

Frequently asked questions

Does the new administration have a majority?

The Conservative group won 29 of the council's 58 seats, making it the largest single group on the council. Independent Councillor Malcolm Grimston has agreed to support the new administration through an annually reviewed confidence and supply arrangement, providing a stable basis for the council to function and deliver services.

What is a confidence and supply arrangement?

Councillor Grimston will support the administration on the key votes needed for the council to continue functioning, while remaining an independent councillor. That includes confidence and budget matters. He will not hold a cabinet position and remains politically independent.

How serious is the council's financial position?

The financial position is serious and requires immediate redress. The council is facing a £137 million budget gap, the largest in its history. The council's useable reserves over the same period are estimated to be £116m, and therefore the budget gap cannot be closed from reserves. That is why early, disciplined action is being taken.

What will the Spending Review cover?

The Spending Review will look across all council spending, including all non-essential discretionary spend, major projects and projected borrowing of more than £1 billion. While the review is underway, no new staff will be recruited unless exceptional permission is granted. Core neighbourhood services such as weekly bin collections, street sweeping, and the removal of fly-tipping and graffiti will be protected from service reductions. Some aspects of the review will also involve external independent assessment of programmes and policies.

What is the Constitutional Review intended to do?

The Constitutional Review will look at how the council can operate in a more open, transparent and effective way. It will consider how scrutiny can be strengthened, how councillors can put questions and receive meaningful answers, and how procedures can better support full participation by every member of the council – including the Labour opposition. The council's standing orders will be reviewed and redrafted to make them easier to understand and remove ambiguities. Any proposed constitutional changes will be examined first by a cross-party committee before being brought forward.

What happens next, and when will the reviews report?

Both reviews are intended to report by the council's first ordinary meeting in July. Before then, the Annual General Meeting on 27 May 2026 will confirm governance arrangements, including cabinet appointments. In the meantime, council services continue to be delivered, and officers are working to ensure a stable transition.

How will the administration work with councillors across the chamber?

The administration's position is that this council should work for every resident in Wandsworth. Where there is common ground, it will work constructively with councillors from across the chamber, while ensuring all members are better able to represent their communities and take part fully in council business.