

Item No. 3.2	Classification: Open	Date: 14 March 2018	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motion on the Theme: The Future of Southwark - Opportunities and Challenges	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The theme for this meeting is The Future of Southwark - Opportunities and Challenges

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, if any. 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 PETER JOHN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

1. Council assembly welcomes the huge progress that the council has made since 2010 delivering a fairer future for all.
2. Council assembly notes that this progress was in stark contrast to the previous eight years where the Liberal Democrat and Conservative administrations had the wrong priorities and lacked ambition for the borough. Council assembly notes the record of the previous administration where:
 - a) Council housing was the worst in the country, and almost half of council homes failed to meet basic decency standards.
 - b) The environment was neglected, with recycling the sixth worst in the entire country.
 - c) Council tax collection was the third worst in the country, and council tax increased by 17.5% despite record investment in Southwark from the Labour Government. Adult social care went from being one of the best to the eighth worst in the country.
 - d) CCTV coverage was cut, making it harder to tackle antisocial behaviour and crime.
 - e) Despite a housing crisis, they only built three new council homes in the last term of the former administration.
3. Council assembly notes that in the first four years of this administration, Southwark made huge progress despite a Liberal Democrat/Conservative coalition government that:
 - a) Introduced the bedroom tax hitting some of our poorest residents the hardest.
 - b) Almost halved the grants from central government to pay for local services.
 - c) Slashed childcare support by up to £1,500 per family.
 - d) Trebled tuition fees to £9,000 after promising not to.

4. Council assembly notes that the public rightly gave their verdict of the shameful record of the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats by kicking out the local Liberal Democrat MP, and slashing the number of Conservative and Liberal Democrat Councillors across the borough. Council assembly notes the public's confidence in this administration and hard working local Labour MPs by consistently electing them to serve this borough.
5. Council assembly notes the proud record of this Labour administration over the last eight years and the work that has been done to deliver a fairer future for all, including:
 - a) Making every council home warm dry and safe, and rolling out quality kitchen and bathroom so that over 95% of council homes now meet the decent homes standard, so our council tenants can live in a high quality home they can be proud of.
 - b) Tackling the housing crisis by building new homes of every type, including new council homes because our residents should be able to afford good quality homes in the borough they call home. 535 council homes are already completed, 471 are being built or have permission to start, and a further 513 are going through the planning process.
 - c) Helping over 5,000 people into work since 2014 – more than any other London borough – and creating nearly 2,000 apprenticeships – again more than any other London borough – because this council wants to give residents the skills and opportunities to get good quality, secure jobs.
 - d) Improving healthy lives for children by introducing free healthy school meals and free fruit for all primary school children, and expanding and refurbishing popular schools so that every child has the best start in life.
 - e) Introducing free swim and gyms for all residents – with nearly half a million visits since 2016, so it's easier and cheaper to keep fit and healthy.
 - f) Diverting over 99% of waste away from landfill, and making our recycling rate the best in inner London, and making our borough even greener with more award winning green flag parks than any other borough in inner London.
 - g) Developing and delivering a Women's Safety Charter, increasing the number of arrests from our CCTV cameras, and installing new estate security doors, to prevent and tackle crime and antisocial behaviour more effectively.
 - h) Keeping our libraries open, and investing in them whilst many other councils cut theirs. Canada Water Library is now the busiest in London and Camberwell now has a nationally recognised award winning library thanks to Labour's investment.
6. Council assembly is disappointed that Liberal Democrat members opposed many of these policies which have improved life for Southwark residents, including:
 - a) Campaigning against free healthy school meals, and voting to cut the funding needed to pay for it.
 - b) Voting against plans to keep all of Southwark's libraries open.
 - c) Voted against the money for Southwark staff to be paid the London Living wage and recently proposed that they should work in dirty offices and even provide their own stationery.
 - d) Voted against funding more CCTV cameras which prevent crime and antisocial behaviour and help the Police to catch criminals.
7. Council assembly resolves to call on cabinet to agree a Council Plan early in the new administration which will continue to deliver a Fairer Future for Southwark's residents, including:

- a) Every child having the best start in life: some of Southwark’s schools are already outstanding, but others are struggling. The new council plan must include plans to drive up standards in all Southwark’s schools. Southwark’s children should have healthy, active childhoods, which means continuing and extending free school meals to school nurseries so all children have the opportunities to thrive.
 - b) Building high quality homes that residents can afford, with more homes of every type being built across the borough to tackle the housing crisis. This must include building more council homes so that we meet our 11,000 new council homes by 2043 target, and improving the quality of housing in the private rental sector.
 - c) Making sure Southwark continues to be a great place to live. Recycling rates are already high, and they must stay that way. Air quality is one of the greatest public health challenges for Southwark, and the next council plan must tackle poor air quality, as well as the challenge of climate change.
 - d) Southwark being a healthy borough, where your background doesn’t determine your life chances. Swimming and going to the gym are now free in Southwark, and now walking, cycling and other types of exercise must become more accessible to all so that everyone has the chance to be fit and healthy.
 - e) Making Southwark a full employment borough, where the barriers keeping people out of work are swept away, and everyone has the skills to play a full part in our economy. The next council plan needs to consider the jobs of the future, so it must ensure more residents are helped to get the skills they need to get these new jobs.
 - f) Keeping Southwark Council a modern and efficient organisation, which listens to and works with residents and communities? In a changing and increasingly digital world, council must keep digitally innovating: the way that residents want to access services is changing and the council must change with it. At the same time, the council must improve digital inclusion, so no one and nowhere is left behind.
8. In a world changed by Brexit, and following on from the tragic Grenfell fire, Southwark council must be fighting for our residents, and standing up against the Conservative Government in challenging and uncertain times.
9. Council assembly believes that this vision for a fairer future for all residents will only be delivered by a financially responsible, ambitious Labour administration, which embodies the council’s fairer future principles.

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

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer
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