

LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON

MINUTES

**of the meeting of the Council
held on 14 November 2016
starting at 7.00 pm**

Members

**The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Richard Clifton**

**The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Steve Cook
Councillor Nali Patel**

Councillors:

Ruth Dombey	Vincent Galligan	Marian Radford
Simon Wales	Martin Gonzalez	Jason Reynolds
Tim Crowley	Sunita Gordon	Muhammad Sadiq
Neil Garratt	Amy Haldane	Daniel Sangster
Manuel Abellan	Marlene Heron	Jill Whitehead
Pathumal Ali	Arthur Hookway	Chris Williams
David Bartolucci	Doug Hunt	Paul Wingfield
Samantha Bourne	Miguel Javelot	Hanna Zuchowska
Richard Broadbent	Edward Joyce	Moira Butt
Kevin Burke	Richard Marston	David Hicks
Mary Burstow	Wendy Mathys	Patrick McManus
Margaret Court	Jayne McCoy	Jane Pascoe
Jean Crossby	Joyce Melican	Holly Ramsey
Nick Emmerson	Ali Mirhashem	Tony Shields
Trish Fivey	Callum Morton	Graham Whitham
	Steve Penneck	Nick Matthey
	Nighat Piracha	
	Hamish Pollock	

ABSENT Councillors. Adrian Davey and Colin Stears

PART 'A'

67. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

68. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adrian Davey and Colin Stears.

(b) Announcements

Jenny Thrower, of the Alzheimer's Society, was invited to speak as a representative of one of the Mayor's chosen charities. The Mayor also thanked Councillors who had supported his ongoing charity appeal and its related events, including a recent quiz and dinner.

The Mayor made the following announcements:

The Mayor reported that he had participated in the Council's official Civic Act of Remembrance for Armistice Day in Trinity Square the previous Friday and the main Civic Remembrance Day Service at Holy Trinity Church in Wallington the day before. The Mayor was grateful to all those who supported these events, including the veterans, standard bearers, members of the Royal British Legion, other uniformed organisations, the choir from Sutton High School for Girls, Council officers, Sutton Humanist Society and the many Councillors from both political groups who had participated.

The Mayor congratulated Sutton Council apprentice Ryan Emmerson for winning the prestigious Apprentice of the Year award at the annual London Borough Apprenticeship Awards.

It was also recognised that Sutton Council and Sutton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) were the first council and CCG in England to jointly sign the Motor Neurone Disease Charter in support of local people living with this terminal disease and their carers.

The Mayor added that Sutton's parks had received a Silver Gilt award for the eighth year in succession in the London in Bloom competition. Five council-maintained parks performed particularly well, with Beddington Park, Cheam Park & Rec, The Grove Park and Oaks Park all securing Silver Gilt awards in the Large Park of the

Year categories, while Manor Park achieved a Silver Gilt award in the Park of the Year category. The parks won the awards because of their cleanliness, the quality of their facilities, and their value to borough residents and the environment. It was further announced that the best Front Garden Award was won for the fifth time by Michael and Audrey Fawcett of Acre Lane, Carshalton.

Finally, congratulations were given to Successful Sutton, whose Sutton shuttle won the Small Location – Place Management category of the 2016 national Business Improvement Districts (BID) Awards, which celebrated projects that improve commercial areas and high streets in Britain. The free-to-use shuttle service was up against two other BIDs and won an astonishing 69.5 per cent of the vote.

69. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

7. Motion 1 - Local Pharmacies.

Councillor Muhammad Sadiq, Non Pecuniary, as his daughter is a community pharmacist.

70. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

(a) Questions from Members of the Public

One member of the public asked one question, the supplementary questions and responses are set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

(b) Questions from Councillors

Five Councillors submitted twenty-one questions, the supplementary questions and responses are set out at Appendix B to the minutes. The time allocated for questions concluded prior to all responses being given. The Mayor advised that answers to questions not reached would be circulated as soon as possible and are set out at Appendix C.

71. PETITIONS

Councillor David Hicks submitted a petition, on behalf of the Belmont, South Sutton and South Cheam Neighbourhood Forum. The petition was summarised by the Chief Executive as objecting to the London Borough of Sutton's proposal to build a secondary school on the Sutton Hospital site and was referred to the next meeting of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee.

72. REQUISITION

(a) Building Utilisation Implementation Board Report

The Mayor invited Councillor Simon Wales, Deputy Leader of the Council, to introduce the adoption of draft resolution Item 7 recommendation 2.5 as considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 31 October 2016.

Following discussions, it was agreed that the matter would be revisited at the February 2017 meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee.

RESOLVED: that Item 7, Recommendation 2.5, as considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 31 October, be reconsidered by that same Committee in February 2017.

73. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion 1 - Local Pharmacies

Councillor Simon Wales moved the motion which was seconded by Councillor Jean Crosby.

The Mayor moved a procedural motion to suspend procedure rule 12.6 the requirement to stand which was carried.

Councillor Neil Garratt moved an amendment to the motion which was seconded by Councillor Tim Crowley, as attached at Appendix D.

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and lost. The motion was then put to the vote and carried

RESOLVED:

Local Pharmacies

This Council recognises that local pharmacies provide a range of NHS services and ensures people can get face-to-face, healthcare professional advice without an appointment and that currently 96% of people can get to a pharmacy within 20 minutes making them a health and social care asset close to where people live, work and shop.

This Council is therefore extremely disappointed that the Department of Health (DH) proposed budget cuts of £170m nationally to take effect from December 2016 which could mean a cut of 12% during the financial year and lead to the loss of up to a quarter of pharmacies, putting extra pressure on GPs and hospitals

This Council believes that the Government should invest in frontline, community-based care and ensure that its plans for pharmacies will:

1. maintain patient choice, by encouraging a vibrant network of local pharmacies
2. ensure that people can continue to get face-to-face, professional advice without an appointment about medicines and health
3. increase opportunities for health improvement interventions, such as stop smoking advice
4. safeguard the interests of the most vulnerable people and populations; and reduce health inequalities
5. ensure a resilient medicines supply system, so that patients can get their medicines when and where they need them

This Council therefore agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Health, NHS England and Sutton Clinical Commissioning Group detailing our concerns and demanding an immediate reversal of these proposals.

(b) Constitutional Updates

Councillor Simon Wales, Vice Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee, moved the adoption of the minute which, following debate, was put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED: that

1. The Planning Protocol (Appendix A) be included in the Council's Constitution and the principles of Planning Committee training, as set out in paragraph 4.2 of the report, be endorsed.
2. The constitutional changes to the Scheme of Delegation for Planning matters, as set out in Appendix B of the report, be agreed.
3. A Disciplinary Investigation Panel be established in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015, as set out in paragraph 4.8 of the report.

4. The Constitutional changes relating to the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015, as set out in paragraphs 4.5-4.8 of the report, be agreed.
5. The Members' Use of Resources Protocol (Appendix C) be included in the Council's Constitution.
6. The changes to procedures for appointment of community representatives for local committees, as set out at Paragraph 4.9 of the report, be agreed.
7. The constitutional changes to Pension Committee purpose and functions, as set out in Section 2 Article 8 of the Council's Constitution and Paragraph 4.10 of the report, be agreed.
8. The constitutional changes to decision thresholds for standing committees, as set out in paragraphs 4.13 of the report, be agreed.
9. Authority is delegated to the Monitoring Officer to make any consequential amendments to the Council's Constitution arising from this report and subsequent decisions.

74. LOCAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED

Carshalton and Clockhouse Local Committee

That Barry Holman be appointed to represent Carshalton Beeches Residents' Association following the resignation of Tony Brockbank.

Cheam North and Worcester Park Local Committee

That Simon Densley be appointed to represent Friends of the Daisyfield following the resignation of Graham Jarvis.

Appendix A - Questions from Members of the Public

Appendix B - Questions from Councillors

Appendix C - Questions not reached at Council

Appendix D - Council Questions (8.13)

Appendix E - Motion 1 - Local Pharmacies - Amendment

The meeting ended at 21:28

Mayor:

Date:

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**London Borough of Sutton
Council: 14 November 2016
Questions under Standing Order 8.7
From Members of the Public**

1. Question asked by David Taber to Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee

Can the Council please state how much profit Encompass LATC Ltd made in the first four months of operation by giving tenants unsecured interest free loans to pay rent and deposits, as opposed to funding Bed & Breakfasts, and how much did Sutton pay Encompass LATC to provide this service?

Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy

Good evening Mr Taber and welcome back to this chamber. In response to your question I can advise that Encompass only very rarely agrees loans for deposits. It usually just provides guarantees to cover deposits. Encompass has not made any profits from administering loans for rent deposits, and there is no separate payment made by the Council to Encompass for this particular service.

Supplementary Question asked by David Taber

If they're not making loans, how is it then that their present loan book is £246,000 and the amount of money which is owed, in other words people haven't paid, is £74,018. So if they've not made any loans, how has this money been given to people?

Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy

I don't know the details of the accounts of Encompass but I do know that the business of Encompass is more than just this, the service includes homeless prevention and assessment, temporary accommodation management and administration, housing options and advice, maintenance of the housing register, housing allocations and nominations, support brokerage, and the shared alliance service.

Supplementary Question asked by Councillor Neil Garratt

Thank you. I just wondered whether Councillor McCoy could clarify whether the policy that's in place to deal with these loans is actually the same or has changed since the service was run in-house by the Council before June?

Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy

My understanding is that policy hasn't changed.

**London Borough of Sutton
Council: 14 November 2016
Questions from Councillors
Standing Order 8.6**

1. From Councillor Neil Garratt to Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family & Education Committee

Looking at the timeline of events surrounding the new secondary school site decision:

Spring 2014: During the local election campaign, Conservatives warn that the council needs to make a prompt decision over new school sites, or risk schools opening late. Liberal Democrats dismiss this as "scaremongering".

November 2014: At full Council and in an accompanying press statement, in answer to Paul Scully, Councillor Mathys announces Rose Hill and Belmont as the two preferred sites for the two new secondary schools we need.

September 2015: Liberal Democrats throw away nearly a year of work, by pulling the rug from under the Rose Hill school plans without warning, just days before it was due to go to the Strategy & Resources Committee.

January 2016: Conservatives requisition the school site decision to full Council, strongly arguing that we revert to the November 2014 "twin track" approach of progressing both sites, in order to reduce the risk of delays as both schools will need to be built in any event. Liberal Democrats vote against, insist on progressing only the Belmont school.

Autumn 2016: It is now openly admitted that the new Belmont school will not be complete on time; children starting life at the new school will have to spend months in temporary accommodation, creating disruption and wasting money.

November 2016: Liberal Democrats finally admit that they were wrong in January 2016, and wrong in September 2015. Having wasted nearly a year since January 2016, and a full two years since November 2014, we are now back to where we started - two new secondary schools, to be built at Rose Hill and Belmont.

This is a sorry tale of years of dithering and indecision from the natural party of fence-sitting. How much of the blame does the administration accept, if children have to spend their first months of high school in temporary accommodation?

Reply by Councillor Wendy Mathys

Thank you Mr Mayor. Good evening Councillor Garratt, thank you for your question which makes quite a stab at rewriting history. You seem to have overlooked that it was always our intention to build a school at the Sutton Hospital site if we could purchase the land from the NHS, which we did, and if feasibility investigations were satisfactory, as they were. But you also completely missed the point here.

What we are discussing is putting a school in a park, which you and your conservative colleagues and indeed your MP have been pressing for over many months, even years, without any apparent regard as to how much of that park land would be lost to residents who value it. As Liberal Democrats, we have never been prepared to put a school building in a park as long as there is still a brownfield, previously developed site available as in this case. So that is why we are not planning to use Rose Hill for our first school, and it is with great reluctance that we have to use Rose Hill Park at all.

However, the local plan consultation has confirmed our previous assessment that there is currently no other site available so that is why it is likely that part of Rose Hill will be agreed at the HEB (Housing, Economy and Business) Committee in December for the second school. But, the good news here is that the arrangement of the Education Funding Agency, the EFA, is now likely to make with Greenshaw Learning Trust, who will build a second school, is a much better prospect than that available previously only a few months ago. This is because the tennis centre recently changed hands and the new owners seem likely to sell part of their own tennis centre buildings for the school which considerably reduces the area of parkland needed for new school buildings. So we were not wrong in September 2015, nor in January 2016. Indeed, we are well on the way to submitting a planning application for the first school in Belmont and by waiting we expect to secure a much better deal for the residents near Rose Hill Park. Had we gone with your proposals, Councillor Garratt, much more of the park would have been at risk from being taken over by school buildings and things would have been a whole lot worse for our residents.

Supplementary Question asked by Councillor Neil Garratt

Thank you, I do have a supplementary. So on this question of rewriting history, is it true or is it false that almost two years ago to the day in November 2014 Councillor Mathys made a statement that there are two secondary schools required and we have two preferred sites, being Rose Hill and the land on the former Sutton Hospital site, and that the Council would proceed and build whichever of those two sites was ready first, is that true or false?

Reply by Councillor Wendy Mathys

Yes, that is correct, and as I've already said, Councillor Garratt, we had always intended that we would build on the Belmont hospital site first if that was available. However, it became of increasing concern during that period in the run up to spring 2015, that the hospital site might not be available in time and that is why we then, at that stage, looked at an alternative site. And that is why we did the feasibility studies because knowing that if we didn't use it, it was highly likely we would need a second site if no other site became available in the intervening period. But as I've already said, the site that we're now talking about building on is somewhat different from that because there is an area of orchard land, known as the orchard, at one end of the park, which we will not now have to build on and had we gone along with plans at that stage we would have had to build on a much bigger area of the park land.

Supplementary Question asked by Councillor Tim Crowley

Thank you Mr Mayor. Councillor Mathys, can I ask you whether the Belmont hospital site will open on time in September 2018 and is there actually a possibility, the way that things are going, that the site at Rose Hill might actually in fact open before the Belmont hospital site?

Reply by Councillor Wendy Mathys

Well as I understand it, the Rose Hill site will not be needed until 2019 and I think that's unlikely because they haven't even submitted plans yet, they haven't even finalised arrangements with the tennis centre as far as I'm concerned. But that is actually an issue for the EFA and the GLT and we're not involved in it.

It is possible the school won't be completely built by September 2018 and we have made it very clear that should that be the case, which we don't yet know, but in order to cover all eventualities, there is alternative provision being made available on the adjoining hospital site at premises which I understand have previously been

used for education and training and will be very suited for a short time to use as temporary accommodation. And please remember, it will only be one year's intake at that stage and we certainly expect that by halfway through that year the building will be complete.

2. From Councillor Nick Mattey to Councillor Simon Wales, Deputy Leader of the Council

As we are aware, some charities in Sutton that care for the elderly have recently been experiencing a number of financial problems. These are currently being investigated by the Charity Commission.

1. Sutton Seniors Forum appointed a new treasurer in February 2016. In September it was revealed that on 31 December 2015 it had a debtor of £3680. This is an unusual state of affairs as the charity does not have a consumer credit licence and is therefore not licensed to lend money. Will this matter be investigated by the Council's Trading Standards officers, it is illegal to lend money to individuals without having a consumer credit license?
2. While Trading Standards are investigating this, could someone point out to the Forum's treasurer that the accounts should be independently audited?

Reply by Councillor Simon Wales

Thank you very much Mr Mayor and thank you for your question Councillor Mattey. With the introduction of new consumer credit regulations in 2014, business conduct of all retail and financial services is now regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The FCA has the power to bring criminal and civil proceedings against non compliant businesses. Trading standards can give advice to victims of illegal money lending through the National Illegal Money Lending scheme hosted by Birmingham City Council and it is for this reason that Sutton Council Trading Standards has not received any complaint or allegation from Sutton Seniors Forum.

Other issues concerning the governance of the charity would be more appropriately considered through a formal complaint to the Charity Commission's investigations team.

Supplementary Question asked by Councillor Nick Mattey

The Council on its crackdown on scams and frauds, would it not be appropriate for the Council to find out why this charity's moved into the money lending business?

Reply by Councillor Simon Wales

Such scams and frauds which have been perpetrated on the public have been reported to trading standards. A question of illegal money lending is taken up by the Trading Standards Authority, or National Illegal Money Lending Scheme hosted by Birmingham Council, and that's the forum for that to be investigated.

3. From Councillor David Hicks to Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee

Councillor McCoy recently put out a statement condemning Councillors for releasing confidential information that pre-empted Committee decisions. The following week Councillor McCoy put out a statement pre-empting the Housing, Economy and Business Committee's decision on the choice of secondary school sites.

Can Councillor McCoy please explain the obvious discrepancy in her opinions?

Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy

Thank you for your question Councillor Hicks. I'm afraid in this situation you forced our hand on this. Following the Conservatives' entirely speculative statement about a new school going on the Croygas site, we felt pressurised to reassure the public. In contrast to yourselves, we did actually wait until the task and finish group and then we also felt confident enough to make our statement. The evidence at that stage showed that there really was only one remaining site left for the second secondary school. So in those circumstances, and knowing that the Conservatives had wanted to put a school on Rose Hill Park from the start. We felt that this was what the task and finish group would recommend to the Housing, Economy and Business Committee, and was able to reduce speculation about other sites.

Supplementary Question asked by Councillor David Hicks

I must say it's with some sadness I do ask this question because we worked very diligently on the task and finish group, making discussions and decisions which

could cause problems both politically and publically. We were under clear instructions that no information should be shared with the public, Councillor McCoy. Political speculation is one thing, dealing with confidential information and releasing it to the public in advance of its full approval is another. Your party actually released some information about the gypsy and traveller site before the proposal had even come to the task and finish group. So there is a difference between politics and the business of the Council.

Why was the information released again please?

Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy

Well I've explained the point about the Rose Hill site which was in response to a leak that you and your party acted upon and put information out about so it was in respect of that.

In regard to the traveller site, that was a genuine mistake by our ward councillors who had been briefed by officers that they would be making the recommendation and they hadn't realised about the timeline because they're outside of the process both of the local plan and the task and finish group. Now I noticed this and immediately told them to take this down and to explain to residents on social media what the situation actually was, that nothing official had been made and they did that. I don't think this post was up on the website for any more than two hours at most. So in contrast to yourselves we took that down almost immediately once we realised and it was a genuine mistake.

However, regarding the Rose Hill Park statement, as your party chair, Mr Maxwell Scott, was apparently on social media telling everyone about the decision on the Rose Hill site before we'd even issued our press statement, I don't think you can be lecturing me on this matter.

Supplementary Question asked by Councillor Tim Crowley

Can I ask Councillor McCoy whether it is not the case that the Beddington South councillor in question also distributed well over 2000 emails to ward members, to residents in the ward about the gypsy and travellers proposed site not being in his ward. You say that he was also briefed. Can you tell me why councillors who were affected by travellers sites in other wards were also not briefed at the same time?

Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy

Councillors are entitled to request information about their ward at any time from officers, so that's possible. But at the previous task and finish group, the earlier one where we did discuss the gypsy and traveller site, it was even then that this information was about, that there was discussion about looking further and those sites not being suitable and I remember Councillor Garratt tweeting immediately after the meeting about the information that was discussed at that meeting. So again please don't lecture us on confidential information.

4. From Councillor Tony Shields to Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee

Why was there no meaningful consultation with residents regarding the London Borough of Sutton funded hard drug and alcohol addict clinic / prescription service at Orion House in Cedar Road?

I note that Liberal Democrat Councillors for the ward attended a briefing of which I can find no record of from the Council funded operator and that even after that privilege, not one word of communication as to the potentially serious risk to the public at large by encouraging multiple large amounts of drug addicts to congregate in this residential area.

Will, given the serious impact of this centre, Sutton Council instruct the service provider to locate in a far more appropriate and less controversial place?

I note that this planning application was swept through even though I asked for deferment to consult openly and honestly with residents and that the application was granted in just four weeks. Is this something of a record for the planning department, and given the general tone of Planning meetings, how now can any resident take comfort in a planning committee that seems to refuse to consider the impact of the decisions on residents by just forcing serious issues through without meaningful public engagement?

Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy

Thank you. I understand Councillors Shields' question is about an alcohol addict clinic and prescription service proposed for Orion House in Cedar Road. I'm advised that this application not only met but exceeded the statutory guidance for consultation on planning applications and not only that, but having originally been

on the planning committee agenda for 7 September, the application was actually subsequently withdrawn to improve the flexibility of its lawful use class. And so underwent two rounds of consultation prior to being heard by the planning committee on 19 October. As officers would contest your statements that this facility poses a risk to the public, there is no evidence that it required any additional consultation with residents over and above the prescribed process. And there was also significant debate at the planning committee on the application itself which you, Councillor Shields, participated in.

Supplementary Question asked by Councillor Tony Shields

Glad to hear Councillor McCoy wouldn't be happy for one of these well consulted, not, facilities near her, but thank you for confirming the disdain and contempt in which you hold the public. Residents had no chance to get to grips with the information as it was hidden in planning speak. So, as it seems the administration is happy to bring havoc to Cedar Road and its local area with this, will this administration wake up to the potential that 50 drug addicts a day in one place is a danger and install, this is asked for by residents, working CCTV, a constant police presence, and a twice daily street clean to ensure all hypodermic needles and related drug paraphernalia are cleared for safety reasons? These are the requests of the public. This Council has acted despicably in hoodwinking residents for this very serious development, and it should be placed somewhere with far less density of population. There are quieter places in the borough. We have done a terrible thing.

Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy

Councillor Shields, such a facility would not have been proposed or approved for such an area if it was believed that it posed any risk to the public, because the Council actually has a duty of care to its residents. Your own personal prejudice against a facility designed to help people free themselves from their addictions is actually an attack on those who are vulnerable and need help.

Local pharmacies, which we will be discussing later tonight, often prescribe prescriptions for adults in a similar way, and only this weekend I heard the story of a pharmacist whose customer had failed to collect their methadone medication. That pharmacist voluntarily made a personal house call to deliver the medication and the rationale was that without that medication, then they may turn to crime or antisocial behaviour because they'd not had the medication. This is a preventative measure and your statement, and your prejudice against the people who need that

help goes against, well it just symbolises what the Conservatives stand for. Thank you.

5. From Councillor Patrick McManus to Councillor Jill Whitehead, Chair of the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee

As opposition transport spokesman, I regularly receive feedback from residents about many things. Top of the list are courtesy crossings on main roads. What lessons has Sutton Council learned from Heart of Hackbridge?

Reply by Councillor Jill Whitehead

As you are aware, the Hackbridge scheme was chosen by the Hackbridge Neighbourhood Forum and was funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA). At the time, the GLA under Boris Johnson was promoting these kinds of schemes and they were also being rolled out elsewhere. The Hackbridge scheme was designed in accordance with national and regional highways guidelines produced by the government. The design was also safety audited by an independent organisation and the design was found to be safe under the existing guidelines.

However, since the scheme was implemented, there's been a lot of debate about national standards and guidelines and the implications they have on different disability groups, but in particular visually impaired people. The Council has been actively involved in these debates at national level including one held at the House of Lords and we've worked with the local community to replace two courtesy crossings with controlled crossings at Hackbridge. I understand the review of national guidelines is still ongoing by the government. In the meantime, the council will ensure that all schemes take into account disability needs.

Supplementary Question asked by Councillor Patrick McManus

Well I think, Councillor Whitehead, thank you for your response there. I think we're quite lucky that the M25 doesn't fall within the London Borough of Sutton because I just wonder at what level you would stop at putting courtesy crossings on main roads. Is it true or false that it now takes a long time compared to previously to cross the road in front of Sutton Station for example? I've witnessed it myself. Is it true or false it now takes a long time to wait for a fleeting phenomena of confused urban courtesy to be able to cross the road in front of the station, is that true or false?

Reply by Councillor Jill Whitehead

It's false because there is a controlled crossing in front of the station.

Supplementary Question asked by Councillor Tim Crowley

Is it true or false Councillor Whitehead that anything that goes wrong in this borough, especially connected with things like courtesy crossings, is always somebody else's fault, and when it goes right you try and claim credit for it?

Reply by Councillor Jill Whitehead

I'm not aware that anything has gone wrong because the crossings at Sutton Station are working perfectly.

6. From Councillor Nick Mattey to Councillor Simon Wales, Deputy Leader of the Council

I have written to Sutton Council for the Voluntary Sector and asked them if they were aware that Sutton Seniors Forum appears to have moved into the money-lending business.

Earlier this year, Sutton Council for the Voluntary Sector approved a grant of £6000 to Sutton Seniors Forum. I have asked Sutton Council for the Voluntary Sector if they would have given this grant had they known about this charity's debtor. They are yet to reply.

Can the council please ask all charities that have links with the Lib Dems or Sutton Council to publish up to date and independently audited accounts?

Reply by Councillor Simon Wales

Thank you Mr Mayor, thank you Councillor Mattey for a variation on a theme. All charities are regulated by the charity commission which requires them to prepare and either make available or publish their accounts depending on the charity's level of income. If gross income is more than £25,000 a year, the charity's accounts must be filed with the commission. Likewise the charity commission requires charities with a gross income of more than £25,000 a year to have their

accounts either independently examined or audited depending on the level and assets of the charity. Broadly speaking, an independent examination is needed if gross income is between £25,000 and £500,000 and an audit is needed where the gross income exceeds £500,000. An audit would also be needed if total assets before liabilities exceed £3.26 million and the charity's gross income is more than £250,000.

I'm sure there are many voluntary sector organisations in Sutton that would love to have income of that level. Where the Council commissions or contracts directly with charities as service providers, they are required to produce financial information to the Council as set out in the Council's contract standing orders, which again require different levels of assurance depending on the sums of money involved in the contract. Regulation has to be proportionate and it is not within the Council's role or powers to require charities to go beyond the Council commission's, the charity commission's requirements, or their own governing documents.

Supplementary Question asked by Councillor Nick Matthey

What appears to have happened if we look at the balance sheet of 1 December 2015 is that an auditor is named as signing off the accounts but it appears that the auditor is a friend of the treasurer who happens to be the mother of the council leader. Therefore it is very difficult for people in Sutton to understand that this is truly independent. What would you say to residents who are concerned that cronyism is the only reason that this charity gets money from Sutton Council?

Reply by Councillor Simon Wales

I would say quite categorically that an independent examiner of a charity's accounts, is bound by the professional code of conduct. As a qualified accountant, I don't know if this person is chartered or certified, as a qualified accountant they are bound by the law and also by the guidelines of their governing body to offer independence and examination of those accounts and I believe that that was the case on this occasion.

7. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee

Lidl are planning to redevelop their supermarket in Wallington. As befits a highly professional retailer they have sent out thousands of leaflets to local residents informing them of this decision. They clearly state their aims and refer to it as a supermarket and make no attempt to hide its real purpose by using acronyms such as ERF. Furthermore, they actively seek the opinion of residents on this development.

Could Lidl act as an object lesson in being transparent with planning and the impact it has on its community?

Lidl is mentioned as being a potential customer for SDEN in Hackbridge, can I be assured that no one from Sutton Council might suggest that connecting a store to SDEN may be seen as a positive step in looking favourably on this store's redevelopment?

Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy

Thank you. I wish to congratulate Councillor Matthey on his continuing ability to conflate two completely separate issues in order to promote your personal agenda but I will stick to planning issues on this one. Officers in the planning department would always recommend that developers of significant size engage with the community before submitting an application. Indeed, it is advocated in the National Planning Policy Framework as best practice. However, as the local planning authority, the Council has the duty to assess each case.

Supplementary Question asked by Councillor Nick Matthey

I'd like to congratulate Lidl for calling it a supermarket and not an advanced merchandising operation or some other acronym that would be used by the Lib Dems to hide the, say something like an incinerator. But what worries me is that SDEN have identified Lidl, if they move into Felnax, as a customer for the heat network, and what I don't want to see is a quid pro quo with Lidl being granted permission for their development in Wallington on the condition that they sign up to the heat network. What guarantees can you provide that this will not happen?
Thank you.

Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy

Thank you. I've referred to the point in my previous answer, Councillor Matthey, that the Council acts as the local planning authority and has a duty not to make those

quid pro quo arguments that you talk about. Councils across the country, as part of their statutory duty, make decisions as the local planning authority that are quasi judicial and entirely independent of all the other functions of the Council. Now this Council has an excellent reputation for carrying out this duty diligently and fairly including under the intense scrutiny of the judiciary due to high profile applications recently. And if you have, well, your insinuations are incorrect and misleading.

8. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee

Orchard Hill College wants to vacate its site in Carew Manor, Beddington, saying it is no longer fit for purpose. The College wants to build a new school in Sheen Way.

Sheen Way, Godalming Avenue and The Chase already have appalling parking and access problems. Will the Council follow the example of Lidl and carry out a detailed consultation with residents before discussing any planning applications with Orchard Hill?

Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy

This project is being managed by the Education Funding Agency and Orchard Hill College and it is those who will be responsible for the delivery of the project and the preparation of any planning application. As it's their project, and not the Council's, it is for them to consult with residents and the local community.

Supplementary Question asked by Councillor Nick Matthey

I'll do my best. Well of course I was surprised when the principal of Orchard College wrote to me and thanked me for my continued support for the elderly of Wallington and Sutton. To the best of my knowledge I haven't gone public on this matter, but anyway, she thanked me and of course you're always suspicious when you get something complimentary, especially to somebody like myself. So, the question is of course, is that as we all know Sheen Way is a road that would have been familiar to the Victorians for its narrowness and its inaccessibility yet Orchard Hill College feels that this will be the perfect entrance onto a site and I feel that this is completely insane. Well the question is, does Councillor McCoy under the Lib Dems think that this is an excellent idea?

Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy

First of all Councillor Matthey I think it's rather inappropriate that you make insinuations about the principal of a school who is not here to defend herself and is not a member of this council. But secondly, you can use the normal planning process to raise any objections and concerns you have about this matter, by normal procedure.

**London Borough of Sutton Questions
Full Council 14 November 2016
Standing Order 8.6, Questions not reached at Council**

9. From Councillor Nick Mattey to Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee

St Helier hospital has confirmed that no one from Sutton Council has approached them about connecting it to SDEN. Why does St Helier Hospital feature then in SDEN's literature as being a potential SDEN customer.?

Councillor McCoy says she knows that SDEN will extend to other London Boroughs because it's in "the plan". If it's in the plan, why do the planned heat pipes follow a path that takes them away from the London Boroughs of Croydon and Merton?

The latest SDEN report says that instead of connecting to 19,000 homes, SDEN has the potential to connect to 19,000 new homes. Is this an admission that SDEN cannot be retrofitted to existing homes? Given that it is highly unlikely that there will ever be 19,000 new homes anywhere near the Viridor incinerator, does this mean that claims that SDEN would stop fuel poverty and bring in £6 million in annual revenue seem ludicrous ?

Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee

I am not surprised that if you ring up the call centre at St Helier Hospital and ask about SDEN you won't get anyone who knows anything about it.

However, I can confirm that Officers working on the SDEN project have been in discussion with the Estates Team at St Helier regarding connection earlier this year.

Permission was also given by the Estates Team for the GLA's consultant to survey the boiler house at the hospital to ascertain how the SDEN network might be connected.

The current business case focuses on getting the pipes in the ground to supply Felnax as Phase 1 of the project. Once the initial pipes are laid it is a simple matter to connect further pipes to extend the network and connections will be incorporated to enable this to happen.

As you have had explained to you on numerous occasions, the total heat available is equivalent to that needed to heat 19,000 homes.

It has not been claimed that it will be used for this many homes, as it is clear that some of the heat will be used by commercial premises. Nor is it claimed that SDEN will in itself address fuel poverty. It was noted that any profits from the project could be used to address fuel poverty.

The Council is confident that the business case that has been prepared is robust.

10. From Councillor Nick Mattey to Councillor Ruth Dombey, Leader of the Council

Is it not perverse that Sutton Council is contemplating spending vast amounts of money building a bridge to take heat pipes over the Hackbridge rail line. A gantry, so houses in Felnax can connect to the Viridor Incinerator? I say perverse because the council is not prepared to repair the railway bridges that connect the public with the much vaunted Beddington Country park. Unless the Council acts to prevent the demolition of the bridges, the only access the park will be for Viridor employees. What is the council going to do to stop the demolition of these bridges?

Reply by Councillor Ruth Dombey, Leader of the Council

Between Mitcham Junction rail station and Hackbridge rail station, there are currently four pedestrian footbridges across the Hackbridge rail line. To the north, and south there are two active footbridges that are approximately a kilometre apart, and currently provide east/west linkages for the public across the Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) and the Beddington Country Park. The 'Merton Footbridge' to the north has paths linking into both the MOL and Beddington Country Park. The southern-most footbridge also does this, and additionally provides direct access into Hackbridge town centre via Furlong Close by the Hackbridge roundabout.

There are two further footbridges in between these two active footbridges, which are physically closed-off to public access as they are both derelict and have been disused for some considerable time, (approximately 10 years). As such, they are both scheduled for demolition in the New Year by Network Rail, who own the bridges. Regrettably negotiations with Network Rail to retain and refurbish these two bridges could not be progressed due to the high costs the Council would need to provide to enable this.

11. From Councillor Nick Mattey to Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee

The Southwark judgement means Southwark Council have to refund £26 million for overcharging social housing tenants for water and sewerage charges. Sutton Council, like Southwark, may be classified as a reseller of water and sewerage charges. Is it not likely that the council will be classified as a reseller of electricity gas and of heat? What can the council say on this subject? Can the council please tell me the number of SHP dwellings that currently have a water meter fitted?

Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee

A report on this issue will be coming to the next Housing Economy and Business Committee.

The Southwark judgement is in respect of water and sewerage charges. It is not believed that the position is similar in relation to gas and electricity supplies.

Sutton Housing Partnership does not hold data on whether individual residents have made an agreement with the relevant water company to have a water meter installed.

12. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Ruth Dombey, Leader of the Council

It is my understanding that the land that was purchased from the NHS for the Belmont school site was subject to VAT. If this was the case, did the Council apply for the option to tax and has the VAT been recovered?

Has the Council calculated the cost of delaying the building of the School for two years? Can the Council please explain the cost of this delay?

The Council has said that the School is an integral part of the London Cancer Hub, is this the first time a school has featured as part of a cancer hub?

What can the Council say to critics that linking the school to the cancer hub was a cynical exercise in stifling opposition to its plan to put the wrong school on the wrong site?

Reply by Councillor Ruth Dombey, Leader of the Council

No VAT was payable on the purchase of the Belmont site from the NHS.

There is a requirement for additional secondary school places in the borough from September 2018. The school on the Belmont site will not be completed until early 2019, for reasons outlined in Councillor Mathys' earlier response to Councillor Garratt. There will be a cost of providing temporary alternative accommodation for those children. Options for this are still being considered and so the cost has not yet been finalised.

The London Cancer Hub is a unique project which, from its inception, has included a secondary school alongside medical diagnosis, treatment and research facilities. As set out in the London Cancer Hub roadmap and Development Framework, there are some exciting opportunities for the Harris Federation to take advantage of its location and to work with the Institute for Cancer Research (ICR) in the development of its curriculum. The ICR could play a key role in supporting the school to develop its focus on health sciences which would in turn inspire pupils to pursue a career that would ultimately contribute to the wider success of the London Cancer Hub in the future.

13. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee

The Lib Dem website revealed yesterday that the best site for a secondary school would be Rosehill. Why then did Councillor Dombey go against officer advice and put all the Council's

efforts into establishing a school in Belmont thus delaying the provision of any new school places in Sutton by at least two years?

Reply by Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee

The Council has stated for a long time that it would in all probability need two new secondary schools and it was the original intention to build the first school on the Sutton Hospital site in Belmont but due to possible delays in purchasing that site from the NHS, Rosehill was considered as a possible alternative. However, building on parkland was a step we wished to avoid if at all possible and furthermore it was always clear that if a school was to be built on Metropolitan Open Land, it was unlikely to receive planning approval whilst there was a brownfield site available in Belmont.

The Council's actions have ensured that schools can be delivered to meet need in the timescales required by ensuring planning regulations have been met, unlike the suggestions by the Conservatives that would have left us with no new secondary schools at all.

14. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Ruth Dombey Leader of the Council

Will The Lib Dems website be used exclusively in future for publishing information on the location of schools?

Reply by Councillor Ruth Dombey, Leader of the Council

No.

15. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Ruth Dombey Leader of the Council

Will Councillor McCoy be able to use the Council press officers in future to launch political attacks on her detractors? (That is, the ones outside her own political group).

Reply by Councillor Ruth Dombey Leader of the Council

I would like to draw Councillor Matthey's attention to the proposed Protocol governing Members' Use of Council Resources elsewhere on the Council agenda. This sets out the acceptable role and use of the Council's communications function, in the context of the Local Authority Code of Practice on Publicity and the Council's Constitution.

16. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee

Councillor McCoy has claimed that the problems of ferrying thousands of London Cancer Hub workers and schoolchildren to Belmont will be solved by building a tram terminus in Belmont. There are no concrete plans to build a tram link to Sutton or indeed extend it to

Belmont. Does this mean she hopes by that building a tram shed it will entice TFL to build a tramline?

Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee

The Cancer Hub Partnership has undertaken a thorough transport assessment for the site that informs future development plans. All technical work has been undertaken with Transport for London. The Cancer Hub Partnership continue to work in close collaboration to manage the immediate traffic and transport investments and plan strategically for the long-term transformation. The Cancer Hub development framework is clear that growth will only be brought forward when sufficient transport capacity enhancements can be put in place. The south London Tram remains in the Mayor's investment programme. The Cancer Hub Partnership continues to proactively engage TfL on Tram and other transport investment issues.

Should the Tram go ahead, consideration of a Tram depot would be a key part of delivery. A Tram depot is currently accommodated within the design proposals for the Cancer Hub site and if the scheme goes ahead detailed technical feasibility work would then follow as part of the business case.

17 From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee

The Belmont School site is undersized for a secondary school - the whole footprint of the school and grounds is less than the main school building at Stanley park high school. Why has the Council deprived children in Belmont the same opportunity to exercise as the ones at Stanley Park?

Reply by Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee

There is significant pressure for school places in London and a dearth of available sites. The Department for Education regularly considers options from office building conversions to new builds and co-developments with residential and other uses and many successful schools have been delivered on much more constrained sites than the Sutton hospital site.

Many schools in Sutton do not have onsite playing fields and operate from constrained sites (e.g. Cheam High, Greenshaw, Sutton Grammar). To mitigate this concern, there is an offer from Wallington County Grammar School for the Free School to access off site provision at Old Walcountians should they wish to. Furthermore, the school has been provided with the maximum number and sizes of sports facilities on site, including a Sports England grade Sports Hall, a large Activity Studio and a multi-purpose activity space internally, and a

Games Court on site. The quality of the facilities at the school will therefore enable the school to deliver an excellent education for the pupils that go there in the future.

18. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Ruth Dombey Leader of the Council

When the school has to expand to deal with the burgeoning population increase, the only area with vacant land nearby is HMP High down. If parents and prison inmates protest about this as a suitable arrangement, how will the school expand?

Reply by Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee

Having expanded 10 of our secondary schools in the last 2 years and with 2 new schools planned for the end of this decade, the Council does not expect to need to expand the Belmont school.

19. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee

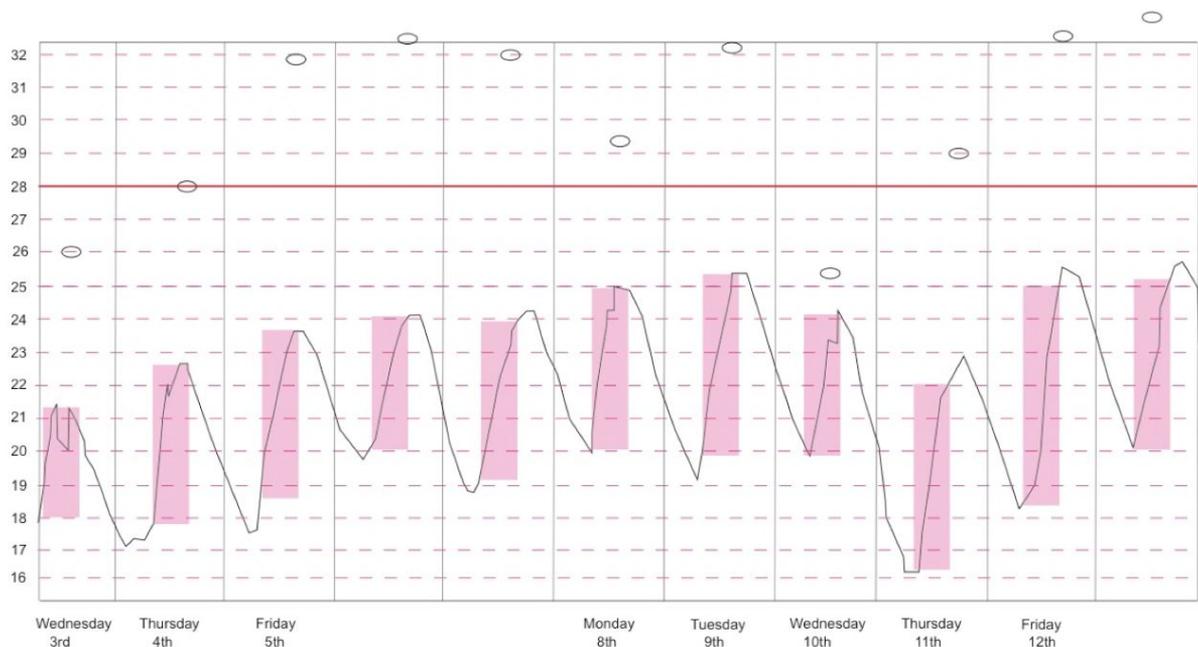
The School is to be built to Passivhaus specification. This requires complete airtightness and very high levels of insulation. With global warming one of the main problems in buildings is getting heat away, What steps have the Council taken to ensure the children get sufficient air changes per hour and the building is future proofed against climate change?

Reply by Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee

Passivhaus conceptually works like a Thermos flask, with minimal uncontrolled heat loss or gain, achieved by the high level of insulation and airtight envelope. This allows the designer to then control the internal temperature through controlled natural ventilation, mechanical ventilation and, where required, minimal cooling. The heat recovery works in reverse in the summer season, so that coolth in the building is transferred from the out going air to the incoming air. As such Passivhaus design is now successfully applied in the middle east, southern spain, Italy etc... with excellent energy consumption and comfort.

Attached is a temperature chart of one of our completed Passivhaus schools (Oak Meadow) measured in the very hot summer of 2013 (in the month of July). The line shows the internal temperature over the week and the dots show the recorded external temperature. It is worth noting that this project does not use cooling and is just using mechanical ventilation to achieve these temperatures:

Temperatures over week of record high temperatures



20. From Councillor Nick Mattey to Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee

Stanley Park wanted to break new grounds in proving its environmental credentials so it installed a wood pellet boiler. Most people now agree that importing biomass from Sweden to burn it is not environmentally sound. The fact that the boiler cannot be used anyway because it cannot deliver water hot enough to kill legionella is another disadvantage; around £300,000 has been wasted on this Greenwash, what will be the extra cost of bringing the Belmont school up to Passivhaus specification and is this another example of Greenwash to hide the school's failings?

Reply by Councillor Wendy Mathys, Chair of the Children, Family and Education Committee

The approach the Council is taking on the new school is based on our desire to meet the Council's and London Plan targets on sustainability and carbon reduction as set out in the Passivhaus scheme and BREEAM. The principle we have adopted for the New Sutton Secondary School is 'fabric first', that is to reduce the energy the building will require to provide comfortable conditions by making an airtight and highly insulated building, together with a ventilation system that will recover energy from the exhaust air. The primary heat source will be high efficiency gas boilers. Photo-voltaic panels are proposed for partial on-site energy generation.

What is attractive about the Passivhaus standard is the measured in use performance, which stands out against performance gaps that have been seen in other new buildings. Our lead consultants, Architype, monitor all of the Passivhaus schools that they have designed, which currently have a total energy demand average of 67 kWh/m² compared to a national new build average of ~150kWh/m². We expect a similar level of energy performance for this school.

21. From Councillor Nick Matthey to Councillor Jill Whitehead, Chair of the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee

Who paid the £5500 for the sustainability Summit at the Holiday Inn?

Why did the Council press office put out a statement saying there were tickets available when there was none?

Can Councillor McCoy accept that plastic is derived from the fossil fuel oil and that burning plastic that the Council has failed to recycle contributes to global warming?

Reply by Councillor Jill Whitehead, Chair of the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee

As stated in the response CSS 3771518, the cost for the Summit was covered by the Sustainability Team budget.

The event proved very popular and by the 6 October all places had been allocated with a view that others expressing an interest would be put on a reserve list and given access to video footage of the event and any publications that were produced post event.

As stated in response CSS 3771754 (provided 10 November 2016), we can confirm that when the Energy Recovery Facility is operational, we will continue to collect plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays for recycling through our recycling collections. These will continue to be sent for recycling and not be treated through the ERF.

**London Borough of Sutton
Council Questions
Standing Order 8.13**

Question asked by Councillor Jane Pascoe to Councillor Simon Wales, Vice Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee

I was very pleased to note the willingness of the administration at last night's Council meeting, to review the decision taken at Strategy and Resources not to take social value into account when evaluating the use of Quarry Cottage.

This is a significant deviation in policy that charges commercial rent for all properties no matter.

In the light of this decision, could you please list the properties that you will be reviewing, and when this will happen?

I am particularly interested in the two Elderly Day Care Centres, both run by Volunteers (not 'The Voluntary Sector'), who have had their grant funding removed, which is/will result in far fewer members being able to join, because of prohibitive daily charges.

I would like to know the methodology that will be used to assess this in the light of the Prevention Agenda that Councillor Wales referred to last night, and the impact these Voluntary sector services have on reducing pressure on the Adult Social Services and Health budget.

Reply by Councillor Simon Wales

The Council's existing policies and procedures recognise the role of social value in making decisions. The Council has developed standard templates for when tenders and similar offers are submitted to the Council. The decision at Council to reconsider Quarry Cottage is therefore not in itself a deviation from policy, rather it is being used in this instance to provide additional information to support a decision to be made on the preferred option for the future use of Quarry Cottage using the Council's Buildings Utilisation Options Appraisal Framework. It should be noted that the Buildings Utilisation Framework already takes into consideration non-financial factors, which in fact account for 60% of the weighting in the model used with financial factors accounting for 40%.

The proposal to take into consideration the additional information provided by a social value analysis should consequently not be seen as deviation from the Council's policy of charging market rent for all property lettings. The charging of market rent is an approach based on best practice guidance from central Government for asset management as well as statutory duties and there is no intention to change.

It is important however to separate the charging of market rent from how the Council chooses to support the funding of the accommodation costs of voluntary and community service organisations. This is set out in the Council's existing policy on Accommodation Funding for Voluntary and Community Sector organisations (see <https://modern.gov.sutton.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=21688#mgDocuments>) which in certain circumstances enables the Council to expressly choose to meet the rental payment of community organisation itself. To ensure transparency of the decision and provide a rationale for such support, it is required that the decision is taken by the Council Committee responsible for the service budget from where the organisation will be funded. It is therefore unnecessary to carry out a wholesale review of current lease arrangements, as existing Council processes allow for individual circumstances to be considered when necessary.

With regard to the two day care centres for the elderly, their circumstances are quite different. The South Carshalton Day Care Centre, Oaks Way is let to the Trustees on a ground lease which expires in 28 April 2018. Consequently, the Council charges only a minimal rent, with all responsibility for repairs, maintenance and other occupation costs resting with the Trustees. The land and buildings will revert to the Council in 2018 on expiration of the current lease. Officers intend to commence negotiation of a new lease next year.

The lease for Sutton Lodge is held by the Trustees of the Sutton Old People's Welfare Committee, and discussions have been ongoing since 2014 to agree a new lease. The intention is to bring the current lease in line with other similar Council leases so that in addition to responsibility for paying an appropriate market rent, responsibility for repairs and maintenance of the building will also transfer from the Council to the tenant.

There is no doubt that with personalised budgets and cessation of the block grant to the two associations for running these Day Centres for the elderly, the ability of the Trustees of both organisations to fund rent and other outgoings will become more uncertain. As stated above, the Council can provide accommodation support on a case by case basis if a clear rationale for the support can be established and is supported by the responsible service committee which in this case would be the

**Appendix D to Council Minutes:
Council Questions (8.13)**

Adult Social Care and Health Committee. It would seem sensible that this is a matter that should first be reviewed by officers in line with existing Council policy with recommendations brought to Members on how best to proceed.

**Question asked by Councillor Patrick McManus to Councillor Simon Wales,
Deputy Leader**

I have recently stopped using the Council's clunky voicemail system, advertising my personal mobile number instead. As a consequence, I am now getting frustrated calls from LibDem majority wards even. The reason I was given, when I asked IT, was that the option to alert councillors of a new message was an extra cost that the Council refused to pay for many years ago. In my view this is an essential feature in order to serve residents' needs as quickly as possible.

Why has Sutton Council once again made such a short-sighted saving detrimental to residents?

Reply by Councillor Councillor Simon Wales, Deputy Leader

The decision taken not to implement email notifications with the telephony system was only partially as a result of cost. The project board felt that for the majority of users of the system adding e-mail notifications to the red light (message waiting indicator) on the phones within council offices would be more of a nuisance than an aid. The cost element came from the requirement for engineering needed to provide the software connector to enable it. This was not originally in scope of the telephony replacement project.

The council is about to upgrade its telephone system to the latest version of software and it is planned that enhancements to the voicemail system will be done soon afterwards. This work will include email notifications for voicemail, and a streamlining of the user interface has already been designed which will improve the user experience. Hopefully this will change your opinion of the "clunkiness" of the system.

**Question asked by Councillor Patrick McManus to Councillor Jill Whitehead,
Chair of the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee**

The complex and undemocratic new refuse collection scheme is due to start next April we are told but families of four, for example, are already having their extra bins removed. I recently received a complaint from such a family which has no longer

enough bin space. Why do you believe that this family no longer needs the extra bin at this present time?

Reply by Councillor Jill Whitehead

The updated Recycling and Waste Policies were agreed at the Environment and Neighbourhoods Committee on 26 November 2015. Our recycling and waste policies were updated following a review by the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB), which indicated that updated policies would lead to efficiencies in the service, potential savings and contribute to elevating material up the waste hierarchy. One of these policies sets the standard container for the recycling and waste service where all houses should have one small (140 litre) brown waste bin.

We accept more materials through our recycling collection scheme now than we have in the past. This means that providing that a household is recycling all of their recyclable materials there is no reason that they should need a second brown bin.

There are a number of other local authorities across the country that operate a one bin policy including the London Borough of Lambeth, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and Elmbridge Borough Council.

Communication is targeted towards those households that have additional brown bins. During the implementation of the policy residents are given the opportunity to apply for additional recycling bins and if they have a medical need or are a household of more than five people, they will also be able to apply for a large (240 litre) brown bin.

In relation to the family who contacted Cllr McManus I am unable to comment but would urge Cllr McManus to pass the details on to officers to enable them to make contact with them regarding their specific circumstances.

**Question asked by Councillor Patrick McManus to Councillor Jill Whitehead,
Chair of the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee**

During the 2016 tree pruning schedule there are an incredible number of trees disappearing from Sutton, 47 in fact. It seems unprecedented. Why are so many trees disappearing this time around without efforts to rescue or replace, leading to Sutton slowly losing its local character and important contribution to the biosphere?

Reply by Councillor Jill Whitehead

In accordance with the Council's Tree Strategy and Action Plan our priority is to protect and enhance the tree stock through appropriate management. Trees that are identified for removal during the routine cyclical inspections are either dead or dangerous, and are an unacceptable risk to people and property due to their condition.

Over the past three years the Council has planted more trees (819) across the borough compared to those that have been removed (263).

Question asked by Councillor David Hicks to Councillor Colin Stears, Chair of the Adult Social Services and Health Committee

As part of the 4 year budget settlement, the Government recognised that more funding was needed for adult social care and allowed authorities to make an additional 2% increase on council tax (for authorities with social care responsibilities) in each of the spending review years. The Council took advantage of that opportunity and raised an additional £1.6 million pounds of revenue for 2016/17, but that money was not immediately allocated to an increase in the budget for adult social care.

Local Authorities are being accused of hoarding the money for other purposes. The chairman of the House of Commons Health Committee has said "It's shocking if councils aren't passing this on. The whole point is it should be passed on to homes to employ more staff. The leader of the Liberal Democrat Party has been quoted as saying "We have a social care crisis, the system is on the brink and every penny counts. Councils need to stop hoarding this cash."

I am sure that the Leader of the Council wishes to follow the example of the leader of her national party. So will she please respond to the following:

Will she provide the detail of where the extra 2% (£1.6 million) social care precept in Sutton has fed through directly to an equivalent additional spending on adult social care, care facilities and care staff etc.?

Will she also confirm that Sutton is not hoarding the money for other purposes and that the expenditure on adult social care is planned to increase in 2016/17 by the amount of the additional precept for that year?

Reply by Councillor Colin Stears

**Appendix D to Council Minutes:
Council Questions (8.13)**

As I am sure Councillor Hicks is very aware, Government funding to councils has been reduced by £16.4 bn since 2010 – representing a 63% total reduction - and is expected to fall by a further £3.4bn to £6.2bn by 2019/20. For Sutton this has meant we have had to find £48m in savings since 2010 with a further £34m by the end of the decade totalling £82m of savings over ten years – which is equivalent to 56% of our total 2016/17 budget.

The Government did not increase funding to councils for social care rather it gave councils 'access' to additional funding by charging residents more council tax. In 2016/17 this was 'accessed' by 93% of councils and raised an extra £382m. This is less than 3% of the total they have budgeted to spend on social care this year and is wholly inadequate to cover the £1.1bn needed to maintain social care at its current level.

Councillor Hicks is clearly fond of a quote from parliamentary colleagues so I will furnish him with one from one of his Conservative MPs on social care funding (Dr Dan Poulter MP)

“Over the past six months there has been a growing feeling among Conservative colleagues that...as the reality of an ageing population being cared for by a social care system that has seen a reduction in funding over the past five or six years begins to bite there is going to be an urgent need for the government to take action and not just look at providing a one- or two-year bung of extra money but providing a long-term funding solution for maintaining a health and care system that is free at the point of need”

Having ignored social care in the Autumn Statement, the collective cross party criticism has pushed the Government to extend its meagre offer to councils by allowing us to levy a total precept of 6% over two years instead of three and taking away funding to councils in the form of New Homes Bonus grant to put back into council budgets via a one year only social care grant. In fact for many councils the switching of NHB grant money to social care will mean a net loss in funding - Sutton being one of those councils with a reduction by £1.5m in our NHB and a gain £0.7m in social care grant - a net loss of £800k.

Even the proverbial Peter and Paul are shocked at this disingenuous taking from councils' funding to give it back with a different name.

The Government well recognises that such is the level of cuts to local government funding the precept is in no way sufficient to deliver enhanced services, and is actually about protecting services from deeper cuts, stating: “We know that

protecting services whilst delivering necessary efficiencies is challenging, which is why we are working with the local government and ADASS to support councils to make savings.”

With a reduction in revenue support grant of £9.1m for 2016/17 and an overall budget gap of £14m by 2018/19, Full Council agreed in March to take up the option of a 2% addition to council tax to help to meet social care cost pressures. This raised approximately £1.6m.

The base budget for 2016/17 for Adult Social Care is £52m – which is 36% of the council’s total net budget. Costs in social care also increased from the previous year by more than £2.3m – over £1.2m of which was due to increasing costs of care and over half a million pounds due to meeting growing need for care.

It is also true to say that the overall adult social care budget increased by over half a million pounds in 2016/17.

This Liberal Democrat administration is committed to protecting services for our most vulnerable residents and we have worked hard as a council to ensure that the savings identified in this year’s budget are not reducing the level of care. All of the money raised through the 2% ‘precept’ for adult social care will be spent during the year on adult social care services and none of this will be set aside in any reserves for any future time or other purpose.

Given Councillor Hicks’ concern for social care services to be maintained I would urge him to write to the Prime Minister and his other Government colleagues, supporting the points made by Dr Poulter MP and impressing upon them the urgent need for a long term, wholesale solution to the national crisis in caring for our most vulnerable residents.

**Question asked by Councillor Patrick McManus to Councillor Jayne McCoy,
Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee**

Is it not usually the case that green energy can be much more expensive than traditional sources for reasons of economy of scale etc? I often think of green energy, so far, as a luxury product of conscience for those who can afford it, rather like organic meat. However unlike organic meat it's not any better for you. In the case of district heating from an incinerator, as intended to be provided by SDEN, there will already typically be a carbon debt to clear of hundreds of thousands of tons of CO2 per annum emanating from the incinerator chimney. That’s before one's

conscience can be sufficiently clear as a provider or consumer and without adding the reality of other gases and toxins emitted from the chimney as well as the extra pollution contribution (including CO₂ and NO_x) from the endless trucks chugging waste into the Borough from other parts of London from 2018 and into the future.

How much of the CO₂ emanating from the incinerator do you believe can be offset by SDEN as an energy provider? I'm referring to carbon offsetting as a notion here.

Suggested Reply by Councillor Jayne McCoy

Thank you for your question.

I must contest your assertion that green energy is a luxury and would highlight the critical role it has to play in our drive to reduce reliance on the earth's scarce resources (and in particular fossil fuels) and as a result, create a low carbon sustainable future that will improve the quality of life for our communities for future generations.

I can confirm that pollution from the Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) will be minimal and far less polluting than what is currently emanating from the landfill site or from comparable industrial applications. In comparison to burying waste in landfill, the ERF is expected to save 128,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere each year of the contract and will reduce the carbon footprint of managing waste in each of the South London Waste Partnership boroughs. Waste disposed of in landfill generates methane gas, which is 24 times stronger as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide (CO₂). Energy recovery facilities generate CO₂ rather than methane. As a result, it is widely recognised that sending waste to energy recovery has a much lower impact on climate change than sending it to landfill.

I can also confirm that there will be no increase in traffic as a result of the day to day operation of the Energy Recovery Facility as vehicles already transport waste from the four boroughs to the landfill site.

I disagree that green energy is necessarily more expensive as Decentralised Energy Networks have to be competitive and to this end are already competing in the energy marketplace. Our modelling for SDEN has shown that we can offer a competitive price that will also generate profits that can be reinvested in local services for our residents.

**Appendix D to Council Minutes:
Council Questions (8.13)**

It should also be noted that Barratt Homes, when marketing and selling their new homes at Felnax, will want to secure the best energy deal for their customers who are able to compare energy costs.

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Council Meeting 14 November 2016

Amendment to the Motion

Motion 1 - Local Pharmacies

Amendments proposed by Councillor Neil Garratt, Seconder TBA

This Council recognises that local pharmacies provide a range of NHS services and ensures people can get face-to-face, healthcare professional advice without an appointment and that currently 96% of people can get to a pharmacy within 20 minutes making them a health and social care asset close to where people live, work and shop.

This Council is therefore ~~extremely disappointed~~ **concerned** that the Department of Health (DH) proposed budget cuts of £170m nationally to take effect from December 2016 which could mean a cut of 12% during the financial year and lead to the loss of up to a quarter of pharmacies, putting extra pressure on GPs and hospitals

This Council believes that the Government should invest in frontline, community-based care and ensure that its plans for pharmacies will:

1. maintain patient choice, by encouraging a vibrant network of local pharmacies
2. ensure that people can continue to get face-to-face, professional advice without an appointment about medicines and health
3. increase opportunities for health improvement interventions, such as stop smoking advice
4. safeguard the interests of the most vulnerable people and populations; and reduce health inequalities
5. ensure a resilient medicines supply system, so that patients can get their medicines when and where they need them

This Council therefore agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Health, NHS England and Sutton Clinical Commissioning Group detailing our concerns and demanding an immediate ~~reversal~~ **reconsideration** of these proposals.

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