

Item No. 5.2	Classification: Open	Date: 25 March 2015	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motions	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		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 minutes¹.

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.

¹ Council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9)

1. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHANIE CRYAN** (Seconded by Councillor Rebecca Lury)

Financial advice in health centres

1. Council assembly acknowledges the inherent link between financial health and health and wellbeing, particularly mental health.
2. Council assembly welcomes the work of the healthy communities scrutiny sub-committee exploring the health of the borough, including financial health. Council assembly welcomes the committee's work in highlighting the impact of financial exclusion on health, in particular the impact on those with mental health concerns who are also struggling financially.
3. Council assembly therefore calls on cabinet to introduce financial health services in health centres, to provide high quality debt and income maximisation advice and welfare benefits casework for patients in Southwark.
4. Council assembly believes that the provision of high quality financial advice will improve the patient experience and optimise the time of GPs and health professionals, as well as directly targeting the link between mental and financial health.

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

2. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BEN JOHNSON** (Seconded by Councillor Adele Morris)

Mental health services in Southwark

1. Council assembly notes that:
 - mental health issues will affect 1 in 4 people at some point in their lives and that 70,000 people in Southwark will suffer from mental health issues
 - mental health issues can shorten life expectancy by fifteen to twenty years
 - people with mental health issues are more likely to experience homelessness, and anxiety and depression have been linked to overcrowded and unfit housing.
2. Council assembly further notes that the Liberal Democrats in government have:
 - invested £400 million in early support for people with mental health issues and committed to put mental health treatment on a par with physical health
 - introduced maximum waiting times for talking therapies and the Crisis Care Concordat to ensure nobody experiencing psychosis is ever turned away from accident & emergency

- pledged extra investment for new inpatient beds, better case management and improved access to mental health care for children and young people
- helped fund the Time to Change campaign which challenges mental health stigma and discrimination
- called on all NHS trusts to aim for a 'Zero Suicide' policy and established a government-wide mental health taskforce.

3. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:

- take action to ensure an appropriate advocacy service is available for all Southwark residents with mental health issues
- consider the appointment of a Southwark Mental Health Champion to act as a link between the council, clients and the different agencies working in mental health
- ensure that mental health services receive their fair share of public health funding alongside real-term increases in each year of the current administration
- ensure each council department deals with residents with mental health issues consistently and with a supportive and sympathetic approach
- improve the promotion of counselling services available for staff experiencing mental health or emotional issues.

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

3. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS** (Seconded by Councillor Lorraine Lauder)

Betting shop enforcement

1. Council assembly recognises the growing concern of local residents and the council about the proliferation of high street betting shops in Southwark; particularly the rise in high stake Fixed Odds Betting Terminals.
2. Council assembly is particularly concerned by recent evidence which suggests that despite age restrictions on gambling, some young people under the age of 18 are using these highly addictive gambling machines in betting shops.
3. Council assembly notes that the council does not currently have the power to inspect gambling venues to ensure that age restrictions are being properly enforced, nor is there a requirement for a 'Think 21' or 'Think 25' policy, as there is in premises selling alcohol, tobacco or other age-restricted products. Council assembly also notes that there are currently no regulations on layout in gambling premises to ensure that all customers entering the premises are in line of sight of staff.
4. Council assembly further notes that of the 80 gambling premises in Southwark, only two have recently been subject to spot-checks by the Gambling Commission and that both premises failed these checks.

5. Council assembly believes that it is vital that betting shops have sufficient controls in place to prevent children from using these highly addictive gambling machines, which could lead to young people developing gambling problems later in life.
6. Council assembly therefore calls on the cabinet to lobby local MPs and government to give local authorities more powers of enforcement in gambling premises, which are effectively self-regulating, to bring them in line with other licensed premises.

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN HAYES (Seconded by Councillor Sarah King)

Improve services at London Bridge station

1. Council assembly believes that the current situation for rail passengers at London Bridge station is completely unacceptable.
2. Council assembly notes that almost three months since the introduction of the new timetable at London Bridge the situation at the station is worse than ever, with increasing chaos and disruption and dangerous overcrowding.
3. Council assembly notes that passengers in Dulwich, Peckham Rye and South Bermondsey, are facing increasing delays and cancellations to an already reduced timetable, and that unacceptable levels of overcrowding are also being experienced at other stations including Herne Hill and Loughborough Junction as passengers seek to avoid London Bridge.
4. Council assembly believes that the chaos at London Bridge has demonstrated that Network Rail and Southern are not capable of sorting out the mess.
5. Council assembly notes that the Secretary of State for Transport, Patrick McLoughlin MP, has so far failed to respond to letters from elected members in Southwark on the issues at London Bridge, and requests that Cabinet writes to demand his urgent personal intervention to improve the service for passengers at London Bridge.
6. Council assembly notes that there are significant transport issues on trains across South East London in addition to the problems at London Bridge, including the lack of capacity on the South Eastern line into London Victoria, affecting passengers at Nunhead, Peckham Rye and Denmark Hill.
7. Council assembly notes the success of London Overground services run by Transport for London, which have consistently achieved high ratings for punctuality and customer satisfaction, while more than trebling passenger numbers, and whilst using much of the same infrastructure as Southern.
8. Council assembly notes that it is Labour's policy to allow public sector organisations to bid to run rail services, and that in London we have a public sector organisation, Transport for London, which already runs some of London's rail services to an extremely high level of customer

satisfaction. Council assembly therefore calls on the Secretary of State to allow Transport for London to run all rail services in South East London in order to have a properly integrated transport system.

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
Version	Final
Dated	10 March 2015