

Council Plan 2014-18

Annual Performance Report

Our progress in 2015/16

Foreword



When the LGA's peer review team visited Southwark late last year they found a council with a 'can-do approach' and a great deal to be proud of. Ambitious, innovative and confident, we want the very best for our residents, and put their needs at the heart of everything we do. Not only have we delivered £156m savings over the last five years while also protecting frontline services, we are leading the way in transforming the borough, making Southwark a place that everyone can be proud to call home.

This year has been another year of success, delivered against a tough economic backdrop. We were one of just six councils in the country, and the only London council, to be shortlisted for Local Authority of the Year at the annual MJ awards. Although we missed out on the top prize, I am still proud that in the last year more than nine out of ten council homes were considered decent – the highest rate in 10 years. Our rents continue to be one of the lowest in London, and remain at roughly one third of market rents for the area.

We want every child to have the best start in life, and in the borough, the majority of Southwark's secondary schools now see 70% or more students secure at least five good GCSEs or equivalent, and 91% of our Schools are rated "good" or better by Ofsted. And when you leave school, Southwark is by your side throughout your life. For example we have continued to invest in jobs. Since 2014 almost 2,500 residents have started new jobs as a result of our support programmes, and over 600 new apprenticeships have been created.

The Castle Leisure Centre is now open, and free gym and swim is now offered to all 18s and under and those over 60, in 2015-16 over 9,700 people registered to access the free service. We have received accreditation from the World Health Organisation as an age friendly borough and are investing in our library service with the new Camberwell Library opening this year.

As well as libraries, Southwark has continued to invest in regeneration throughout the borough. Our programme of work to revitalise neighbourhoods is on track as regeneration continues to transform the Elephant to deliver an improved place and tangible public benefit.

We are improving our recycling rates which are now the best in inner London, and we have diverted over 99 per cent of waste away from landfill in 2015-16. In 2015-16 we introduced a 24/7 weekend Noise Service, ensuring residents experiencing noise nuisance can have problems addressed any time of the week.

The council has continued its ambitious programme. I am proud of all that we have achieved, but know there is more that we must do to improve the borough and truly deliver a fairer future for all.

Councillor Peter John, Leader of the Council

July 2016

Quality affordable homes

Good quality affordable homes are essential to maintaining strong communities and making this a borough which all residents are proud to call home.

In 2014 we set out a range of commitments to improve the number of homes in the borough and ensure quality housing is available across the Southwark.

We said that we would:

- Build more homes of every kind
- Build 11,000 new council homes by 2043, with at least 1,500 by 2018
- Finish our programme to make every home Warm, Dry and Safe by 2016 and have started a programme to deliver a quality kitchen and bathroom for every council tenant
- Introduce licensing in the private rented sector and further crack down on rogue landlords
- Set up an independent leaseholder and freeholder management company
- Introduce resident housing inspectors
- Further reduce illegal subletting of our council homes
- Have a lettings policy that means that 50 per cent of all new council homes go to people from that area, with the rest going to other Southwark residents
- Keep council rents low



How we've performed in 2015-16

Since 2014, 159 Council homes have been completed as part of the new council homes programme with further sites for more than 1,200 homes identified. Consultation is underway to help identify even more sites.

We continue to improve our existing housing stock. The number of decent homes increased by 11,254 since May 2015, with 91 per cent of council homes considered decent in 2015-16 - making this the highest decency rate in 10 years.

Our selective and additional licensing policies intend to improve quality within the private rented sector and prevent rogue landlords from operating in the borough.

In December 2015 we took the innovative step to create MySouthwark Homeowners Board, a new homeowner agency that operates at arms length from the council and will act as an independent leaseholder and freeholder management company.

We recruited over 100 resident housing inspectors in 2015-16; the vast majority of residents surveyed are satisfied with the repairs made to their homes.

Our award winning approach to reducing illegal subletting of council homes has resulted in 198 subletted homes recovered this year.

Council rents in Southwark continue to be one of the lowest in London, and remain at roughly one third of market rents for the area.

Best start in life

We believe in giving all our young people the best start in life. We want them to be in a safe, stable and healthy environment where they have the opportunity to develop, make choices and feel in control of their lives and future.

In 2014 our commitments established a number of ways that we would support children, young people and their families achieve their full potential.

We said that we would:

- Invest in the borough's children's centres
- Work with local parents to open two new community nurseries
- Find new ways to guarantee care and early education to help parents
- Ensure that 70 per cent of students at every secondary get at least five good GCSEs
- Deliver more quality affordable childcare places
- Guarantee a local primary place for every child
- Open new secondary schools to meet demand including on the Dulwich Hospital site in East Dulwich
- Ensure a top quality children's playground in every local area
- Provide free fruit for all primary school children as a healthy morning snack
- Provide free fruit for all primary school children as a healthy morning snack
- Invest more in 'early support' for families
- Help more people to foster and adopt by paying their council tax for them
- Double the number of Southwark Scholarships
- Improve school standards across Southwark secondary schools
- Improve the number of schools rated by Ofsted as "Good" or better
- Establish a new Childcare Commission, bringing together experts, parents, providers and employers to find new ways to guarantee care and early education

How we've performed in 2015-16

We continue to invest in the borough's children's centres and opened two new community nurseries in 2015.

Standards in secondary schools continue to rise with almost 74 per cent of all secondary school pupils achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE, placing us in the top quartile in 2015-16. 91 per cent of Southwark schools are rated "good" or better by Ofsted. We have also identified sites for two new secondary schools in the south of the borough. We continue to work with schools to ensure all students have the best possible chance of achieving good GCSE results.

Of the 1,687 of two year olds eligible for free childcare places in 2015-16, 1,162 (69%) took up the offer, an increase of 13 per cent against the previous year.

In 2015-16, every child was offered was offered a primary school places (where applications were made on time), mirroring the success of previous years.

All Southwark primary schools now offer free fruit to children; we continue to support healthy active lives amongst children and are reviewing all our existing playgrounds to decide which areas need investment.

In autumn 2015 the Early Year Pupil Premium was claimed for the first time and saw schools access the premium on behalf of 771 children. The Families Matter Strategy also launched this year, outlining a common approach and activity to deliver early help to families.

From April 2016 all foster carers and adopters in Southwark will have their council tax paid.

Since 2014/15 over 2,300 secondary school children have received a free library card to enable and the Southwark Scholarship Scheme has awarded 24 scholarships since 2014; over 100 applications for the scheme have been received for awards in 2015-16.

The findings and recommendations of the Childcare Commission were considered in by Cabinet this year, and we are working on an action plan to take forward activity

Strong local economy

When our economy is strong, then all our residents benefit. It brings more opportunities for people in Southwark to find work, get into training and achieve their aspirations.

The commitments we established in 2014 sought to improve the economic wellbeing of residents, support town centres, and help businesses thrive.

We said that we would:

- Deliver value for money in council services
- Make sure young people are ready for work
- Guarantee education, employment or training for every school leaver
- Deliver an hour's free parking in our shopping parades
- Open a credit union account with a £10 opening deposit for every 11 year old
- Deliver good money advice for secondary school students
- Establish a Southwark Business Forum
- Stop the spread of pawnbrokers, betting shops, gambling machines and pay day lenders
- Invest in more affordable business space, street markets and encourage pop-up shops to help start up businesses
- Support 5,000 local people into jobs
- Create 2,000 new apprenticeships
- Make sure local residents benefit from new jobs and apprenticeships
- Award scholarships to local young people from low income backgrounds to study art foundation courses
- Support business improvement districts including around the Blue in Bermondsey
- Enhance and expand affordable studio and performance space

How we've performed in 2015-16

Staying true to our budget principles, in February 2016 council assembly approved a budget for 2016-19 where the largest majority of savings relate to efficiencies and

better use of resources, with only £6m of the total £69m related to service reductions. Throughout this time Council taxes in Southwark have remained low, with no increases in 2015/16.

Over 1,300 Southwark students completed work experience in 2015-16. Alongside the opportunity for work experience, our young entrepreneurs project and employer led learning activities saw participation from 780 young people.

More 16-18 year olds in the borough are also taking part in learning and training with the proportion of young people not in employment, education and training at 2.5%, compared to the London average of 3.1%. We are exploring ways to deliver scholarships to local young people to study art foundation courses.

Over 500 eleven year olds have opened a credit union account with a £10 opening deposit from the council. Plans are underway to further bolster the scheme and ensure more young people develop good financial habits; this is further supported by financial literacy programmes operating in the majority of our secondary schools

The Southwark Business Forum meets regularly and has pushed for improvements in the further education offer borough-wide, supported the Living Wage Symposium held in March 2016 and also the Careers Fair that took place April 2016. .

The High Street Challenge funded thirteen projects this year to help transform and improve town centres. We continue to support our town centres by using Article 4 Direction legal powers to make it harder for pawnbrokers, betting shops and pay day lenders to open on our high streets, and by offering an hour of free parking in shopping parades. Our strategy to deliver 500 affordable spaces by 2018 was also approved in 2015, making sure our businesses have the space to grow.

Since 2014 almost 2,500 residents have started new jobs as a result of our support programmes, and over 600 new apprenticeships have been created.

The Blue Bermondsey BID continues to deliver activity in the BID area. Renewal ballots for Team London Bridge and We Are Waterloo took place in October 2015 and January 2016, both ballots were in favour of renewing the BIDs for further five year terms.

Healthy active lives

For people to lead healthy lives, we need to tackle the root causes of ill health and reduce the inequalities that limit the lives of too many in our society. We will work across the council and with partners to reduce health inequalities and improve people's lives.

Through the commitments we made in 2014 we hope to enable more people to make healthy choices and support our partners to offer the best possible care to our residents.

We said that we would:

- Make swimming and gym use free for all residents
- Improve homecare standards, making sure our staff are only ever judged by the quality of care they provide to our older and more vulnerable residents
- Deliver a safer cycling network
- Extend bike hire across the borough
- Implement a Southwark Ethical Care Charter, with better paid carers and an end to zero hours contracts
- Establish a commission to enhance the vital work of the voluntary and community sector
- Double the number of free NHS health checks to catch problems like heart disease and diabetes early
- Become an 'age friendly borough'
- Bring ten more parks to green flag standard
- Introduce 'play streets', where some streets are closed to traffic during school holidays



How we've performed in 2015-16

Free gym and swim is now offered to disabled residents, residents aged 18 and under and those aged over 60. In 2015-16 over 9,700 people registered to access the free service.

Our innovative new cycling strategy has now been agreed and delivery is underway. Southwark is now a 20mph borough, and we continue to lobby TfL to extend the cycle hire scheme into more parts of the borough.

Implementation of the Ethical Care Charter has resulted in all providers we work with offering a guaranteed hours contract to the 660 carers they collectively employ.

Nineteen out of 25 of our providers of home care services to council-supported clients now meet all essential care standards. The Council continues to work with all providers to improve standards for vulnerable residents.

The joint Voluntary Sector Commission with Lambeth submitted its report to Cabinet in 2015. The full report and recommendations were agreed and a new Voluntary Sector Strategy will be developed in partnership with the voluntary sector and CCG for approval later in 2016..

Since 2014 almost 16,800 free NHS health checks have been completed.

We are making sure all our services are age friendly and have received accreditation from the World Health Organisation as an age friendly borough.

Twenty-three of our parks now meet Green Flag standards; Nunhead Green, Salisbury Row, Kingstairs Gardens and Goose Gardens all achieved the standard in 2015-16.

'Play Streets' now operate on 35 streets across the borough, encouraging children to play outdoors in a safe environment during holidays.

Cleaner greener safer

We want people to feel safe in their borough, to walk down clean streets and to know that their borough is leading the way when it comes to things that matter like recycling and reducing landfill waste.

Our commitments aim to prevent and mitigate the effects of crime and anti-social behaviour, and improve the environment and street scene in Southwark.

We said that we would:

- Maintain clean streets
- Better education and enforcement of people who litter
- Better education and enforcement of people who don't clean up after their dogs
- Increase recycling rates
- Divert more than 95 per cent of waste away from landfill
- Zero tolerance on noisy neighbours
- Increase CCTV coverage
- Increase estate security doors
- Deliver a new Women's Safety Charter
- Deliver a domestic abuse strategy
- Introduce estate deep cleans
- Campaign for the 300 Southwark police officers and police community support officers cut since 2010
- Double the number of estates receiving green energy from the South East London Combined Heat and Power
- Double capital investment into roads
- Invest in our libraries and keep them open, including Dulwich and Kingswood House
- Campaign for Seeley Drive police base in the south of the borough
- Campaign against the super-sewer in Chambers Wharf

How we've performed in 2015-16

Levels of litter on our streets have declined this year, we have also rolled a targeted communications campaign to encourage more dog owners to clean up after their pets, or face enforcement.

Our recycling rates are the best in inner London, and we diverted over 99 per cent of waste away from landfill in 2015-16.

In 2015-16 we introduced a 24/7 weekend Noise Service, ensuring residents experiencing noise nuisance can have problems addressed any time of the week.

We continue to use CCTV to improve the safety of public spaces – this year over 15 per cent of crimes detected on CCTV led to an arrest. Our Door Entry Investment Programme has also led to safer residential blocks and estates, with 250 households benefiting from refurbished entry door systems.

Our Women's Safety Charter was adopted by 81 licensed premises this year, and our Statement of Licensing Policy encourages new licensed premise to sign up to the Charter.

In line with our Domestic Abuse Strategy we trained six domestic abuse champions in 2015/16, and have seen an increase in the number of people receiving specialist support whose risk of harm has been reduced.

A three year estate deep clean programme continues to run, with third of all estates deep cleaned each year during the summer; additional activity takes places on Estate Action Days.

After a community-led campaign against the 300 Southwark police officers and police community support officers cut since 2010, over 2000 signatures were delivered to the Mayor of London in 2014-15.

Working with developers, we plan to increase the number of homes receiving green energy from the South East London Combined Heat and Power

This year we invested over £9m into roads, and made vital investments in our libraries to ensure they offer the best service to users.

Despite our campaign, the government is going ahead with the super-sewer. We are now working to reduce the impact that the sewer will have on residents.

Revitalised neighbourhoods

We are a borough with a proud heritage and a great future. It's a future filled with potential, with some of the most exciting and ambitious regeneration programmes in the country being delivered right on our doorstep.

Our commitments intend to improve places and spaces, and harness Southwark's vibrancy.

We said that we would

- Revitalise our neighbourhoods to make them places where we can all be proud to live and work
- Transform the Elephant and Castle with a new leisure centre, affordable homes and a shopping centre
- Introduce a new diversity standard to make sure that people from every community get their voices included when decisions are made
- Open a new civic centre in Walworth
- Campaign for the Bakerloo Line to be extended south of the Elephant and Castle to Camberwell and Old Kent Road
- Invest in Camberwell including a new library
- Bringing superfast broadband to Rotherhithe
- Secure the long term future of Greendale in East Dulwich
- Start work on the regeneration of the Old Kent Road
- Invest in Peckham Town Centre to support arts and business
- Deliver a free cash point in Nunhead
- Improved playground in Peckham Rye park
- Open new pedestrian crossings outside Borough Station and between Trinity Street and Great Suffolk Street

How we've performed in 2015-16

Our programme of work to revitalise neighbourhoods is on track as regeneration continues to transform the Elephant to deliver an improved place. The new Camberwell Library also opened this year; whilst work is almost complete on Camberwell Green.

Regeneration of the Old Kent Road is progressing well – trader engagement is on-going and shop front improvements have begun. Whilst plans are on track to



improve town centre with most of the on site activity taking place in 2016-17.

In February 2016 Cabinet agreed the Diversity Standard for community engagement; 10 organisations signed up to the Standard in 2015-16.

We continue to review the best value approach to securing a civic centre in Walworth.

After winning the commitment from the Mayor, we've continued to campaign and won Government backing for the extension of the Bakerloo line.

Planning permissions and funding for improvements to Greendale in East Dulwich were secured this year, following consultation with local stakeholders on our proposed plans.

We are on track to open a new cash point in Nunhead, and have received planning permission for improvement works at Peckham Rye Park. Working with BT we are taking steps to bring superfast broadband to Rotherhithe.

Designs for a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Borough High Street and Marshalsea Road alongside other improvements to the junction have commenced, with works likely to be delivered in 2016/17