

AMENDMENTS

ITEM 2.1: POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY 2021-22 - REVENUE BUDGET (see pages 25-144 of the main agenda)

AMENDMENT A

Moved: Councillor Jasmine Ali

Seconded: Councillor Stephanie Cryan

To insert after paragraph 3 of the Policy and Resources Strategy and renumber all subsequent points accordingly:

The New Youth Deal: no young person in Southwark should be left behind

The council will launch a New Youth Deal to make sure no young person is left behind during and after the pandemic.

This will:

- promote young people's mental health and wellbeing
- enable young people to access education, training and jobs
- create new forms of youth governance through a youth parliament.

To this end the council will contribute an additional £400,000 to the existing Southwark Youth Services budget. This £400,000 commitment is made up of:

- £100,000 for the creation of a Youth Parliament
- £100,000 to carry out the other recommendations of the Youth Review
- £200,000 to expand The Nest mental health service to schools.

Council assembly notes:

1. Southwark is a youthful borough with a large diverse population of children and young people who make up over 20% of the total population. We have nearly 50,000 children between the ages of 11-19.
2. Young people in the borough have been disproportionately hit by the economic effects of Covid-19 and the poor decision making of our government, with those under 25 in the UK over twice as likely to have lost their job due to the pandemic as over 25s.
3. Young people have been hit with a growing mental health crisis, with one in four in the UK currently feeling 'unable to cope', according to the Prince's Trust. The combined impact of extortionate university fees, stagnating wages and unaffordable housing is leaving many young people feeling that a better life is out of reach.

4. More than 200 young people have accessed Southwark's new free mental health drop in service for children and young people, The Nest, since it opened online in April and physically opened the doors in August 2020.

Council assembly further notes:

5. That the council has numerous distinct funding channels which empower, support and incentivise young people to be their best, including:
 - a. Southwark Works – of which £390,000 is allocated annually for employment work with young people
 - b. Southwark Scholars – the annual commitment of £525k spent paying for young people from low income backgrounds to attend University
 - c. Positive Future for Young People Fund -- £600k made up of the previous Youth and Play Grant Scheme at £100k, and the Positive Futures Fund which provided £500,000 in 2020-21 to provide inspiring opportunities for young people that divert them away from crime
 - d. Paid Internships – which the council funds £150,000 worth of for young people
 - e. Mental Health support - £2.5 million towards our offer for children, young people and families, with a focus on prevention.
6. That on 8 December 2020 Cabinet approved the Strategic Review of Youth Services report, seeking to 'ensure that the voices of young people are at the heart of future decision-making'. This amendment is a result of the report's recommendations.

Council assembly therefore resolves to:

7. Launch a New Youth Deal to make sure no young person is left behind during and after the pandemic, by promoting young people's mental health and wellbeing and enabling young people to access education, training and jobs.
8. Create a new Youth Parliament made of up young people who live in Southwark; this Youth Parliament will have ultimate oversight of the New Youth Deal and the money that is spent on young people in the borough.
9. Consolidate all the funding streams listed above (in point 5) into a single fund titled the New Youth Deal and dedicate an additional £100,000 for resources and support to co-ordinate the new role of the Youth Parliament and this new way of working.

10. Dedicate £100k towards carrying out the other recommendations of the aforementioned Youth Review as part of the New Youth Deal.
11. Establish a committee to be led by the Deputy Leader & Cabinet Lead for Children, Young People & Education, and include the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Safety. The committee will facilitate this move to put young people in control of their funding and of their futures.
12. In light of growing mental health pressures due to Covid, and the increased demand across the borough for mental health services, the council will commit £200,000 to expanding the free mental health drop in service (The Nest) to Southwark schools. This will become part of our commitment to support 100% of children and young people with mental health needs.
13. This £200,000 will be the first priority of all new Covid grant money allocated to the council in the new financial year, and in the event that this funding is not available then the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance will be asked to make appropriate provision from earmarked reserves.

Reinstating the Pioneers Fund

Council assembly notes:

14. That the Southwark Pioneers Fund was launched in 2019 as a way of finding and elevating the entrepreneurs of the future. The scheme was an opportunity for residents to start or grow social enterprises or businesses delivering positive and innovative social outcomes for Southwark resident.
15. That the scheme delivered one round of funding totalling £49,597 before Covid-19 struck and the money was repurposed as an emergency business hardship fund.

Council assembly resolves to:

16. Reinstating the Southwark Pioneers Fund at a cost of £950,000, in order to support the borough's economic renewal post-Covid.

AMENDMENT B – Going greener faster for Southwark

Moved: Councillor Graham Neale

Seconded: Councillor Victor Chamberlain

1. Council Assembly notes that:
 - a. Even with the social standstill created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) estimated that there would still be a rise in atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ in 2020.¹ Researchers have also confirmed that air pollution, by itself, caused millions of deaths globally in 2018.²
 - b. There is a ticking clock on fighting climate change, with current rates of emissions meaning global warming could hit the 1.5C temperature threshold in around seven years.³ If we do not act, the consequences could be devastating in Southwark much of which is low lying and vulnerable to sea-level change.
 - c. Excellent work has been done by the cross-party member panel of our Environment Scrutiny Commission to encourage the council to bring the areas of air quality and climate change together. They made almost 40 recommendations, which unfortunately the council has failed to fully accept
 - d. Southwark Council has just completed a public consultation on its proposed Climate Change Strategy and is currently assessing the results of that feedback. Several respected Southwark organisations, including climate change activists like Extinction Rebellion Southwark, have published their responses. They noted it is not ambitious enough and too focused on carbon reduction rather than rapid action and long-term investment in reversing climate change.

2. Council Assembly also notes that:
 - a. The Southwark Liberal Democrats agree the council should be upping its ambition to act faster and target the reversal of climate change. Their five-point plan outlining how this can be done has been submitted to the cabinet members responsible.
 - b. All members of this Council Assembly unanimously declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019. Yet, the council just signed a five-year deal to 2025 that means the council will keep using fossil fuels for over 87% of its energy (i.e only 13% renewables) despite a promise in April 2020 it would source 100% green fuels.
 - c. Under the option chosen for the deal, only 40% of the annual electricity used in council offices and schools will be green. For a paltry extra £15K per annum, the council could have purchased 100% green electricity.

¹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-55018581> accessed on 19/02/2021

² <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/feb/09/fossil-fuels-pollution-deaths-research> accessed on 19/02/2021

³ <https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/climate-change-clock-nyc-carbon-emissions-art-b580249.html> accessed on 19/02/2021

- d. The council is not acting fast enough or with the urgency needed on the Climate Emergency. Whilst £5m has been set aside in the 2021-2022 budget for replanting, it will only just replace the 1000s of mature trees cut down by the council. Only now is a pilot programme commencing to install renewable energy heating systems on the council's estates whilst gas burners remain. Just under £2m is allocated to air quality initiatives over the next 10 years.
3. Council Assembly asserts that:
 - a. It is apparent that nearly two years since declaring the Climate Emergency, the council still doesn't have an agreed Climate Change Action Plan on what steps it will take to tackle the emergency or timescales in which it will act. At the core, a prioritisation on just carbon offsetting to reach carbon neutral status is insufficient to reverse the damage we have done to the planet.
 - b. The council's inaction starkly contrasts with Southwark Liberal Democrat proposals and aspirations over the past 10 years. Southwark Liberal Democrats set aggressive carbon reduction targets in the noughties and have since urged Southwark to act on green homes, to improve public transport, to scrap its fleet of 200+ diesel vehicles and to migrate its pension plans away from fossil fuel based investments.
 - c. The council does not have time to hesitate. It must act now and must not pass responsibility onto yet another generation.
 4. Council Assembly resolves to demand the council Goes Greener Faster for Southwark by:
 - a. Subsidising the cost of converting all council estates to using 100% green fuels with an immediate purchase of 100% green electricity, phasing in of green biogas to the Southwark supply network and committing to abolishing use of all fossil fuels on all of its estates by the end of 2025.
 - b. Immediately implementing a programme to establish Tree Protection Orders covering all mature trees across Southwark by end of 2021.
 - c. Reducing the 200+ council fossil fuel vehicle fleet and replacing with solely electric alternatives as soon as possible, as well as installing the needed charging systems at council depots.
 - d. Establish a green roofs incentive programme across Southwark by boosting the Cleaner Greener Safer capital fund and providing the advice and support to do so.
 - e. Installing air monitoring stations on Southwark's streets to help raise awareness in tackling air pollution and to help save lives. This will begin with a visual screen and pilot station outside City Hall and in three other locations of intense pollution in Southwark.
 - f. Creating 5x Community Climate Change Officers to support each Area Ward Forum to help drive through climate change initiatives across Southwark working with communities, external

agencies and internal colleagues to help Southwark residents and businesses become greener.

5. Council Assembly resolves to fund the above by:
 - a. Saving £288,000 by improving the efficiency of Southwark's extensive tree maintenance programme, applying more effective approaches to avoid annual crown reduction, pruning, pollarding, crown removals, and focus on nurturing and planting.
 - b. Generating income of an additional £30,000 by increasing parking fees in Southwark car parks by a further 150% on top of the fee rise already planned in the 2021/2022 budget (exemptions will apply for key workers).
 - c. Generating £312,000 of income by raising non-electric vehicle parking permits charges for all residents by 20% per annum (inclusive of the existing 4% increase already planned in the 2021/22 budget) and triple the fees for any resident owning more than two cars. Fees for electric vehicle rates to stay unchanged.
 - d. Using £1,563,000 of unallocated money from the Climate Emergency Fund.

Insert after paragraph 3, modify the general budget fund figure in paragraph 3 and renumber all subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

4. [That council assembly:] Agrees to amend the budget as follows:

Insert the following budget line into Appendix 1B (Efficiencies and Improved Use of Resources):

- Improving the efficiency of the annual tree maintenance programme – 288k

Insert the following budget line into Appendix 1C (Income Generation):

- Utilising unallocated money from the Climate Emergency Fund -1,563k
- Increase parking fees in Southwark car parks by an extra 150% (exemptions for key workers) – 30k
- Raising non-electric vehicle parking permits fees for all residents by at least 20% per annum and tripling these charges for those with two cars or more – 312k

Insert the following budget line into Appendix 1E (Commitments):

- Subsidising the cost for all council estates to move toward using 100% green energy – 800k
- Implementing Tree Protection Orders for all mature trees across Southwark – 13k
- Reducing the council fossil fuel vehicle fleet and replacing with 100% electric where possible – 391k
- Installing council depot electric vehicle charging systems – 304k
- Putting in place a green roofs programme – 377k
- Installing 4x air monitoring stations on Southwark's streets – 204k
- Creating 5x Community Climate Change Officer role to support each Area Ward Forum – 204k

Chief Finance Officer assurance on robustness of budget estimates

Insert after paragraph 15:

16. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance, as the statutory section 151 officer, has confirmed that these proposals are legal, implementable and overall do not impact on the total budget requirement for 2021/22.

17. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance has confirmed that subject to the agreement to this amendment by Council Assembly, plans will need to be put in place to increase the parking fees as described. In the event of any slippage on savings identified to achieve these plans in 2021/22, contingency included within the base budget would need to be set aside allowing for the plans to be fully implemented in the following year.

AMENDMENT C – Safe homes for all in Southwark

Moved: Councillor Damian O'Brien

Seconded: Councillor Dan Whitehead

1. Council Assembly notes that:
 - a. The UK government's actions on snagging and the cladding scandal have been insufficient. Despite announcing a £3.5bn fund intended to pay cladding costs for residents in buildings over 18 metres, this was not extended to properties below this. For many residents there remains the huge expense of waking watches, insurance hikes and other building defects to pay.⁴
 - b. Cladding remains a major concern to many Southwark residents who continue to live in fear for their safety and facing financial ruin. The press reported in February that at least 17,000 residents were affected by this scandal and multiple tragic stories of Southwark residents experiencing hardship as a result of dangerous cladding on their buildings.⁵
 - c. The cladding scandal, however, is representative of grander problems at play in the delivery of new homes. Residents across the country face potentially unsafe living conditions and snagging issues as a result of irresponsible property development where the buildings have never been finished to specifications or have faults.
 - d. Homeowners and tenants too frequently have to deal with the consequences alone as Local Authorities are only just grasping the extent of the defects in developments that don't appear to long after the homes are purchased off the developer involved who fail to then rectify them for often years afterwards.
 - e. This is not from lack of money. The Daily Mail reports that the top five UK property developers earned around £10bn in profit since the Grenfell fire tragedy.⁶
 - f. Whilst the council has a framework for supporting its own residents and leaseholders via SGTO and the Housing Area Forums, it does not for private and housing association residents and their residents associations.

2. Council Assembly also notes that:
 - a. In November 2020, Council Assembly voted unanimously in support of a motion originally put forward by the Southwark Liberal Democrats for the Council to act on Cladding and Snagging as a duty of care to all residents.

⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/money/2021/feb/10/what-does-the-extra-35bn-to-fix-cladding-crisis-mean-on-the-ground> accessed on 19/02/2021

⁵ <https://www.southwarknews.co.uk/news/cladding-scandal-i-could-go-bankrupt-says-homeowner-reliant-on-food-banks-and-universal-credit-who-has-seen-no-progress-despite-government-promises/> accessed on 19/02/2021

⁶ <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-9203171/RUTH-SUNDERLAND-Make-owners-foot-bill-cladding-scandal.html> accessed on 19/02/2021

- b. As a result of the agreed motion it is now working on establishing a pilot programme to support private residents in buildings over 18m suffering from the cladding scandal as well as housing association residents. The council was already working on rectifying its own buildings affected by the cladding problem.
 - c. The council has established a Building Safety Board that met for the first time in December 2020 and also already hired interim consultants to perform surveys and investigations on over 400 private residential blocks above 18 metres that suffer from this issue. Further, the council has put budget proposals for 21/22 forward that will further boost this team.
 - d. The problem is this programme is still in its infancy and is exploring new ground on how a Local Authority should be bringing together the roles of Fire Safety, Health and Safety and Building Control and Enforcement and best ways to liaise with the private sector and housing association residents' bodies and their residents.
 - e. Whilst the Government dithers and delays on the cladding scandal, the council has the chance to take a lead, accelerate and build on this team to start supporting residents better in Southwark and deliver local services that residents and residents associations – both private sector and housing associations – need to gain action from developers and freeholders.
 - f. Further the council has a massive pipeline of approved planning applications by developers that will continue the increase of new homes in Southwark that may result in further issues for new homeowners downstream.
3. Council Assembly therefore resolves to lead on support to our homeowners and residents associations by:
- a. Establishing a Centre of Excellence for private, shared ownership and housing association residents' associations and residents in Southwark to bring together the services of Fire Safety, Health and Safety and Building Control and Enforcement to help those affected with issues that involve freeholders and developers and also liaise with bodies such as the National House Building Council (NHBC) to support them.
 - b. Included in this - regardless of building height - access to free surveyor, legal advice and administrative support services. This includes training and communicating with these residents and residents associations to help them in dealing with freeholders, managing agents and developers.
 - c. Hiring additional qualified surveyors to provide sufficient support for this service with cladding and snagging identification and routes to rectification.
4. Council Assembly will fund the above by:
- a. Saving £78k by replacing Southwark Life with a more cost-efficient quarterly outsourced newsletter from April 2021 at 25% of the cost.

- b. Reducing by 20% the £1,040K being spent on communications posts saving over £208k.
- c. Deriving an extra £79k of income from Kingswood House by outsourcing event management income generation to an appropriate events company.
- d. Generating a further £105k of income by being more ambitious with the income from Commercial Waste services as already planned in 2021/22.

Insert after paragraph 3, modify the general budget fund figure in paragraph 3 and renumber all subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

1. [That council assembly:] Agrees to amend the budget as follows:

Insert the following budget line into Appendix 1B (Efficiencies and Improved Use of Resources):

- Replacing Southwark Life with an outsourced newsletter from April 2021 – £78k.
- Reducing the size of communications department posts - £208k.

Insert the following budget line into Appendix 1C (Income Generation)

- Outsourcing event management for Kingswood House - £79k.
- Be more ambitious with the planned increase in commercial waste services income - £105K

Insert the following budget line into Appendix 1E (Commitments)

- Creating a Centre of Excellence for private, shared ownership and housing association residents' associations in Southwark, including access to free legal advice and administrative support on mixed tenure private (including shared ownership and affordable housing) and housing association blocks in Southwark - £260k.
- Hiring qualified surveyors to support private, shared ownership and housing association residents' associations in Southwark - £210k.

Chief Finance Officer assurance on robustness of budget estimates

Insert after paragraph 15:

16. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance, as the statutory section 151 officer, has confirmed that these proposals are legal, implementable and overall do not impact on the total budget requirement for 2021/22.
17. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance has confirmed that subject to the agreement to this amendment by Council Assembly, plans will need to be put in place to outsource event management at Kingswood House and to increase commercial waste services income as described. In the event of any slippage on savings identified to achieve these plans in 2021/22, contingency included within the base budget would need to be set aside allowing for the plans to be fully implemented in the following year.

AMENDMENT D – An inclusive Southwark from Brexit and Covid

Moved: Councillor William Hougbo

Seconded: Councillor Hamish McCallum

1. Council Assembly notes that:
 - a. The Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit following the Government's controversial withdrawal agreement signed in 2019, have shone a light on exclusion in our society. The pandemic has highlighted inequality not only regarding health but also online access, whilst Brexit has left many EU nationals feeling isolated and unwelcome in the UK with xenophobic attitudes increased following the referendum⁷.
 - b. The closure of our council buildings, libraries, schools, high streets, restaurants, theatres and other services as a result of this Government's successive lockdowns and failure to stem the spread of Covid-19 across the UK, has resulted in a massive shift to use of online services as the only way to obtain goods and services and stay connected.
 - c. In the case of our children in Southwark, a survey of local schools recently estimated that over 2,500 of our most in need are without access to a computer⁸. With online learning now essential to their learning needs, this is hardly the 'Fairer Future' that the council promised.
 - d. For adults, there are estimated around 47,000 digitally excluded in our community in Southwark (around 15% of the population)⁹. This has been devastating during the pandemic. It's meant relying on volunteers, their family and neighbours for support, taking risks to travel and help out.
 - e. Southwark is also home to over 48,000 EU nationals based on recent data¹⁰. This is nearly 7000 or 20% more than the council knew about living in the borough previously. Many are also waiting to hear on their status. More than 400,000 nationally were awaiting a determination in January 2021¹¹.
 - f. EU nationals are part of our shared communities alongside UK citizens. In Southwark 72% of those who voted opted to remain in the EU. EU nationals are our husbands, wives, partners, parents, friends, neighbours and colleagues. They are an integral part of a vibrant and thriving Southwark community. They also provide vital services. Official data shows that EU nationals make up 10.9% of London NHS staff. Similar statistics established that 15% of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust's frontline workers are EU

⁷ <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/brexit/2019/06/18/feeling-vulnerable-and-unwelcome-the-impact-of-brexit-on-eu-nationals/>

⁸ <http://londonnewsonline.co.uk/laptop-for-learning-raises-nearly-97000-to-aid-struggling-students/>

⁹ Southwark Essential Digital Skills Action Plan 2018-2022, Dec 2020

¹⁰ EU Settlement Scheme applications for Settled and Pre-settled status

¹¹ <https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/settled-status-european-citizens-living-uk-brexit-application-backlog-doubles-841348>

nationals¹². It is well recognised that without EU nationals the NHS would not have survived the pandemic.

2. Council Assembly also notes that:
 - a. Many residents in Southwark suffer language barriers, which enhances their exclusion – both in the community and within their own families - where often the youngest generation cannot communicate with the oldest.
 - b. The Southwark Stands Together programme has also highlighted the barriers we face in terms of inclusion across our communities and calls for the council to take action in a series of recommendations made last year.
 - c. In January 2020, the Southwark Liberal Democrats called on Council Assembly to support their EU Citizens with a cross-party motion that was unanimously carried. However, the action called for has largely been ignored. The council has failed to provide any direct assistance – instead focusing on a communications programme and relying on the voluntary sector. Further, the council has over £2m of reserved funds for Brexit which remain unallocated to any specific action.
 - d. The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants and the Migration Observatory both warned that there are many EU nationals that may unintentionally fail to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme on time¹³. Lambeth council, for example, has recognised this risk in its borough and announced a scheme in January to fund charities that will provide advice to EU nationals.¹⁴
 - e. Inaction is also evident in the council's ten year old 'Fairer Future' promise regarding digital inclusion and 2018-2022 Digital Skills Action Plan which Covid-19 has exposed. Although the council has partially acted for children with a once-off match-funded campaign on laptops, it has admitted this is not nearly enough to bridge the digital divide in the borough across all ages. This is simply not good enough and more action is needed sooner.
3. Council Assembly resolves to do more to act on ensuring all its residents feel included in Southwark by:
 - a. Helping digital inclusion of children every year for a proper 'Fairer Future' – not just once off - by providing annual laptop and internet connection subsidies to children in Southwark match-funded with charities.
 - b. Accelerating action on digital inclusion of adults by providing IT training, laptops and internet connection through enhanced digital inclusion hubs at sites across Southwark (located in the five Area Ward Forum locations at a minimum) match-funded with charities.
 - c. Creating a council grant scheme for long term EU citizens living in Southwark on low incomes that have had to apply for citizenship since the EU withdrawal agreement.

¹² <https://www.southwarknews.co.uk/news/the-true-scale-of-southwarks-dependency-on-nhs-workers-from-eu-revealed/?cmpredirect>

¹³ <https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/reports/unsettled-status-2020/>

¹⁴ <https://love.lambeth.gov.uk/support-for-eu-residents-to-remain-in-the-borough-post-brexite/>

- d. Create a once-off one year EU keyworkers' council grant scheme for those living in Southwark longer than six months who need legal support or citizenship to remain.
 - e. Providing sufficient language skill training for Southwark residents and keyworkers in order to support them to achieve a citizenship application.
 - f. Writing to all EU citizens, encouraging them to feel welcome in Southwark, pointing them to support they can have from the council and voluntary sector. Such correspondence would also encourage them to register to vote and take advantage of the postal vote to have their voice heard at a local level.
 - g. Ensure citizens residing in Southwark can gain the health care they need regardless of their citizenship status by, if necessary, providing them with legal support and referrals to the voluntary sector to achieve this.
4. Council Assembly will fund the above by:
- a. Reallocating £2m from the Brexit Reserve Fund for Impact on Council Services to help EU nationals.
 - b. Utilising £300k from the base budget commitment to cover any operational cost pressures arising from the outcome of the Brexit negotiation on Southwark.
 - c. Introducing a pilot 'Tourist Tax' scheme, where visitors are encouraged to donate £3 for every night they stay in a Southwark Hotel and generate £600k of income in the first year to foster 'Inclusion in Southwark' ongoing.

Insert after paragraph 3, modify the general budget fund figure in paragraph 3 and renumber all subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

4. [That council assembly:] Agrees to amend the budget as follows:

Insert the following budget line into Appendix 1C (Income Generation)

- Reallocation from the Brexit Reserve Fund for Impact on Council Services to use for residents and local business - £2m
- Utilising money from the Brexit base budget commitment to cover any operational cost pressures arising from the outcome of the Brexit negotiation on Southwark - £300k.
- Introducing a pilot voluntary 'Tourist Tax' scheme - £600k.

Insert the following budget line into Appendix 1E (Commitments)

- Providing annual laptop and internet connection subsidies to children in Southwark – £250k.
- Giving enhanced support via digital hubs and, where needed, laptop and internet connection packages to adults – £250k.
- Creating a council grant scheme for EU citizens living longer than five years in Southwark – £1,325K
- Issuing a one year EU keyworkers' council grant scheme for those living in Southwark who need legal support to remain - £828K

- Issuing sufficient language skill training for Southwark residents - £123K
- Writing to all EU citizens to encourage them to register to vote and to postal vote - £24K
- Ensure citizens who reside in Southwark have the healthcare support they need - £100K

Chief Finance Officer assurance on robustness of budget estimates

Insert after paragraph 15:

16. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance, as the statutory section 151 officer, has confirmed that these proposals are legal, implementable and overall do not impact on the total budget requirement for 2021/22.
17. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance has confirmed that subject to the agreement to this amendment by Council Assembly, plans will need to be put in place to introduce a pilot 'Tourist Tax' scheme as described. In the event of any slippage on savings identified to achieve these plans in 2021/22, contingency included within the base budget would need to be set aside allowing for the plans to be fully implemented in the following year.

AMENDMENT E – Southwark People’s Healthy Recovery

Moved: Councillor Humaira Ali

Seconded: Councillor David Noakes

1. Council Assembly notes that:
 - a. Southwark has spent much of the last 12 months in lockdown. Our residents have given their all to follow the rules in spite of constantly changing goalposts and total mismanagement of this crisis from the Government.
 - b. Residents have had to stay indoors in often cramped and undesirably small spaces, while sports and leisure facilities have frequently been closed. This not only affects the general population, but also Southwark businesses that rely on this income. Sport England records that year on year between March and May 2020 over three million more adults became inactive physically.¹⁵
 - c. Those that live and work in Southwark have also been separated from families during milestone life events including births, bereavements and marriages. Children have been absent from school and have not seen key people in their development. The elderly have not met loved ones socially or for care purposes.
 - d. The Centre for Mental Health predicted that, as a result of the coronavirus, up to 10 million people nationally will need new mental health support.¹⁶ Social isolation has been a driver behind this rise. Furthermore, at the end of 2020, the Royal College of Psychiatrists found that one in four people with mental health problems had to wait at least three months and up to four years to start NHS treatment.¹⁷
 - e. Against this backdrop, Southwark needs to prepare for a surge in demand for physical and mental health treatments.

2. Council Assembly also notes that:
 - a. The current set of health offerings from the council are broadly targeted towards systemic or long-term issues such as obesity and long-lasting mental wellbeing problems. There is, however, nothing planned for when we return to a functioning, normal society after the pandemic (in whatever shape that may take).
 - b. When lockdowns are a thing of the past, there will be additional health burdens specific to this crisis. At this point, many may be excluded from accessing necessary services for their health. Universal interventions are needed to support them and to avoid adding more pressure onto the NHS.
 - c. Although these are concerning times for our residents, the council should see this as an opportunity to lead the way in offering unique

¹⁵ <https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021-01/Understanding%20the%20impact%20of%20coronavirus%20-%20January%202020.pdf?i3nGv3dZ.w8cL3ioOOc3k1Ky1kNFUH3F> accessed on 19/02/2021

¹⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/dec/27/covid-poses-greatest-threat-to-mental-health-since-second-world-war> accessed on 19/02/2021

¹⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/oct/07/one-in-four-waiting-three-months-or-more-for-mental-health-help> accessed on 19/02/2021

post-pandemic support. This would be a step toward a return to normality and would align with Southwark Council's Fairer Future Commitments. It would also provide the chance to boost Southwark-based businesses after a financially ruinous period.

3. Council Assembly, therefore, resolves for a Southwark Peoples' Healthy Recovery by implementing the following additional mental and physical health support for a time-limited period:
 - a. Enhancement of access to physical exercise for our all wards by organising free outdoor group fitness classes across our parks. This will take place at least in the spring and summer, and will be provided by Southwark businesses.
 - b. Provision of additional grants to Southwark-based charities in order to increase the amount of affordable talking therapies that lower-income residents can access.
 - c. Enabling those on low incomes to have the opportunity to focus on mental health by offering them free one-year subscriptions to a meditation app (such as Calm or Headspace), with a discount for all other residents.
 - d. Improvement of health services information with simple URLs to current content, a promotional campaign and an enhanced online portal that covers a range of topics for all demographics.
4. Council Assembly further resolves to fund all of the above by:
 - a. Allocation of unspent money from the London Devolution Reserve Fund of £780k for one-off costs of the pilots.

Insert after paragraph 3, modify the general budget fund figure in paragraph 3 and renumber all subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

1. [That council assembly:] Agrees to amend the budget as follows:

Insert the following budget line into Appendix 1C (Income Generation)

- Allocate London Devolution Fund Reserves – 780k

Insert the following budget line into Appendix 1E (Commitments):

- Giving lower income households free access to a meditation app and discounts to others – 96k
- Providing all wards with free outdoor group exercise – 464k
- Improving online health information – 20k
- Investing more into charity talk therapies – 200k

Chief Finance Officer assurance on robustness of budget estimates

Insert after paragraph 15:

16. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance, as the statutory section 151 officer, has confirmed that these proposals are legal, implementable and overall do not impact on the total budget requirement for 2021/22.

17. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance has confirmed that subject to the agreement to this amendment by Council Assembly, plans will need to be put in place to include any ongoing revenue implications within the base budget for future years as part of the 2022-23 Policy and Resources Budget planning process. In the event of any slippage on savings identified to achieve these plans in 2021/22, contingency included within the base budget would need to be set aside allowing for the plans to be fully implemented in the following year.