

Council Plan 2018-2020

Annual Performance Report
2019/20

Foreword

In May 2018 we set out our four-year plan to deliver a fairer future for all in Southwark. Our vision for the borough is that every child should have the best start in life and every resident should be able to live a healthy and long life, have the skills and opportunities to find work and live in a safe and secure home. A fairer future in Southwark means that everyone should be able to benefit from the growth and success that the borough has to offer, regardless of their background. We made clear promises to every resident and over the last two years we have made great progress.

This year we launched the Great Estate programme with a £1m pilot scheme, led by residents on how best to improve their estates. We have developed plans to tackle the Climate Emergency, with a 10-year action plan and strategy setting out our ambitious plans to make Southwark carbon neutral by 2030. We supported another 1,226 residents into jobs, making us firmly on track to deliver our 5,000 jobs target. We opened a new secondary school in Borough, launched a borough-wide swimming lesson programme and trained thousands of children and adults to cycle safely.

However, the world has changed significantly over the last few months. The global COVID-19 pandemic has had an incalculable impact on our borough, including residents who have been ill or sadly lost loved ones, local businesses which have been forced to close or significantly change the way they operate, families who have been unable to be together and the council itself, which has had to fundamentally change the work we do to respond to the pandemic. Alongside keeping vital frontline services operating during the crisis, the council has played a critical role in delivering the public health response to the pandemic and provided support to thousands of vulnerable residents through completely new structures such as the Community Hub.

We also know that as a result of the pandemic, the country is heading into a period of recession and local authorities face a huge financial challenge. In Southwark, without additional funding from government the council is facing a £45m shortfall in our budget. Despite the unprecedented challenge we face as a borough, the council is committed to continuing to deliver a fairer future for all of our residents. The need for quality affordable homes, a strong local economy, and opportunities for our young people have never been greater. The COVID-19 pandemic means that we will have to do things differently. We know there will be new priorities for the council because of COVID-19, including the recovery of Southwark's economy, supporting those residents who have faced financial hardship as a result of the pandemic, and continuing the important work of the Community Hub, particularly for those residents who are still shielding because of particular vulnerabilities. And we know that some of the commitments we set out in the four-year plan will be significantly more difficult to deliver and could take longer than we initially planned.

What has not changed is our ambition for Southwark and our commitment to delivering the very best for our residents. Over the next two years we will take the action we need to respond to and recovery from the pandemic, while continuing to deliver a fairer future for all in Southwark.

Cllr Peter John OBE
Leader of Southwark Council

A place to call home

2019/20 highlights:

- Launched the Great Estate programme with a £1m pilot scheme to be led by residents on how best to improve their estates
- Agreed a repairs improvement plan with a major new improvement project underway
- Two gardening co-ordinators appointed to bring together community groups across the borough
- Hit our target to turn around empty council homes within 28 days to make them ready for new tenants to move in
- Actively exploring the development of our own construction company to build more council homes more quickly

But more to do...

- Introduce a Southwark Renters Union and Gold Standard following consultation with residents
- Launch the new resident panel offering tenants, residents and homeowner groups new ways to engage and have their say
- Work with residents to secure the future of the Ledbury, following delays due to COVID-19

A place to belong

2019/20 highlights:

- Published a draft consultation charter including a commitment to estate regeneration ballots
- Planning consent obtained for Rotherhithe School and building to commence on The Charter School East Dulwich in summer 2020
- 107 new homes delivered, with 2,824 in the housing pipeline.
- Over 20,000 people signed up to the council's Back the Bakerloo campaign to extend the Bakerloo line down the Old Kent Road

But more to do...

- Launch a Southwark Construction Company to build homes and develop skills residents need
- Submit the final Old Kent Road Area Action Plan following resident consultation on the plans
- Complete resident ballot on the Tustin estate
- Continue building new council homes to reach target of 1,000 new homes by 2022

A greener borough

2019/20 highlights:

- Agreed an approach to the Climate Emergency working towards a carbon neutral Southwark by 2030
- Progressing on work to halve council emissions by 2022
- Timed waste collection pilot introduced in Camberwell to improve the high street
- 83 commercial bins have been removed from high streets (60% higher than target) to stop rubbish sitting out for longer than it needs to be
- Installed 34 rapid charging points to make it easier for people to charge electric cars
- Southwark Nature Action Plan approved, to protect Southwark's biodiversity and make nature accessible for all

But more to do...

- Agree and implement the new Climate Emergency strategy and 10-year plan, working towards Southwark being carbon neutral by 2030
- Restore the historic Nunhead Cemetery East Lodge and boundary wall

A full employment borough

2019/20 highlights:

- 1,226 Southwark residents supported into jobs and 364 quality apprenticeships created
- Southwark became the first Living Wage borough in London, with 43 more employers in Southwark paying the London Living Wage this year
- Southwark Council was awarded an Excellence accreditation under the Mayor of London's Good Work Standard, alongside 13 Southwark businesses
- 10 Pioneers Fund grants have been made to organisations. This funding was repurposed to provide a Business Hardship Fund to support local businesses with the impact of COVID-19
- 59 paid internships created for young people from low income backgrounds
- Southwark Construction Skills Centre residents receiving training exceeded this year's target prior to the impacts of lockdown (260%). At year end SCSC had trained over 3,000 Southwark residents (2,228 BAME), helped 475 residents into employment, and supported 256 apprenticeships

But more to do...

- Continue to help more residents into jobs to meet our ambitious 5,000 target
- Develop a plan for the renewal of Southwark's economy and support local businesses who have struggled as a result of COVID-19

- Support residents who have become unemployed as a result of COVID to help them get back into work

A healthier life

2019/20 highlights:

- Supported over 3,000 people in the community through the Southwark Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub and trained 121 mental health first aiders
- Developed a loneliness strategy and began public engagement with over 100 responses from residents and professionals
- Secured planning permission and approved property deal for two new nursing homes which will provide high quality care in Southwark
- Made it easier for people to cycle, with 3,138 children and 1,501 adults receiving bikeability training
- Delivered 62 cycle hangars where people want them
- Launched a borough-wide swimming lesson programme offering adult lessons for non-swimmers in all Southwark pools, including disabled, women only and older adult specific lessons, with 469 people booking lessons. Unfortunately, we have had to close all leisure centres because of COVID-19

But more to do...

- Continue to deliver the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including leading local plans
- Tackle loneliness and mental health, particularly in light of COVID-19
- Continue to develop a green walking network
- Introduce a Residential Care Charter, to protect vulnerable residents and the people who are working to keep them safe

A great start in life

2019/20 highlights:

- 5 new school street closure schemes, bringing the total to 8, and an increase of 61% more children walking, cycling or scooting to school
- Rolled out free healthy school meals in school nurseries and introduced a water-only schools policy to help children be healthier
- 94% of schools in Southwark are Ofsted rated good or outstanding
- Protected funding for mental health services for children and young people, funded mental health support in 70 Southwark schools and launched the new Nest open access mental health hub for young people, offering digital and telephone support during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Opened a new secondary school in Borough
- Over half of all primary schools in Southwark taking part in the 'daily mile'

But more to do...

- Support schools to reopen and help children catch-up from missed school time
- Close more roads around schools to help children and parents walk and cycle to school
- Continue protecting funding for mental health services and open the new Mental Health Hub in Peckham for young people when it is safe to do so

A safer community

2019/20 highlights:

- Delivered the recommendations of the Southwark cross-party Youth Violence panel and continued to engage with young people on this important issue
- Launched the Positive Futures Fund, with 18 projects completed or currently being delivered
- Delivered a Violence Against Women and Girls strategy and action plan
- Reopened The Blue Youth Club and Community Centre in Bermondsey. Unfortunately, the Centre's doors were only open briefly before lockdown was announced, but they will reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.

But more to do...

- Continue to campaign for all roads in the borough to be 20mph and deliver new safe pedestrian crossings at Lordship Lane and Dulwich Common
- Continue funding innovating projects for young people through the Positive Futures Fund
- Continue to work with communities to find local solutions that help young people stay away from knives

A vibrant Southwark

2019/20 highlights:

- Launched a Southwark Business Support Hardship Fund using re-directed funding from the High Street Challenge, to support local businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic
- Rolled out high speed internet access to 67% of council-owned properties and put free, ultra-fast broadband in 54 community halls (68%)
- Submitted planning application for Walworth Town Hall to make it a publicly accessible cultural hub
- Supported 1,323 cultural celebrations across the borough
- Invested in Southwark's libraries, developed a new library and heritage strategy and plans in progress to open a new library on the Aylesbury

But more to do...

- Reopen libraries following COVID-19 closures and continue investing in this important resource for residents
- Deliver the new library on the Walworth Road
- Continue to protect local residents from the effects of Brexit
- Continue roll out of high speed internet access and digital training to ensure all residents can get online