

Item No. 5.2	Classification: Open	Date: 8 July 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 ANOOD AL-SAMERAI (Seconded by Councillor David Noakes)

Save Southwark woods

1. Council assembly notes the challenges in finding new graves in the borough and understands that the council's focus has primarily been on securing sustainable burial space.
2. Council assembly recognises the consultation held on the burial strategy in 2011, but has the following concerns about the process:
 - the consultation focused on Honor Oak Recreation Ground, not the disputed woodland in Old and New Cemeteries, and the majority of respondents were Lewisham residents.
 - there was insufficient consultation with those who plan to be buried in the borough or their families.
 - the consultation failed to highlight the potential impact of new grave sites on existing woodland and the word 'trees' only appears once in the 2011 report.
 - there were no consultation responses from people of religions other than Christian.
 - there were no precise costs or estimates of the number of trees to be felled.
 - the consultation was conducted too far in advance of the current implementation - Southwark has a high population turnover and many residents near the cemeteries will be new.
3. Council assembly notes that the existing plans to provide over 2,000 new graves will affect existing woodland negatively and that while Southwark has excellent maintained parks, there are few natural woodland areas.
4. Council assembly also notes that The Camberwell Old Cemetery woodland is a Grade 1 site of borough importance for nature conservation and councillors have a duty to protect heritage and nature for future generations.
5. Council assembly recognises there is no legal obligation for the council to provide burial space within the borough and that 9 out of 13 inner London boroughs have no plans to create new graves.
6. Council assembly further notes that the new graves for Southwark residents could be provided at Kemnal Park, as Tower Hamlets council has done recently.
7. Council assembly therefore calls for:
 - a review of the existing cemeteries strategy by the relevant scrutiny committee to investigate the direct effects on woodland and whether there are more cost-effective and less harmful alternatives.
 - all councillors involved in the scrutiny process to visit the woodland.
 - a new consultation exercise to explore how to protect and enhance the woodland and wildlife in this area and to ask specifically whether new burial spaces should be provided within the borough.

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

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LUCAS GREEN (Seconded by Councillor Tom Flynn)

Right to Buy

1. Council assembly welcomes this administration's commitment to building 11,000 new council homes to meet growing demand for affordable housing in the borough, with the first 75 of these new homes recently being built at Willow Walk.
2. Council assembly notes however that the council's ambitious house-building programme is at serious risk from the government's right to buy proposals, which could lead to up to 500 council homes a year in Southwark being sold, as well as forcing the sale of new council homes as soon as they are built.
3. Council assembly believes these proposals will have a devastating effect on council housing in Southwark and could effectively stop the local authority from building much-needed new council homes, particularly in the north of the borough.
4. Council assembly believes that at a time when London boroughs are facing a housing crisis, it is an utter disgrace for the 12,000 people on Southwark's housing waiting list for the government to force the sale of desperately needed council homes. Council assembly also believes that is wrong for council housing to be sold in London, where there is a massive housing shortage, to fund the sale of housing association properties outside the capital.
5. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to work with other London boroughs to lobby the government to reconsider these preposterous plans and to push for an exemption to new build homes, to ensure that the government's plans do not jeopardise the council's ambitious council house building programme.

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

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES OKOSUN (Seconded by Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall)

Children missing from care

Council assembly:

1. Puts on record its concern about the issue of young people in Southwark and throughout London going missing from care, which can put already vulnerable people at further risk of exploitation, abuse or other serious harm.
2. Notes that in 2014/15 there were 249 recorded incidents of children going missing from care in Southwark.
3. Recognises that this is a complex issue and thanks council officers and care home staff who have been working to support young people in care and reduce the number going missing.
4. Also recognises that this is a problem that should be acknowledged and understood by all councillors in order to highlight the issue, work towards

reducing the number of recorded incidents in future years and ensure there is no complacency whatsoever where the welfare of looked-after children is concerned.

5. Welcomes the work done on this issue by politicians on all sides, including the 'Looked-After Children: Missing In Care' report by Caroline Pidgeon AM published in June 2015, which looked at the problem across London.
6. Calls on the cabinet to tackle the problem of children missing from care by monitoring each of the recommendations included in the corporate parenting committee's 'statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care.
7. Also calls on the cabinet to provide a quarterly update on children missing from care to all councillors, including the latest figures, and for these to be published on the council's website each quarter.
8. Asks the education and children's services scrutiny sub-committee to also monitor this issue on a regular basis.

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

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LEO POLLAK (Seconded by Councillor Catherine Dale)

Revitalising The Blue

Council assembly:

1. Believes that while high streets are at the heart of the economic and civic renewal of many of our neighbourhoods, the challenges of online competition, redeveloped shopping centres and prevalent retail uses that take money out of a neighbourhood mean that creative solutions are required for their future vitality.
2. Welcomes the investment Southwark Council has made through the Investing In Local Retail Environment (ILRE) and High Street Challenge programmes across the borough, including the improvements made to shop fronts and public realm at the Blue and Southwark Park Road and the support provided to help establish the Blue Bermondsey business improvement district.
3. Supports the Blue Bermondsey BID's efforts to drive new investment into the area in a way that directly benefits local people and welcomes the establishment of a "Commonplace" survey to identify what kinds of shops, stalls, attractions and general amenities local people want.
4. Notes that the balance of shops around the Blue and Southwark Park Road does not serve local residents well, with 4 betting shops, 8 fast food takeaways, and 12 general grocer/late night off licences in the immediate area.
5. Notes that the Southwark Park Road/Market Place town centre has a very high concentration of retail units under council ownership and management.
6. Calls on cabinet to develop a new lettings strategy or charter for the parade, in dialogue with the Blue Bermondsey BID, local residents and landlords, which takes a holistic view on the maximisation of revenue income from the parade by

creating over time the full variety of retail uses serving all parts of the local community and establishing the Blue as a cultural and retail destination for people in Bermondsey and beyond.

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

5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS (Seconded by Councillor Renata Hamvas)

Albion Primary School

1. Southwark faces a significant challenge in meeting the growing demand for school places across the borough. Council assembly therefore welcomes the redevelopment of Albion Primary School, which will provide new school facilities and enable the school to expand to add an additional class, providing education to more Southwark children.
2. Council assembly welcomes the leadership being provided by Albion Primary School in meeting the challenge of growing places and building an innovatively designed new school, which makes the best possible use of outdoor space.
3. Council assembly further applauds Albion Primary School for taking the brave decision to release a portion land on the site for housing, helping to meet the council's ambitious pledge to build 11,000 new council homes while also enabling the school to build a state of the art building with fantastic facilities.
4. Council assembly believes the redevelopment of Albion Primary will deliver a genuinely world class school for Southwark children, make a huge contribution to the regeneration of the area and provide high quality facilities for the local community.

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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