

Item No. 14.	Classification: Open	Date: 24 July 2018	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Southwark Conversation – Additional Analyses and Dissemination	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Leo Pollak, Social Regeneration, Great Estates and New Council Homes	

FOREWORD - COUNCILLOR LEO POLLAK, CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL REGENERATION, GREAT ESTATES AND NEW COUNCIL HOMES

The Southwark Conversation was the largest consultation exercise ever undertaken in our borough, reaching 3,000 people across all parts of the borough, covering over 100 events, and capturing the voices of people from a wider range of ages, incomes and backgrounds than ever before. The purpose of the exercise was to gauge how people felt about change in the borough, and to hear how the benefits of new development is felt and experienced by our residents.

The appendices to this cabinet report make for essential reading. They set out in rich detail what many of us hear in everyday conversations – a broadly positive sense of living in Southwark and pride in their community, but concern at the affordability of housing; anxieties about a sense of attachment and belonging to our changing neighbourhoods; a growing desire for well designed and connected places to play, learn and come together; and the importance of ensuring that the infrastructure needs of a growing population is matched by expansion in GP capacity and good transport access, as well as access to good quality education and training opportunities.

A striking theme to have emerged out of the Southwark Conversation was in how relatively commonplace the concerns expressed were across different neighbourhoods and by people on different incomes across the borough – some residents felt displaced or excluded from the benefits of new development, while others who may have gained financially from investment or rising house prices also regularly expressed a sense of a place and its values under threat. The value of such a major sense-checking exercise is to help guide the future direction of development in the borough rooted in people’s lived experience, and to better draw out the tangible benefits of regeneration in our borough.

The findings identified in the Southwark Conversation will now be widely disseminated throughout the council, informing the future of policy development and our decision making in all parts of the council, as well as to help further develop the Social Regeneration framework. We will also share the findings with our partners: the NHS, CCG, major developers and the VCS to make sure that we all work together as one to make regeneration work for all. Our priority is to ensure that the benefits of new wealth and income in the borough are reaching everyone, and that our diverse communities can gain confidence in their ability to shape, embrace and benefit from change in the borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the cabinet:

1. Consider and agree the key findings from the additional analyses of the Southwark Conversation, as set out in the reports at Appendices 1 and 2.
2. Request that the key findings of the Southwark Conversation be considered in the development of the Social Regeneration Framework.
3. Welcomes the role of the Southwark Conversation in shaping the draft Council Plan, and that officers use its findings to shape the Council Plan's performance schedules and monitor its implementation.
4. Recommend that that the Southwark Conversation findings are disseminated more widely and shared across the council and with partners to help inform further policy developments.

BACKGROUND

5. In September 2017, the cabinet received a report setting out a draft social regeneration policy framework. The framework aims to ensure that the places where people live, now and in the future, will provide new opportunities for all, promote wellbeing and reduce inequalities. As part of this, an engagement exercise, "the Southwark Conversation", took place with residents, partners and stakeholders between 19 October and 24 December 2017. This involved 109 separate engagement events and analyses of 2,923 individual responses.
6. In March 2018, the cabinet received a report considering the initial findings from the Southwark Conversation. In summary, people generally liked the approach of the Southwark Conversation and welcomed it as a way to actively engage with a wide range of individuals, communities and groups across the borough. The headline finding was that 70% of respondents were positive, either in full or part, about change in the borough. Feedback highlighted that "getting out and about", "services and amenities" and "being connected" were the top three things that most people ranked as important to their health and wellbeing. Cabinet requested further analyses by geographical areas and by key themes. These are attached in Appendices 1 and 2.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Southwark Conversation – additional analyses

7. Southwark's emerging social regeneration framework puts people at the heart of everything the council does, engaging with them in an ongoing process to identify priorities and co-design solutions. In developing the framework, the council wanted to gain a deeper understanding of what people think about social regeneration and wellbeing in the borough.
8. The further analyses are presented in Appendix 1 by themes. The top themes are: community, public realm, education, housing and transport.

- 58% of people mention community in response to good neighbourhoods. Community cohesion and population stability are valued, as well as diversity, vibrancy and different cultures.
- 42% mention public realm in response to making a place a good neighbourhood to live in, although feelings about safety and cleanliness vary.
- 35% of people mention education as the most important theme for supporting young people to succeed in life. The cost of higher education and training and support into employment were also raised.
- 28% of people mention housing in response to change with affordability identified as a primary concern. There is a geographical and ethnic dimension, with more people living in the north of the borough and more minority ethnic communities raising housing as an issue.
- 27% mention transport, air quality and cycling.

9. Further analyses are presented in Appendix 2 by community council areas

- There are some demographic differences across respondents from the five community council areas (CCAs) with more women, those over 65 and more affluent responders in Dulwich, a higher proportion of respondents living in local authority or other social rental housing in Borough, Bankside and Walworth and a higher proportion of people from black ethnic groups in Peckham and Nunhead, with proportionately fewer in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe.
- Irrespective of demographic differences across CCAs, very similar themes arose across questions and areas: housing, open/green spaces and services were the themes that received the largest number of comments overall. Where differences in the top three themes arose across CCAs, it was typically only by a small number of percentage points. Certain CCAs expressed particular concern about a specific theme:
 - When asked what the council can do to improve the experience of living in Southwark, all CCAs identified urban realm, housing and transport as the top themes, but 30% of Dulwich respondents mentioned transport compared to 18% across the whole Southwark Conversation. Transport also came out as a big issue for Dulwich when asked what would help the respondent and their family to lead a healthier life.
 - When asked to think of the support that young people and future generations will need to succeed in life, education was seen as the single most important thing across all CCAs, alongside a combination of employment and training, housing or services. Housing was considered relatively more important in Dulwich where 31% of people mentioned it, compared to only 22% across the Southwark Conversation.
 - Respondents from all areas overwhelmingly responded (58%) that community was most important when asked what makes a place a "good neighbourhood" to live in and this came out particularly in Camberwell (69%).
 - When asked how local people could become more actively involved in the changes that are happening in their communities, a larger proportion of Peckham and Nunhead respondents mentioned communication (34%) than the rest of the Southwark Conversation (27%).

Policy implications

10. Appendices 1 and 2 explore local issues and potential solutions as suggested by local people. This information is being used in conjunction with other information from other engagement, research, data analysis and understanding of the borough.
11. Although 70% of respondents were positive, either in full or part, about change in the borough, the Southwark Conversation also identified some important issues raised by local people. In the paragraphs below, some of the key issues are summarised and alongside, how these issues are being addressed in the Council Plan:
 - *Issue raised - Maintenance and quality of the physical environment in neighbourhoods and estates:* actions that will be a new Great Estates programme, guaranteeing a new set of standards to make every estate clean, safe and cared for; giving residents the tools to garden and improve their estate; bringing the repairs service in-house so more jobs are done right first time; delivering a Gold Standard for private rental properties; zero tolerance on fly tipping and doubling the number of people caught and enforced against; making walking safe and accessible by developing a green walking network; reducing the use of commercial bins and stop rubbish sitting out longer than it needs to be; develop a Local List of valued sites and structures to help protect and celebrate Southwark's rich built heritage, and better reveal the origins and stories behind the borough's built environment
 - *Issue raised – Education, training and support into good employment:* actions that will be taken include making sure all schools are Good or Outstanding; drive up standards so that every school exceeds London averages at every stage; guarantee education, employment or training for every care leaver; help 5,000 more people into work and create 2,500 new apprenticeships; double the number of employers who pay the London Living Wage and make Old Kent Road and Canada Water London Living Wage Zones; introducing a Southwark Good Work Standard and only work with companies that will recognise trade unions, pay the London Living Wage and do not use harmful zero hours contracts; making sure that 500 young people from low income backgrounds get paid internships with London's best employers.
 - *Issued raised- Community safety:* actions that will be taken include working with communities to find local solutions that help young people stay away from knives; tackling problems like moped crime and increasing moped anchors to secure bike safety; changing the rules on estate improvements like security doors so that residents have the biggest say; delivering new safe pedestrian crossings; zero tolerance of hate crime; working with housing associations and private landlords to get them to publish fire risk assessments online.
 - *Issue raised - Affordable housing especially at social rent:* actions that will be taken include guaranteeing developments on council housing land have at least 50% council rented homes and ensuring a right to return for council tenants and resident leaseholders; where estates need to be redeveloped, increasing the number of council homes and building to the highest

standards; introducing a consultation charter to ensure local residents can hold private sector developers to account; building at least 1,000 more council homes and 1,000 new homes at London Living Rent by 2022, identifying new provisions to mitigate the impact of Right to Buy on the borough's social housing stock.

- *Issue raised – Wellbeing and supporting communities:* actions that will be taken include ensuring that every new development has enough GPs, school places and parks to support residents; building a new library and GP health centre on the Aylesbury Estate; re-opening the Blue Youth Club and Community Centre in Bermondsey; opening a new modern leisure centre at Canada Water; deliver a loneliness strategy; make free swimming and gym more flexible with more choice about when you go; continue to invest in early intervention and keep children and families centres open; investing in and keeping our libraries open; promoting Southwark's diversity and cultural richness; securing the future of Dulwich Hamlet FC.
 - *Issue raised - Poor air quality and cycling:* actions that will be taken include varying parking charges in areas with poor air standards to encourage cleaner vehicles; continue the work we began to halve council emissions by 2022; adapt lamp posts to charge electric cars; increasing access to cycle hire; making cycling accessible for all; doubling the proportion of journeys in Southwark done by bike; increasing cycle hangers where people want them.
12. The Southwark Conversation findings are being considered across the council: at the Director's Forum, the Managers Network and at departmental and team meetings. To date, it is already being used to shape the development of the Movement Plan which will integrate the Transportation Local Implementation Plan (LIP), which aims to shift the emphasis further away from cars to how people move . This responds to concerns about air quality and making active travel easier and safer. The findings will continue to be used to inform further development of all major council strategies and action and performance plans.
13. The Southwark Conversation is also being shared more widely through the community and voluntary sector and with regeneration partners. The Canada Water Charter is shaped by the findings from the Conversation, particularly addressing some of the issues raised which relate to public realm for example: ensuring the natural and built environment supports health and wellbeing and caters for a diversity of needs; ensuring the streets are well connected and designed to encourage active travel; creating lifelong learning opportunities as well as apprenticeships and wider employment opportunities; and building in social opportunities to support community cohesion. The findings are also informing the development of the (draft) Health Plan for the Old Kent Road. The Health Plan highlights actions for creating healthier environments and strong communities. Actions include supporting active travel and tackling poor air quality; creating healthier food environments including hot food restrictions; and providing more opportunities for communities to meet and community facilities.
14. The development of indicators for social regeneration is being informed by the Southwark Conversation findings. Common social regeneration indicators will underpin the Council Performance Plan, regeneration and planning policy and the authority monitoring report.

Community impact statement

15. The public sector equality duty requires public bodies to consider all individuals when carrying out their day to day work, in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities
16. The Southwark Conversation was a conversation with communities about wellbeing and the future of the borough. The engagement plan was designed to be inclusive of all the borough's communities and provide a range of mechanisms to provide all residents with the opportunity to engage. Groups and individuals that may not always be heard as often as others were a key focus and where particular groups were underrepresented activities were targeted to prioritise such groups, ensuring as wide a sample of representation as possible in the Conversation.

Resource implications

17. There is no specific resource implication attached to reporting on the findings from the Southwark Conversation per se. Where the findings inform policy development and their implementation, their financial implications will be considered at the time these are brought forward.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

18. This report asks cabinet to consider the findings from the further analyses of the Southwark Conversation initiative; agree the key findings from the further analyses of the Southwark Conversation initiative and request that they continue to shape the development of the Council Plan and the associated action plans. Cabinet are also asked to recommend that the findings are disseminated more widely and shared across the council and with partners to help inform further policy developments.
19. As the subject-matter of the report falls within more than one cabinet portfolio area, it is appropriate for the report to be brought to the full meeting of cabinet for consideration, in accordance with Part 3D of the council's constitution.
20. Local authorities in England were until 2015 subject to a requirement to produce a "sustainable community strategy" for promoting and improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. This accompanied a general power to do anything the council considered likely to achieve these objectives, which in 2012 was itself revoked, in relation to local authorities in England, and replaced by the "general power of competence" giving councils the power to do any thing that individuals generally may do. Councils also retain their subsidiary power under section 111 Local Government Act 1972 to do anything calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.

21. In 2012 local authorities in England were made subject to a duty to take such steps as they considered appropriate to for improving the health of people in their areas (section 2A National Health Service Act 2006, as amended).
22. Paragraph 12 of the report refers to the public sector equality duty in section 149 Equality Act 2010. This requires the council, in the exercise of all its functions, to have due regard to the need to
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
23. The duty will apply throughout the development of the social regeneration policy framework.
24. Cabinet is reminded that a decision maker must conscientiously take into account responses to response to a consultation before finalising any proposal is a fundamental principle of fairness and sound consultation, as enshrined by the Supreme Court decision in *R (Moseley) v Haringey London Borough Council* (2014).

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (ESR18/008)

25. The strategic director of finance and governance notes the recommendation to Cabinet to consider and agree the key findings from the further analyses of the Southwark Conversation, as set out in the reports at Appendices 1 and 2, and also that the Southwark Conversation findings are shared across the council and with partners to help inform further policy developments.
26. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that there are no additional financial implications arising from this report at this stage.
27. All staffing and other related costs to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Social Regeneration – Emerging Framework and Next Steps	Public Health 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Jin Lim Jin.lim@southwark.gov.uk
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=6270		
Feedback from Southwark Conversation	Public Health 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Jin Lim Jin.lim@southwark.gov.uk
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&MId=5756&Ver=4		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Thematic Report – further analyses (circulated separately)
Appendix 2	Community councils (circulated separately)

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Leo Pollak, Social Regeneration, Great Estates and New Council Homes	
Lead Officer	Kevin Fenton, Director of Health and Wellbeing	
Report Author	Jin Lim, Consultant in Public Health	
Version	Final	
Dated	12 July 2018	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
	Officer Title	Comments Sought
	Director of Law and Democracy	Yes
	Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes
	Cabinet Member	Yes
	Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	12 July 2018