

Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting) held on Wednesday 14 March 2018 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2017-18, Councillor Charlie Smith (Chair)

Councillor Evelyn Akoto	Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Vijay Luthra
Councillor Jasmine Ali	Councillor Jane Lyons
Councillor Maisie Anderson	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Radha Burgess	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Stephanie Cryan	Councillor Jamille Mohammed
Councillor Helen Dennis	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Karl Eastham	Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Paul Fleming	Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Tom Flynn	Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Lucas Green	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Jon Hartley	Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Peter John OBE	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Ben Johnson	Councillor Dan Whitehead
Councillor Samantha Jury-Dada	Councillor Bill Williams
Councillor Sunny Lambe	Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Octavia Lamb	Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE	Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor Richard Livingstone	Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor of Southwark, Councillor Charlie Smith, announced the illness of Michael Cleere, and informed councillors that if anyone wanted to pass messages to his family, the Mayor's office will be a point of contact.

He also offered his thanks to those councillors not standing at the local elections on 3 May 2018 for their service over the years.

The Mayor of Southwark also noted that there will be a rally in support of Dulwich Hamlet Football Club on Saturday 17 March 2018 at 12.30 in Goose Green.

The leader of the council, Councillor Peter John, gave a statement on the current position in respect of the Dulwich Hamlet Football Club and the Champion Hill site, and the council's intended actions.

1.2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

At this juncture the meeting agreed the programme motion.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

All councillors have been granted a dispensation by the monitoring officer to vote on item 6.2, the Member Allowances Scheme report.

Item 3.1, Community Evidence

Councillor Lorraine Lauder declared a non-pecuniary interest as she is a trustee of InSpire at St Peters'.

Item 5.2.1, Members' Motions: Busking on Bankside

Councillor Adele Morris declared a non-pecuniary interest as she is a board member of Better Bankside.

Councillor Mark Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest as he is a board member of Better Bankside.

Councillor Paul Fleming declared a pecuniary interest, as he works for Equity, the trade union which represents a number of buskers.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors James Coldwell, Catherine Dale, Eleanor Kerslake, Sarah King, Anne Kirby and Maria Linforth-Hall.

1.5 MINUTES

The minutes of the council assembly meeting held on 21 February 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

2.1 PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(See page 1 of supplemental agenda 1 and additional papers circulated at the meeting)

There was one questions from the public, the answer to which had been circulated on white paper at the meeting. The public questioner asked a supplemental question of the cabinet member.

3. THEMED DEBATE: THE FUTURE OF SOUTHWARK - OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

3.1 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

The meeting agreed to receive submissions from the following:

Southwark Youth Council

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for five minutes.

Four members asked questions of the group's representatives.

Southwark Living Streets

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for five minutes and thereafter asked a question of the cabinet member for environment and the public realm.

One member asked questions of the group's representatives.

InSpire at St Peter's

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for five minutes.

Three members asked questions of the group's representatives.

Southwark Young Advisors

The group's representative spoke to the meeting for five minutes and thereafter asked a question of the cabinet member for communities, safety and leisure.

Two members asked questions of the group's representative.

3.2 MOTION ON THE THEME

A motion was put forward and seconded to suspend the guillotine for the themed debate. It was put to the vote and declared to be Carried.

Amendment A was put to the vote and declared to be Lost.

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be Carried.

RESOLVED:

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

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.

4. DEPUTATIONS

As part of the programme motion the meeting agreed to hear deputations from:

Leathermarket Joint Management Board

The group's representative spoke to the meeting for five minutes and thereafter asked a question of the cabinet member for regeneration and new homes.

Two members asked questions of the deputation.

Residents of Styles House

The group's representative spoke to the meeting for five minutes and thereafter asked a question of the cabinet member for regeneration and new homes.

Two members asked questions of the deputation.

Residents of Falcon Point

The group's representative spoke to the meeting for five minutes and thereafter asked a question of the cabinet member for communities, safety and leisure.

One member asked a question of the deputation.

5. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

5.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

There was one late question to the leader from Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, the written response to which was circulated on yellow paper at the meeting. There were two supplemental questions.

There were 33 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated on yellow paper at the meeting. There were six supplemental questions.

5.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

MOTION 1: BUSKING ON BANKSIDE

Councillor Adele Morris declared a non-pecuniary interest as she is a board member of Better Bankside.

Councillor Mark Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest as he is a board member of Better Bankside.

Councillor Paul Fleming declared a pecuniary interest, as he works for Equity, the trade union which represents a number of buskers, and left the meeting for this debate.

(See pages 20-21 of the main agenda)

Amendment B – Carried

Motion – Carried

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

1. Council assembly notes:

- a) The dramatic increase in footfall alongside Bankside that has occurred over the last 20 years, driven by the opening of the Globe, Tate Modern, the Millennium Bridge and the ongoing redevelopment of the riverside area.
- b) That Bankside was, and remains, an area with a significant residential population, namely residents in Falcon Point, Bankside & Gallery Lofts, the Bankside houses and Clink Street, plus newer developments in Benbow House, 20 New Globe Walk and the Bear Pit.
- c) The work that the council is already doing to tackle nuisance busking, including the re-organisation of the Regulatory Services team which has brought

together the Noise and Nuisance team, SASBU, street wardens and other street enforcement teams which work closely together to reduce the disturbance of busking, the ongoing analysis of busking activity to tackle those causing nuisance, anti social behaviour and difficulties, and ceasing the advertising of busking sites in Southwark to discourage a further increase in busking levels.

2. Council acknowledges:

- a) The efforts of council officers, Bankside residents, and partners from other stakeholders, including Better Bankside, the Tate Modern and Bankside Residents forum, to find a solution to the busking noise related issues.
- b) That the massive increase in visitors and tourists has attracted buskers to the area, many of whom use amplification in their performances
- c) That the impact of this noise nuisance on a daily basis can have a detrimental impact on the residential amenity of those who live and work in Bankside, including possibly for some residents on their physical and mental wellbeing.

3. Council supports:

- a) The work of the 'Bankside Busking Working Group', which seeks to:
 - Reduce the number of nuisance buskers along the riverside
 - Improve and better co-ordinate local authority and police force efforts to manage nuisance busking
 - Co-ordinating use of resources to control nuisance buskers
 - Provide residents and businesses with a voice to lobby for additional resources, and changes to protocols, processes, procedures and legislation controlling busking
 - Explore introduction of a scheme to organise and regulate busking in the Bankside area

And looks forward to the group bringing forward options for an effective and proportionate approach to dealing with the issue of nuisance busking.

4. Council resolves to call on cabinet to:

- a) look at the recommendations coming forward from the Bankside Busking Working Group and the multi-agency Buskers group, which includes representatives from the council's noise team, SASBU, EPT, street enforcement teams and the police, with a view to adopting a solution which protects the amenity of local residents and reduces problematic and nuisance busking.

MOTION 2: IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN SOUTHWARK

(See pages 21-22 of the main agenda)

Amendment C – Lost

Motion – Carried

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

1. Council assembly notes that two million Londoners experience poor mental health, which equates to 62,500 people in each borough, and that London's suicide rate increased by 33 per cent from 552 to 735 incidents between 2014 and 2015 – the highest figure recorded by the Office for National Statistics since records began.
2. Council assembly understands that employment for Londoners with a mental health problem is 31 per cent lower than the UK average and that the financial cost of mental ill-health is approximately £700 million for each London borough.
3. Council assembly reaffirms its commitment to approach mental health and wellbeing as a key priority and to work collaboratively with partners within and outside the borough to address and tackle mental ill-health across our communities.
4. Council assembly welcomes the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy jointly developed by the council and Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group that was agreed by both organisations in January 2018.
5. Council assembly resolves to call on cabinet to commit to support and work with Thrive LDN, and develop the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, to:
 - a) Create a citywide movement for all Londoners that empowers individuals and communities in our borough to lead change, address inequalities that lead to poor mental health and create their own ways to improve mental health.
 - b) Following on from the examples set by Harrow Thrive and Black Thrive in Lambeth, look in to localising Thrive LDN to Southwark by exploring the practicalities of establishing a local Thrive hub that responds to local needs.
 - c) Work with Thrive LDN and the Mental Health Foundation to develop a pilot programme on an estate to develop new approaches to improving mental health well-being.
 - d) Examine new methods to support more people in Southwark to access a range of activities that help them to maintain good mental health and wellbeing.
 - e) Work closely with partners across Southwark to end mental health stigma and discrimination.
 - f) Build on the great work happening across London to engage children and young people in mental health by helping Thrive LDN to develop training and resources for youth organisations, schools and student societies.
 - g) Support employers to make mental health and wellbeing central to the workplace.
 - h) Work with partners to explore new ways to access services and support, and consider the use of digital technologies to promote mental health and improve

information about accessing support.

- i) Work with partners and build on the excellent work being done across the borough to reduce suicides in Southwark. We welcome the vision in the Southwark Suicide Prevention Strategy to reduce suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm in Southwark to among the lowest rates in London, and to work towards this ambition by ensuring that the number of suicides across the borough decreases by at least 10% by 2023.

6. OTHER REPORTS

6.1 CHANGES TO COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOUNDARIES

(See pages 23-29 of the main agenda and pages 13-14 of supplemental agenda no. 1)

The amendment was put to the vote and declared Lost.

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That article 8 of the council's constitution be amended to establish five community councils composed with wards as set out in paragraph 12 and Appendix 1 of the report, to take effect after the council election in May 2018.
2. That following the election, members be invited to make proposals for changes to community council boundaries to be considered at council assembly in November 2018.

6.2 MEMBER ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2018-2019

(See pages 30-53 of the main agenda)

RESOLVED:

1. That having regard to the advice of the London Councils Independent Remuneration Panel Report 2018 (see Appendix 2 of the report), the Member Allowances Scheme for 2018-2019 with effect from 1 April 2018 (see Appendix 1 of the report) be approved.

6.3 COUNCIL ASSEMBLY DATES AND CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2018-19

(See pages 54-70 of the main agenda and pages 15-22 of supplemental agenda no. 1)

RESOLVED:

1. That the following dates for meetings of council assembly be fixed in the council calendar for the 2018-19 municipal year be agreed:

Council Assembly	Type of Meeting
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Monday 21 May 2018 at 6.00pm (As agreed by 12 July 2017 council assembly)	Annual Meeting <i>Note: To be held jointly with Civic Awards Ceremony</i>
Wednesday 11 July 2018	Ordinary meeting
Wednesday 28 November 2018	Ordinary meeting
Wednesday 27 February 2019	Budget and council tax setting
Wednesday 27 March 2019	Ordinary meeting
Saturday 18 May 2019 <i>Note: Alternative date is Saturday 11 May 2019, however Southwark Cathedral is not available on this date</i>	Annual meeting <i>Note: To be held jointly with Civic Awards Ceremony</i>

2. That the calendar of council meetings for the 2018-19 municipal year as shown at Appendix 1 of the report be noted.

6.4 SPECIAL URGENCY AND URGENT IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS - ANNUAL REPORT

(See pages 71-77 of the main agenda)

RESOLVED:

1. That the schedule of special urgency and urgent implementation decisions (set out in Appendix 1 of the report) taken in accordance with access to information procedure rules 19 and 20 be noted.

6.5 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

(See pages 78-89 of the main agenda)

RESOLVED:

1. That the council's pay policy statement, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be agreed.

7. AMENDMENTS

Amendments are set out in supplemental agenda no. 1.

The meeting closed at 10.50 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: