

Item No. 3.2	Classification: Open	Date: 25 November 2015	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motion on the Theme: Employment and local economy	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The theme for this meeting is employment and local economy.

The relevant cabinet member shall submit a motion on the theme. All other political groups on the council are allowed to submit one amendment to the motion. The cabinet member's motion and the amendments do not need to be seconded. The cabinet member will present the motion to the meeting, followed by the lead opposition spokesperson's response and moving of their amendment. Following this the subject matter of the theme will be open to debate. Amendment(s) from other opposition groups on the council can be moved during this part of the meeting.

MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND CULTURE

1. Supporting a strong local economy, improving skills and employment opportunities, and in particular helping some of Southwark's most vulnerable residents to access jobs is key for the council's plan to achieve a fairer future for all.
2. Despite the severe cuts to the council's funding imposed on Southwark over the last five years under the Tory/Liberal Democrat coalition government, which continue to be imposed under the Tory government, this administration has continued to invest in the borough; growing the local economy, building more homes and creating more jobs and opportunities for local people.
3. Council assembly regrets that instead of supporting people into work, the Government is continuing the coalition's policies of penalising working families by cutting tax credits, hitting more than three million families in work who will lose £1,300 next year on average, and cutting Employment and Support Allowance pushing hundreds of thousands of sick and disabled people further away from employment.
4. Council assembly welcomes the steps this administration has taken to create employment opportunities for local people, including:
 - Supporting 1,450 residents into jobs since May 2014, including nearly 300 people with a range of complex barriers to employment including physical and mental health issues, caring responsibilities and other barriers.
 - Delivering employment support to residents in partnership with local and national organisations, including InSpire St Peters, St Giles Trust, Pecan, Royal Mencap and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust.

- Promoting employer led skills provision through initiatives like the business forum and the creation of a new construction skills centre, due to open next year.
5. Council assembly welcomes the council's support for local businesses, including:
- Supporting 24 business projects with £382,000 through the High Street Challenge.
 - Supporting Southwark employers to access £268,000 worth of finance to help their business to grow.
 - Providing direct access to council services for businesses through the council's online business portal.
 - Supporting small local businesses to take on young people through the Southwark Employment and Enterprise Development Scheme (SEEDS), helping local employers to stimulate business growth and generating sustainable jobs and apprenticeships for young people.
6. Council assembly welcomes this administration's commitment to giving young people in Southwark the opportunity to fulfil their potential by:
- Creating 2,000 new apprenticeships to give young people the opportunity to develop their skills and become work-ready.
 - Guaranteeing opportunities for every school leaver in Southwark to learn, work or train through the youth guarantee.
 - Introducing the Southwark apprenticeship standard to guarantee quality apprenticeships and ensure secure employment, a fair wage, quality training provision and mentoring support for apprentices.
7. Council assembly also welcomes the council's partnership work with neighbouring boroughs Lambeth and Lewisham, bringing in excess of £1 million worth of funding into the three boroughs to get residents up-skilled and into work through the 'pathways to employment' project, and establishing a joint committee to deliver a joined-up approach to employment and skills.
8. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to:
- Continue work on the youth guarantee, to ensure every young person in Southwark has the opportunity for employment, education or training.
 - Continue to invest in skills directly through council apprenticeships, and work with local businesses and partners to expand apprenticeships, particularly focusing on industries like construction where there are job opportunities in the borough.
 - Work in partnership with businesses and organisations in the borough to promote the London Living Wage, and encourage the take up of apprenticeships.

9. Council assembly recognises that national employment programmes do not always provide the right support at the right time to help people with more acute needs get back into work in places like Southwark. Therefore council assembly calls on the cabinet to work with other local authorities to campaign for greater devolution of employment and skills funding and powers to local government.

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

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet member's motion	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Andrew Weir 020 7525 7222

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager
Report Author	Andrew Weir, Constitutional Officer
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