed Forces Day which will be marked in Southwark on Sunday 30 June with a military parade to the Imperial War Museum, followed by a Ceremony of Remembrance and Recognition in The Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park at 12 noon.

### **2.2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT**

There were no late items of business.

The clerk stated that the following papers had been circulated:

- Nominations for chairs and vice chairs of committees and community councils (on white paper)
- nominations to LGA General Assembly (on yellow paper)
- nominations to London Council's Committees, Greater London Employment Forum and Borough Lead members 2013/14 (on yellow paper)
- nomination to Lee Valley Regional Park Authority 2013/14 (on yellow paper)
- the voting sheet (on green paper)
- Questions on reports (blue paper).

### **2.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations.

### **2.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Denise Capstick, Robin Crookshank Hilton, Toby Eckersley and Linda Manchester. Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillors Jeff Hook and Lewis Robinson.

### **2.5 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the open minutes of the ordinary meeting of council assembly held on 27 March 2013 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

### **3. OTHER REPORTS**

#### **3.1 EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS 2013/14**

*(See pages 1 – 4 of the main agenda and pages 1 – 4 of the leader's report on white papers circulated at the meeting)*

The leader of the council, Councillor Peter John, reported on the following appointment of members of the cabinet and the determination and allocation of their functions:

Councillor Peter John – Leader of the council

Councillor Ian Wingfield - Deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management

Councillor Catherine McDonald – Health, Social Care and Equalities

Councillor Barrie Hargrove - Transport, environment and recycling

Councillor Richard Livingstone - Finance, resources and community safety

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle - Children's services

Councillor Victoria Mills - Communities and economic wellbeing

Councillor Veronica Ward - Culture, leisure, sport and volunteering

Councillor Fiona Colley - Regeneration and corporate strategy

#### **Deputy Cabinet Members**

Councillor Mark Williams - Deputy cabinet member for private rented sector housing

Councillor the Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole - Deputy cabinet member for faith communities

Councillor Darren Merrill - Deputy cabinet member for customer services.

A copy of the cabinet portfolios was circulated at the meeting.

The Mayor informed the meeting that as a consequence of the above the monitoring officer would update Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the leader's report on the delegation of executive functions.

**4. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES, COMMUNITY COUNCILS, PANELS AND RELATED MATTERS - 2013/14**

*(See pages 5 – 33 of the main agenda and appendix 1, nominations and responses to questions circulated at the meeting)*

There were four questions on the report, the written responses to which were circulated on blue paper at the meeting. Three supplemental questions were asked of the leader. The questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

The Mayor stated that in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11(2), this being an officer report, the recommendations set out in the report were deemed to have been moved and were subject to amendment only. He announced that there was one amendment to the report, therefore the amendment would be considered first and a separate vote would be taken on the amendment and any contested positions of chair or vice-chair. The remaining recommendations would be considered as part of the substantive motion.

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, seconded by Councillor Graham Neale, moved Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Victoria Mills, Adele Morris and Peter John), Councillor Graham Neale made a point of personal explanation. The debate continued (Councillor Mark Gettleson).

At 8.35pm the Mayor announced that the guillotine had fallen.

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

The Mayor stated that two nominations had been received for the position of vice-chair of the planning committee, Councillors Darren Merrill and Adele Morris. No further nominations were forthcoming, therefore the nominations were put to the vote and council assembly appointed Councillor Darren Merrill as vice-chair of the planning committee.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the appointment of political leaders, deputies and whips be noted as follows:

**LABOUR GROUP**

|               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Leader        | Councillor Peter John    |
| Deputy Leader | Councillor Ian Wingfield |
| Chief Whip    | Councillor Dan Garfield  |

**LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP**

|        |                             |
|--------|-----------------------------|
| Leader | Councillor Anood Al-Samerai |
|--------|-----------------------------|

Deputy Leader                      Councillor Adele Morris

Chief Whip                          Councillor James Barber

**CONSERVATIVE GROUP**

Leader                                Councillor Michael Mitchell

Deputy Leader                      Councillor Lewis Robinson

Chief Whip                          Councillor Toby Eckersley

2. That the size and composition of the council's regulatory and other committees be established in accordance with the number of seats each political group has on the council as a whole, as set out below

**Ordinary Committees: Total number of seats 37**

| Committee  | Total | Lab | Lib Dem | Con |
|--|-------|-----|---------|-----|
| Committee 1<br>Appointments<br>Committee                                 | 7     | 4   | 3       | 0   |
| Committee 2<br>Planning<br>Committee                                     | 7     | 4   | 3       | 0   |
| Committee 3<br>Standards<br>Committee                                    | 9     | 5   | 3       | 1   |
| Committee 4<br>Audit                      and<br>Governance<br>Committee | 7     | 4   | 2       | 1   |
| Committee 5<br>Corporate<br>Parenting<br>Committee                       | 7     | 4   | 3       | 0   |
| Total  | 37    | 21  | 14      | 2   |

**Other committees: Total number of seats 29**

| Committee                          | Total | Lab | Lib Dem | Con |
|------------------------------------|-------|-----|---------|-----|
| Overview and<br>scrutiny Committee | 11    | 6   | 4       | 1   |
| Licensing<br>Committee             | 15    | 8   | 6       | 1   |
| Health and<br>Wellbeing Board      | 3     | 3   | Nil     | Nil |
| Total                              | 29    | 17  | 10      | 2   |

### **Community councils:**

- Bermondsey and Rotherhithe
- Borough, Bankside and Walworth
- Camberwell
- Dulwich
- Peckham and Nunhead.

Note: Membership as set out in Article 5 of the constitution.

### **Appointment of chairs and vice chairs**

3. That the following be appointed as chairs and vice chairs for the committees and community councils outlined below:

#### **Appointments Committee**

Chair - Councillor Peter John  
Vice-Chair - Councillor Ian Wingfield

#### **Audit And Governance Committee**

Chair - Councillor Mark Glover  
Vice-Chair - Vacant

#### **Corporate Parenting Committee**

Chair: Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle  
Vice Chair: Councillor Eliza Mann

#### **Health And Wellbeing Board**

Chair - Councillor Peter John  
Vice-Chair - Vacant

#### **Licensing Committee**

Chair - Councillor Renata Hamvas  
Vice-Chair - Vacant

#### **Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Chair - Councillor Cathy Bowman  
Vice-Chair - Councillor Gavin Edwards

#### **Planning Committee**

Chair - Councillor Nick Dolezal  
Vice-Chair - Councillor Darren Merrill

## **Standards Committee**

Chair - Councillor Cleo Soanes  
Vice-Chair - Councillor James Barber

**Note:** Any vacant position will be considered at the first meeting of the committee.

## **Community Councils**

### **Bermondsey and Rotherhithe**

Chair - Councillor Graham Neale  
Vice-Chair - Councillor Paul Kyriacou

### **Borough, Bankside and Walworth**

Chair - Councillor Martin Seaton  
Vice-Chair - Councillor Poddy Clark

### **Camberwell**

Chair - Councillor Mark Williams  
Vice-Chair - Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle

### **Dulwich**

Chair - Councillor Helen Hayes  
Vice-Chair - Councillor Rosie Shimell

### **Peckham and Nunhead**

Chair - Councillor Cleo Soanes  
Vice-Chair - Councillor Althea Smith

## **Establishment of the council's panels**

4. That the following council panels be established:
  - **Council assembly business panel** – The panel is chaired by the Mayor and also consists of one representative from each political group. The panel acts as an advisory panel to the Mayor on council assembly, including the annual programme and the setting of themes for debate. Groups can nominate a reserve to attend in the absence of a representative.
  - **Constitutional steering panel** – The panel is comprised of the whip and one other member from the Labour Group and the political whips of the other groups represented on the council. The panel is responsible for reviewing and recommending amendments to the constitution. It is also responsible for making recommendations to council assembly for the award of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough and Honorary Aldermen and to recommend changes



to the members' allowances scheme. Groups can nominate a reserve to attend in the absence of a representative.

- **Pensions advisory panel** – The panel has a composition of members, officers, independent advisors and a trade union representative. The purpose of the panel is to advise the advice to the finance director when performing functions relating to the council's pension scheme.
- **Voluntary bodies appointment panel** – The panel has a composition of three Labour and two Liberal Democrat members. The panel will be responsible for recommending the appointment of charity trustees to specific Southwark charities and recommending appointments to the position of school governor on local education authority secondary and special school governing bodies.

5. That the following be appointed chair of the panels outlined below:

**Constitutional steering panel**

Chair: Councillor Dan Garfield

**Voluntary bodies appointment panel**

Chair: Councillor Ian Wingfield.

**Appointments to Local Government Association General Assembly**

6. That three representatives with an allocation of five votes be appointed to the representatives to the LGA General Assembly as follows:

- Councillor Peter John - 2 votes
- Councillor Ian Wingfield – 1 vote
- Councillor Anood Al-Samerai - 2 votes.

**Other appointments to joint committees/outside bodies**

7. That it be noted that the cabinet and other committees will make appointments to all other outside committees and bodies for the municipal year 2013/14 as required by part 3S of the constitution.

**Urgency committee**

8. That the role of the urgency committee between a municipal election and the annual meeting of council assembly be reviewed in light of the post-election period in 2010 and the new executive arrangements. Officers will report to the constitutional steering panel with proposals on future urgency arrangements.

**5. NOMINATIONS TO LONDON COUNCILS COMMITTEES, GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM, BOROUGH LEAD MEMBERS 2013/14 AND LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

*(See pages 34 – 40 of the main agenda and nominations on yellow papers circulated at*

*the meeting)*

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12(10), the guillotine having fallen the nominations contained on the yellow papers circulated at the meeting were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:**

**1. LONDON COUNCILS LEADERS' COMMITTEE (S101 JOINT COMMITTEE)**

Representative: Councillor Peter John

Deputies: Councillors Fiona Colley and Ian Wingfield

**2. LONDON COUNCILS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (S101 ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE)**

Representative: Councillor Barrie Hargrove

Deputies: Councillors Fiona Colley, Richard Livingstone, Victoria Mills

**3. LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE (ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE)**

Representative: Councillor Victoria Mills

Deputies: Councillors Dora Dixon-Fyle, Richard Livingstone, Catherine McDonald, Veronica Ward

**4. GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM**

Representative: Councillor Richard Livingstone

Deputy: Councillor Fiona Colley

**5. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Representative: Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle

**6. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CRIME AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**

Representative: Councillor Richard Livingstone

**7. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CULTURE AND TOURISM**

Representative: Councillor Veronica Ward

**8. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/REGENERATION**

Representative: Councillor Fiona Colley

**9. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES**

Representative: Councillor Catherine McDonald

**10. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HOUSING**

Representative : Councillor Ian Wingfield

**11. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – PLANNING**

Representative: Councillor Fiona Colley

**12. LONDON COUNCILS LIMITED**

Representative: Councillor Peter John

**13. LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

Representative: Councillor Veronica Ward.

**6. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments were set out in Supplemental Agenda No.2.

The meeting closed at 8.38pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**