

Item No. 3.4	Classification: Open	Date: 16 October 2013	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motions on the Theme – Green Southwark	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the themed debate, council assembly may debate motions. Members' motions on the theme will use present principles to allow sufficient political balance and for political groups to hold cabinet to account.¹

Members are limited to moving one motion and seconding one motion in the themed section of the meeting.

All motions shall be relevant to the topic under discussion and shall be conducted under the existing rules for members' motions. Normal deadlines shall apply for the submission of members' motions.

The order in which motions are debated and timings shall be determined by the Mayor.²

1. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER** (Seconded by Councillor Geoffrey Thornton)

Making Southwark a Carbon Neutral Council

Council assembly:

- Recognises the urgent need to plan for a greener, healthier future for Southwark and notes the council's existing commitment to reduce emissions in the borough by 80% on current levels by 2050
- Notes that the council itself is responsible for 14.5% of the borough's total carbon emissions (including council homes), and believes the council should be leading the way in emissions reduction to encourage residents and local businesses to follow suit
- Recognises that as well as minimising impact on the environment, reducing emissions will also cut the council's energy bill, save money that can be put to good use elsewhere and reduce pollution.
- Therefore calls on cabinet to commit to making Southwark a carbon neutral council by 2018, reducing net carbon emissions from the council's operational estate, schools and leisure centres to zero by the end of the next administration.

¹ Council assembly procedure rule 2.7 (3)

² Council assembly procedure rule 2.7 (9) and (10)

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

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN HAYES (Seconded by Councillor Gavin Edwards)

Green Southwark

- Council assembly welcomes this administration's commitment to improving Southwark's environment and notes the progress that has been made since 2010, despite aggressive cuts to local budgets from the government.
- Council assembly believes that a green Southwark not only improves our natural environment, but contributes to the health and wellbeing of our residents, the vibrancy of our communities and the richness of our heritage.
- Council assembly notes that 17 Southwark parks and green spaces are now in receipt of the prestigious Green Flag award – more than in the borough's history. It congratulates the fantastic work of the council's parks team, Friends Groups and volunteers who have all made this possible.
- Council assembly notes that Southwark is the 5th best in the whole of England for having sites of importance for nature conservation in positive management demonstrating the council's commitment to the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity across the borough.
- Council assembly welcomes this administration's £8 million investment in Burgess Park which has seen 331 newly planted trees, 92,000 plants and shrubs, new play areas and outdoor gym equipment, the planting of St Georges Gardens and of course a world class new BMX track.
- Council assembly notes the introduction of a tree warden network to Southwark and, for the first time ever, a tree management strategy which records the borough's current tree stock, aims to increase community involvement in tree management and sets out the council's vision for trees for the coming years.
- Council assembly welcomes the opening of two new air quality stations in the borough, at the Old Kent Road and Elephant and Castle and welcomes this reversal of policy from the previous administration.
- Council assembly believes part of a green Southwark is to encourage sustainable forms of transport and notes that the number of people cycling and walking in the borough has increased with the help of key initiatives including free adult cyclist training.
- Council assembly believes that in order to tackle climate change, the council itself must set an example and therefore welcomes the news that Southwark has achieved a 20.6% reduction of energy use on its operational estate and school buildings since 2009.
- Council assembly regrets the failure of the Tory Liberal Democrat government's to live up to its promise to be "the greenest government ever" after it slashed the budget for helping fuel poor households with their

energy bills, failed to ensure that the energy companies meet their obligations on energy efficiency and failed to back a decarbonisation target.

- Council assembly welcomes the cabinet's commitment to creating a greener Southwark and urges them to continue to ensure that Southwark remains a green borough.

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	Alexa Coates, Principal Constitutional Officer
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