

Item No. 3.3	Classification: Open	Date: 26 March 2014	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motions on the Theme – Future Vision for 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 LISA RAJAN** (Seconded by Councillor Rosie Shimell)

Future Vision for Southwark

1. Council assembly notes the Liberal Democrats' ambitious vision for Southwark which prioritises:
 - i. Stopping Labour's council homes sell-off
 - ii. Offering free childcare hours for all 2, 3 and 4 year olds
 - iii. Creating 1,000 new apprenticeships
 - iv. Cutting council tax for all residents.
2. Council assembly regrets the failure of Southwark's current Labour administration which has:
 - i. Rolled over to property developers instead of fighting for more affordable homes
 - ii. Failed to get the basics right on school places and housing repairs
 - iii. Wasted money on drinks parties and council propaganda whilst residents struggle to make ends meet.
3. Council assembly therefore supports the Liberal Democrat plan for Southwark, as outlined below, and urges residents to help create a new era

¹ Council assembly procedure rule 2.7 (3)

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

for the borough by backing a Liberal Democrat administration in May's local elections.

4. Value for money, on the side of residents

- 4.1. Cut council tax for all residents.
- 4.2. Cut Labour's £9.3m bill for catering, cabs and council waste.
- 4.3. Invest the council's pension fund into new homes instead of tobacco firms.
- 4.4. Give council decisions and money back to communities rather than town hall bureaucrats.
- 4.5. Give the voluntary sector a commission with a real say in council decisions.

5. Creating jobs, supporting local business

- 5.1. Create 1,000 new apprenticeships.
- 5.2. Open a new 'Jobs & Enterprise Hub' offering training, support and desk space for job hunters and start-up businesses.
- 5.3. Offer flexible business rates to fill empty shops and support startup businesses.
- 5.4. Create a new "I'm shopping locally" parking scheme to revitalise our high streets and markets.
- 5.5. Roll out free public wireless internet across the borough.

6. Education and childcare

- 6.1. Offer one day a month free childcare for all 2, 3 and 4 year olds.
- 6.2. Build new primary and secondary schools where they are needed to bring an end to Labour's school places crisis.
- 6.3. Maintain free universal school meals for all primary school children.
- 6.4. Establish a new University Technical College in the north of the borough.
- 6.5. Provide free extra tuition for children requiring additional support.

7. Fixing the broken housing market

- 7.1. Fight for 1 in 3 homes in every new development to be affordable.
- 7.2. Bring empty homes back into use, turning neglected and forgotten properties into council homes.
- 7.3. Get tough on rogue landlords and unfair letting agent charges.
- 7.4. Help those on middle incomes who can't get on the property ladder with more shared ownership homes.
- 7.5. Support Simon Hughes MP's 'Homes not investments' campaign to stop foreign firms buying up flats and leaving them empty.

8. Championing council housing

- 8.1. Stop Labour's mass sell-off of council homes and build new ones across the borough.
- 8.2. Bring fairness to council housing waiting lists and help people to swap homes more easily.
- 8.3. Fix the repairs service by offering one-hour time slots and sorting out other problems in the same visit.

- 8.4. Put right Labour's 'Warm, Dry & Safe' sham by giving tenants the basics they deserve including new kitchens and bathrooms.
- 8.5. Stop the rip-off of leaseholders by getting value for money from contracts and photographic evidence of work.

9. Walking, cycling and transport

- 9.1. Introduce protected cycle lanes along all main roads in Southwark.
- 9.2. Roll out a new network of cycle stands, lockers and community bike repair stations.
- 9.3. Extend the London bike hire scheme further into Southwark
- 9.4. Give neighbourhoods money to sort out potholes, pavements and walking signs.
- 9.5. Push the Mayor and TfL for a Bakerloo line extension south beyond Elephant & Castle.

10. Backing local arts, sports and culture

- 10.1. Invest in local sports and leisure including bringing Southwark Park athletics track back into use and a building a new lido.
- 10.2. Open up school facilities outside of school hours for sports, adult education and arts.
- 10.3. Provide a dedicated pot of local cash for children's play areas and youth clubs.
- 10.4. Make better use of the huge cultural wealth in the borough to make sure it is accessible to all ages and backgrounds.
- 10.5. Protect and improve the council's libraries.

11. A cleaner and greener Southwark

- 11.1. Make Southwark Council carbon-neutral by 2018.
- 11.2. Clamp down on high-polluting vehicles to tackle poor air quality.
- 11.3. Protect trees and green spaces with decisions about them going to community councils.
- 11.4. Clean up Southwark's streets and tackle the huge rise in fly-tipping under Labour.
- 11.5. Install split bins across the borough to raise recycling rates.

12. Supporting older and vulnerable people

- 12.1. Introduce a dedicated phone line for older people - staffed by older people - to give specialised advice about all council services.
- 12.2. Build housing designed for older people that can be easily adapted as needs change.
- 12.3. Support high quality day centres and offer personalised help to those who need it.
- 12.4. Launch a review of the help offered to carers to make sure they get the support they deserve.
- 12.5. Help pensioners and people with disabilities to lead active lives by supporting their involvement in arts and leisure.

13. Keeping Southwark safe

- 13.1. Continue to fight the Tory Mayor of London's police and fire cuts.
- 13.2. Restore funding to the noise and anti-social behaviour teams which

was cut by Labour.

- 13.4. Tackle alcohol-related crime and disorder in trouble hotspots
- 13.3. Invest in CCTV and door-entry systems on estates. and remove licenses from irresponsible bars.
- 13.5. Help victims of domestic violence and troubled families get the support they need to turn their lives around.

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 Michael Situ)

A Vision for Southwark

1. Council assembly welcomes the work that this administration has done over the last four years to deliver the council's vision of creating a fairer future for Southwark.
2. Council assembly notes that since 2010, the council has faced almost £80 million in government funding cuts, which have caused significant budget pressures. This year alone the council has lost over £25 million in funding, equating to £249 for every single person in Southwark.

These cuts have meant the council has been required to do more with less. Council assembly welcomes the fact that the administration – in line with the preferences of Southwark residents - has protected frontline services and delivered savings through efficiencies in back-office and support services, cutting councillor allowances, cutting the cost of consultants and temps and cutting bills for catering, taxis and publicity.

3. Council assembly applauds the success of this administration in delivering on its "Fairer Future" promises, including:
 - i. Ensuring every primary school child in Southwark receives a free healthy, nutritious hot meal every day – delivering nearly four million free school meals each year and saving families £340 a year per child
 - ii. Supporting residents in Southwark through the current cost of living crisis by freezing council tax for four years in a row and keeping council rents low
 - iii. Ensuring that every employee, contractor and agency staff employed by the council are paid the London Living Wage
 - iv. Doubling Southwark's recycling rate and bringing a record 17 council parks up to green flag standard
 - v. Investing £326 million to make every council home in the borough warm, dry and safe
 - vi. Supporting older people in the borough by halving the price of meals on wheels, introducing a social care hotline providing expert advice, and building a new Centre of Excellence to deliver cutting edge facilities for dementia patients

- vii. Supporting 26 talented young people from Southwark facing financial hardship to go to university
 - viii. Supporting 1,000 Southwark residents to find work through the council's employment programmes in the last 18 months.
4. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to continue working towards delivering a fairer future for all in Southwark, and in particular by:
- i. Creating quality affordable homes in Southwark, building more homes of every kind for local people, including 11,000 new council homes, improving the quality of existing council homes, driving up standards in the private rented sector and keeping rents in Southwark among the lowest in London
 - ii. Supporting the best start in life by continuing to deliver free school meals for all primary school children, investing in affordable childcare for families in Southwark and expanding school places across the borough
 - iii. Building a strong local economy by leading the campaign for the London Living Wage, working with local businesses to support job creation and ensuring that young people in Southwark are ready for work
 - iv. Continuing to deliver value for money and get the basics right in the face of significant government cuts, continuing to drive up recycling rates, investing in our roads and working to keep our streets clean and safe
 - v. Supporting people of all ages in Southwark to lead healthy and active lives, preventing barriers that prevent people from getting fit, investing in cycling to improve safety and take up, supporting our more vulnerable residents and becoming an "Age Friendly Borough", to help people get the best out of Southwark, whatever their age
 - vi. Taking pride in our borough, investing in our parks and libraries, continuing to invest in green energy and transforming our town centres through regeneration to make them places that we can all live, work and enjoy.

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

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL (Seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson)

Vision for Localism

Council assembly notes the persistently low turnouts in local elections, indicating a lack of connection with the voters; and also the wide disparity in turnout between the wards.

Council assembly believes the future of Southwark will be best served when the people are empowered and encouraged to engage with local politicians.

To that end this council assembly calls on Southwark Council to come forward with policies which:

1. Address the priorities of the people
2. Increase local decision making through an increased number of community councils which in turn have more devolved powers, including executive and planning powers, and funding for the effective discharge of such responsibilities.

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	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer
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