

Council Assembly (Annual Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Annual Meeting) held on Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 7.00 pm. A recording is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/southwarkcouncil>

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2020-21, Councillor Barrie Hargrove,
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
Councillor Jasmine Ali
Councillor Humaira Ali
Councillor Peter Babudu
Councillor Maggie Browning
Councillor Jack Buck
Councillor Radha Burgess
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Sunil Chopra
Councillor James Coldwell
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Nick Dolezal
Councillor Karl Eastham
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Paul Fleming
Councillor Tom Flynn
Councillor Renata Hamvas
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor William Hougbo
Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Peter John OBE
Councillor Nick Johnson
Councillor Eleanor Kerslake
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Richard Leeming
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Alice Macdonald
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor James McAsh
Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Victoria Olisa
Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Catherine Rose
Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Johnson Situ
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Leanne Werner
Councillor Dan Whitehead
Councillor Kath Whittam
Councillor Bill Williams
Councillor Kieron Williams
Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR OF SOUTHWARK 2020-21

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Barrie Hargrove, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The clerk announced that the leaders of each political group wished to make a statement.

Thereafter, Councillors Peter John and Nick Johnson paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor.

The clerk asked for nominations for Mayor for the ensuing municipal year 2020-21.

Councillor Peter John, seconded by Councillor Rebecca Lury, moved that Councillor Barrie Hargrove be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Southwark for the municipal year 2020-21.

The nomination was put to the vote and it was:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Barrie Hargrove be elected Mayor for the 2020-21 municipal year.

Councillor Barrie Hargrove accepted the office of Mayor. The clerk declared that Councillor Barrie Hargrove was duly elected Mayor of Southwark for 2020-21.

The new Mayor signed the declaration of acceptance of office and took the chair.

The new Mayor stated that he appointed Mary Doherty as the Mayor's consort.

The new Mayor appointed Councillor Sunil Chopra as Deputy Mayor.

The new Mayor gave his incoming speech and announced that his chosen charities would be the MumMum Foundation, Camberwell Choir School and Art Academy London, supported by Councillor Sandra Rhule during her tenure as Mayor of Southwark 2019-20.

2. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

2.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lorraine Lauder and Sandra Rhule.

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

2.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

2.5 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 15 July 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

3. REPORTS

3.1 ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Andy Simmons spoke on behalf of Neil Coyle MP, Harriet Harman MP, and Helen Hayes MP. Councillor Peter John spoke as outgoing leader of the council.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Kieron Williams be elected Leader of Southwark Council.

Councillor Kieron Williams spoke as incoming leader of the council. Councillor Nick Johnson spoke as leader of the opposition.

3.2 EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS 2020-21

1. That council assembly received a report from the leader on the following executive issues for the coming municipal year 2020-21 and:
 - Noted the appointment by the leader of cabinet members
 - Noted the appointment of any deputy cabinet members
 - Noted the establishment and appointment of any cabinet committees
 - Noted the leader's report on the delegation of executive functions to the full cabinet, cabinet committees, individual cabinet members, multi-ward forums, chief officers and any other delegations.

Appointment of the cabinet

2. That the leader reported to council assembly on the appointment of members of the cabinet and determination of their executive functions.

Cllr Kieron Williams - Leader of the Council

Cllr Jasmine Ali - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Schools

Cllr Evelyn Akoto - Cabinet Member for Public Health & Community Safety

Cllr Stephanie Cryan - Cabinet Member for Jobs, Culture & Skills

Cllr Helen Dennis - Cabinet Member for Social Support & Homelessness

Cllr Rebecca Lury - Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources

Cllr Alice Macdonald - Cabinet Member for Communities & Equalities

Cllr Leo Pollak - Cabinet Member for Housing

Cllr Catherine Rose - Cabinet Member for Leisure, Environment & Roads

Cllr Johnson Situ - Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Planning & Transport

Appointment of deputy cabinet members

3. That the leader reported to council assembly on the appointment of deputy cabinet members and determination of their duties and responsibilities.

Cllr Radha Burgess - Deputy Cabinet Member for Low Traffic Southwark

Establishment and appointment of cabinet committees

4. That the leader reported on the establishment of the following cabinet committees:
 - Cabinet (Livesey Trust) Committee,
 - Better Placed Joint Committee
 - Joint IT Committee (Brent, Lewisham and Southwark).

Multi-ward forums

5. That the leader delegated executive functions for Neighbourhoods Fund, Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) and Devolved Highways programmes to multi-ward forums. This will be limited to one round of multi-ward forum meetings per municipal year except in exceptional circumstances, whereby a decision can be taken at an additional meeting.

Delegation of executive functions

6. That the leader reported on the delegation of executive functions between full cabinet, individual decision makers, multi-ward forums, chief officers and any other delegations.
7. That council assembly noted the leader's report on any changes to the delegation of executive functions to the full cabinet, cabinet committees, individual cabinet members, chief officers and any other delegations.
8. That council assembly noted that as a consequence of recommendation 6, the proper constitutional officer will update Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the leader's report on the delegation of executive functions.

3.3 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES 2020

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly agreed that the constitution contain a protocol outlining how virtual meetings will be run (Appendix 1 of the report).

3.4 ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES, PANELS AND RELATED MATTERS 2020-21

The nominations for chairs and vice chairs of committees and the nominations to the Local Government Association General Assembly were circulated.

There were three contested positions.

The position of chair of overview and scrutiny committee was put to the vote, and it was agreed that Councillor Ian Wingfield be appointed chair of overview and scrutiny committee.

The position of deputy community champion for North-west multi-ward area was put to the vote, and it was agreed that Councillor Karl Eastham be appointed vice-chair of planning committee.

The position of community champion for the north-east area was put to the vote, and it was agreed that Councillor Sunny Lambe be appointed community champion for the north-east area.

The position of deputy community champion for the north-east area was put to the vote, and it was agreed that Councillor Leanne Werner be appointed deputy community champion for the north-east area.

The substantive motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

9. That council assembly noted the appointment of political group leaders, deputies and whips:

LABOUR GROUP

Leader	Councillor Kieron Williams
Deputy Leader	Councillor Jasmine Ali
Chief Whip	Councillor Maggie Browning

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP

Leader	Councillor Nick Johnson
Deputy Leader	Councillor William Hougbo
Chief Whip	Councillor Hamish McCallum

10. That council assembly noted the political balance of the council as follows:

Table 1: Political balance

Group	Members	%
Labour	48	76.19
Liberal Democrat	14	22.22
Independent (not a group)	1	1.59
Total	63	100.00

11. That council assembly noted that there is no change to proportionality and the allocation of seats on committees and panels as agreed by council assembly on 18 May 2019 remains the same as set out below.
12. That council assembly established the following committees for the coming municipal year 2020-21:

Table 2: Ordinary Committees - Total number of seats 29

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
Committee 1 Appointments Committee	7	6	1
Committee 2 Planning Committee	8	6	2
Committee 3 Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	7	5	2
Committee 4 Corporate Parenting Committee	7	6	1
Total	29	23	6

Table 3: Other committees - Total number of seats 26

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11	8	3
Licensing Committee	15	12	3
Total	26	20	6

Note: The political balance rules require that the political groups represented on council have proportionate representation on council committees. A political group must comprise at least two members, so the one Independent member does not constitute a political group. Councils can allocate seats on committees to members not aligned to a group, but are under no statutory obligation to do so.

Table 4: Multi-ward areas

1.	North-west
2.	North-east
3.	West-central
4.	East-central
5.	South

Note: The composition of multi-ward areas is set out in Article 8 of the constitution (see paragraph 42 of the report).

Health and wellbeing board

13. That the health and wellbeing board be established as a committee of the council under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 with the membership set out in paragraph 39 of the report.
14. That it be noted that the leader of the council nominates the local authority membership. In accordance with committee procedure rules, the leader chairs the board.

Appointment of chairs and vice chairs

15. That council assembly appointed chairs and vice chairs for the following committees:

Committees

- Appointments committee
Chair: Councillor Kieron Williams
Vice-chair: Councillor Jasmine Ali
- Planning committee
Chair: Councillor Martin Seaton
Vice-chair: Councillor Darren Merrill
- Audit, governance and standards committee
Chair: Councillor James McAsh
Vice-chair: Councillor Graham Neale
- Corporate parenting committee [see note 1 below]
Chair: Councillor Jasmine Ali (Appointment of cabinet member with the responsibility for children and schools formally noted)
Vice-chair: Vacant
- Overview and scrutiny committee
Chair: Councillor Ian Wingfield
Vice-Chair: Councillor Victor Chamberlain
- Licensing committee
Chair: Councillor Renata Hamvas
Vice-chair: Councillor Adele Morris

Notes:

1. In 2019-20, the cabinet member responsible for children's services chaired the corporate parenting committee. Council assembly is asked to formally approve this appointment in 2020-21.
2. All outstanding appointments will be referred to the first meeting of the respective committee in the 2020-21 municipal year.

Appointment of community champions

16. That council assembly appoint community champions for the following multi-ward areas:

Multi-ward areas: Community Champions

	Councillor	Multi-ward area
1.	Damian O'Brien	North-west
2.	Sunny Lambe	North-east

3.	Dora Dixon-Fyle	West-central
4.	Vikki Mills	East-central
5.	Andy Simmons	South

Multi-ward areas: Deputy Community Champions

	Councillor	Multi-ward area
1.	Karl Eastham	North-west
2.	Leanne Werner	North-east
3.	Eleanor Kerslake	West-central
4.	Cleo Soanes	East-central
5.	Margy Newens	South

Establishment of the council's panels

17. That council assembly establishes the following council panels (see paragraph 53):

Table 5: Panels - Total number of seats 16

Panel	Total	Lab	Lib Dem
Council assembly business panel	4	3	1
Constitutional steering panel	4	3	1
Pensions advisory panel	3	2	1
Voluntary bodies appointments panel	5	4	1
Total	16	12	4

Note: This table is based on the panels established in 2019-20.

Appointments of chair to constitutional steering panel and voluntary bodies appointments panel

18. That council assembly appoints a chair to the following panels:

- Constitutional steering panel: Councillor Maggie Browning

Notes:

1. That it be noted that the Mayor chairs the council assembly business panel.

Urgency committee

19. That the role of the urgency committee between a municipal election and the annual meeting of council assembly, as agreed by council assembly on 26 March 2014, be noted as set out in paragraphs 55 and 56.

Appointments to Local Government Association (LGA) General Assembly

20. That council assembly appoints up to three representatives and allocates the sever votes to representatives to attend the LGA General Assembly (see paragraphs 55 and 56 of the report).

Representative	No. of votes	Group
Councillor Kieron Williams	3	Labour
Councillor Jasmine Ali	3	Labour
Councillor Adele Morris	1	Liberal Democrat

Other appointments to joint committees/outside bodies

21. That council assembly noted the cabinet and other committees will make appointments to all other outside committees and bodies for the municipal year 2020-21 as required by part 3Q of the constitution.

3.5 NOMINATIONS TO LONDON COUNCILS COMMITTEES, GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM, BOROUGH LEAD MEMBERS, LONDON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS) COMMON INVESTMENT VEHICLE (CIV) LTD. AND LONDON COUNCILS LIMITED 2020-21

1. LONDON COUNCILS LEADERS' COMMITTEE (S101 JOINT COMMITTEE)

Note: Council Assembly may only nominate cabinet members as representatives or deputies to this joint committee.

1 representative and up to 2 deputies

Labour nomination Cllr Kieron Williams

Deputies

Labour nominations Councillor Jasmine Ali

2. LONDON COUNCILS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (S101 ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE)

Note: Council Assembly may only nominate cabinet members as representatives or deputies to this joint committee.

1 representative and up to 4 deputies

Labour nomination Councillor Johnson Situ

Deputies

Labour nominations Councillor Catherine Rose

3. LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE (ASSOCIATED JOINT COMMITTEE)

Note: Council Assembly may only nominate cabinet members as representatives

or deputies to this joint committee

1 representative and up to 4 deputies

Labour nomination Councillor Alice Macdonald

Deputies

Labour nominations -

4. LONDON LGBS COMMON INVESTMENT VEHICLE (CIV) LIMITED

1 representative and up to 2 deputies

Labour nomination Councillor Rebecca Lury

Deputy

Labour nomination -

5. GREATER LONDON EMPLOYMENT FORUM

1 representative and 1 deputy

Labour nomination Councillor Rebecca Lury

Deputy

Labour nomination -

6. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ARTS/CULTURE, TOURISM, SPORT AND LEISURE

Labour nomination Councillor Catherine Rose

7. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE/SAFEGUARDING AND SCHOOLS

Labour nomination Councillor Jasmine Ali

8. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – CRIME AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

Labour nomination Councillor Evelyn Akoto

9. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/BUSINESS

Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan

10. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – FINANCE AND CORPORATE

SERVICES

- Labour nomination Councillor Rebecca Lury
11. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INCLUDING ADULT SERVICES
- Labour nomination Councillor Helen Dennis
12. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – HOUSING AND REGENERATION
- Labour nomination Councillor Leo Pollak
13. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – PLANNING/ INFRASTRUCTURE/DEVELOPMENT
- Labour nomination Councillor Johnson Situ
14. LONDON COUNCILS BOROUGH LEAD MEMBER – SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT
- Labour nomination Councillor Stephanie Cryan
15. LONDON COUNCILS LIMITED
- 1 representative
- Labour nomination Councillor Kieron Williams

3.6 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

Councillor Ian Wingfield, chair of overview and scrutiny committee, introduced the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly noted the scrutiny activity for the 2019/20 year as detailed in paragraphs 9 – 46 of the report.
2. That council assembly noted the proposed areas of activity for 2020/21, which builds upon some of the work undertaken in 2019/20 and the council's response to Covid-19 (paragraph 47 of the report).

4. AMENDMENTS

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: