

<b>Item No.</b> 5.2	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 22 January 2014	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Motions	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Proper Constitutional Officer	

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The councillor introducing or “moving” the motion may make a speech directed to the matter under discussion. This may not exceed five minutes<sup>1</sup>.

A second councillor will then be asked by the Mayor to “second” the motion. This may not exceed three minutes without the consent of the Mayor.

The meeting will then debate the issue and any amendments on the motion will be dealt with.

At the end of the debate the mover of the motion may make a concluding speech, known as a “right of reply”. If an amendment is carried, the mover of the amendment shall hold the right of reply to any subsequent amendments and, if no further amendments are carried, at the conclusion of the debate on the substantive motion.

The Mayor will then ask councillors to vote on the motion (and any amendments).

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution allocates responsibility for particular functions to council assembly, including approving the budget and policy framework, and allocates to the cabinet responsibility for developing and implementing the budget and policy framework and overseeing the running of council services on a day-to-day basis. Therefore any matters that are reserved to the cabinet (i.e. housing, social services, regeneration, environment, education etc) cannot be decided upon by council assembly without prior reference to the cabinet. While it would be in order for council assembly to discuss an issue, consideration of any of the following should be referred to the cabinet:

- to change or develop a new or existing policy
- to instruct officers to implement new procedures
- to allocate resources.

**Note:** In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10 (7) & (8) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which motions appear in the agenda may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9)

**1. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL** (Seconded by Councillor Lisa Rajan)

**Cost of Child Care**

Council assembly:

1. Recognises the significant cost of good quality childcare for families across the borough.
2. Welcomes the government's offer of 15 hours a week free early education for all four and three year olds, which has been expanded to eligible two year olds by the coalition government.
3. Also supports the coalition government's plans to further help parents by offering to pay 20 pence of childcare for every 80 pence paid by parents from 2015.
4. Calls on the cabinet to do everything in their power to promote this policy to parents in the borough to ensure they can take full advantage of free early education hours to give their children the best start in life.

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

**2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MARK WILLIAMS** (Seconded by Councillor Helen Hayes)

**London Housing Strategy**

1. London is facing a housing crisis, as housing supply fails to match the city's growing population. Home ownership in London has fallen below 50 per cent for the first time since records began and the rise in house prices has outstripped the increase in household incomes. In 2013, the average rent for a three bedroom flat typically consumed 59 per cent of a London family's income. Londoners now experience the highest levels of overcrowding in the country and the capital has record levels of homeless households in temporary accommodation.
2. Council assembly notes the Mayor of London's draft Housing Strategy and welcomes the commitment to increase housing building in London. Council assembly notes the ambition to build at least 42,000 new homes in London per annum for the next ten years, approximately twice as many as are currently built per year, but expresses concern that this number may not be sufficient to solve London's current housing crisis, with recent research suggesting that more than 60,000 new homes a year are needed to meet growing demand in the capital.
3. Council assembly welcomes the fact that the Mayor of London has accepted Labour's argument about the importance of genuinely affordable housing and welcomes the move in the Mayor's Housing Strategy to recognise the continued need for new homes at social rent.

4. However, council assembly expresses concern about the balance between “discounted rents”, which are set well above target rent levels for social housing but below market rents, and “capped rents” which are equivalent to the current social rent.
5. Of the 15,000 new affordable homes that the Mayor will seek to deliver each year:
  - Approximately 4,000 will be flexible low cost home ownership and 9,000 will be affordable rent.
  - Of the 9,000 affordable rent houses, only half of these homes will be “capped” at low affordable rents, with the remaining half set at “discounted” rents of up to 80% of market rent.
6. This means that social rented housing makes up only 11% of the Mayor’s annual housing target.
7. Council assembly expresses concern that the Mayor’s decision to allow “affordable” rents to be set at up to 80% of market prices will make renting unaffordable for many residents in the borough. Southwark Council, along with other London boroughs, has initiated a judicial review of this decision, the implication of which would be that councils will have little power to make sure new affordable housing is genuinely affordable for local people.
8. Council assembly welcomes the commitment of Southwark Council to building more homes in the borough, having built 2,300 new homes over the last two years, including 1,230 affordable homes.
9. It notes that Southwark is the fifth highest London borough in terms of house building over the last two years and also the fifth highest in building affordable housing.
10. Council assembly congratulates other Labour boroughs for their commitment to house building, making up seven of the top 10 London boroughs in terms of house building over the last two years, and nine out of the top 10 boroughs for building additional affordable housing in London.
11. Council assembly welcomes this administration’s commitment to build 11,000 new council homes. Council assembly notes that since 2010 the council has already approved over 10,000 new homes in the borough, including almost 3,000 new affordable homes.
12. Council assembly notes the acknowledgement in the Mayor’s draft London Housing Strategy that boroughs, the government, the Mayor and the public and private sectors must work together to achieve the 42,000 target for house building. However, council assembly also expresses concern that many London boroughs, particularly Conservative and Liberal Democrat boroughs, are likely to have significantly lower housing targets than Southwark.
13. Southwark is playing its part in solving London’s housing crisis; council assembly calls on other councils to do the same.

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

3. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE** (Seconded by Councillor Geoffrey Thornton)

**Urgent Review of Cycle Safety**

Council assembly:

1. Notes with sadness the loss of cyclists' lives on London's roads in recent months and years, including the tragic death in November of Walworth resident and community volunteer Richard Muzira.
2. Welcomes the council's work towards Transport for London's central London cycling grid, but notes that the scheme will only improve facilities in a small corner of the borough.
3. Also welcomes the council leader's acknowledgement that a complete overhaul of cycling facilities is required across London.
4. Therefore calls on the cabinet to take real action now by conducting an urgent cross-party review of all the borough's main roads to identify the safety upgrades and changes to layout, including segregated cycle lanes, which are required across the network to make Southwark a safe and attractive borough for cyclists of all ages and confidence levels.

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

4. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CLAIRE HICKSON** (Seconded by Councillor Gavin Edwards)

**Safer Crossings on Borough High Street**

Council assembly:

1. Applauds the work of local campaigners in organising the 'Safe Crossings on Borough High St Campaign'.
2. Notes that high numbers of people cross Borough High Street every day at its junctions at:
  - Great Dover Street and Marshalsea Road
  - Trinity Street and Great Suffolk Street.
3. Notes that many of the people who use these junctions are families who live to the east of Borough High Street and whose children go to schools on the west side of Borough High Street, including Charles Dickens Primary School, the Cathedral School and St Joseph's Primary School, Friars Primary School, the London Christian School, St Saviour's and St Olave's school, the Bright Horizons Nursery and The Arc Nursery.
4. Calls on cabinet to work with Transport for London to:
  - Review crossing safety on Borough High Street

- Create pedestrian crossings at the junction with Great Dover Street and Marshalsea Road, and at the junction with Trinity Street and Great Suffolk Street.

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

- 5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER** (Seconded by Councillor Jonathan Mitchell)

**East Dulwich Police Station**

Council assembly believes the former East Dulwich Police Station building should be used for the benefit of local residents and therefore calls on cabinet to support it being listed by Southwark Council as an asset of community value.

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

- 6. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE** (Seconded by Councillor Martin Seaton)

**Billboard Advertisement at Elephant & Castle Roundabout**

Council assembly:

1. Applauds work of local community activists Vijay Luthra, Claire Maugham and Karl Eastham, who succeeded in getting an offensive billboard advert removed from the Elephant & Castle roundabout following public complaints.
2. Recognises the negative effect of inappropriate adverts anywhere in the borough and notes the council's guidelines to contractors about the types of adverts they display on council sites.
3. Congratulates the council for acting immediately to have the offensive advert removed and notes that the advert was taken down by council officers the same day they were alerted to the issue.
4. Welcomes the swift action of Primesight, the billboard operator, in responding quickly to the council's request.

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

- 7. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN** (Seconded by Councillor Graham Neale)

**Tribute to Grace Jones**

Council assembly:

1. Notes with sadness the passing of the UK's oldest resident, Grace Jones from Bermondsey, who died in November aged 113.

2. Acknowledges her remarkable life which spanned the whole of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and her contribution to the local community.
3. Calls on the cabinet to pay a lasting tribute to the life of Grace Jones by naming a new public building after her at the earliest opportunity.

**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

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager
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<b>Version</b>	Final
<b>Dated</b>	6 January 2014