



**Southwark Liberal Democrat Group**  
Southwark Council  
Liberal Democrat Group Room  
160 Tooley Street  
London SE1P 5LX

**10<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**His Excellency Mr Hiroshi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan**

Embassy of Japan  
101 – 104 Piccadilly  
London W1J 7JT

Dear Ambassador Suzuki,

**RE: Invitation to Southwark**

I am writing to extend a warm invitation for you to visit Southwark and to experience one of our most cherished local delicacies – the traditional Cockney dish of pie, mash, and liquor. We have written to the Japanese Embassy's Press Office, but we wanted to also extend our personal invitation to you directly.

Southwark has a long and distinguished history as one of London's oldest boroughs, shaped by centuries of trade, migration, and cultural exchange. Our communities are proud of their heritage, from the historic markets around Borough to the riverside wharves that once connected London to the wider world. Today, Southwark continues to celebrate its identity as a vibrant, diverse, and internationally minded borough – including through our growing links with Japan. As you will know, The Blue in Bermondsey hosts a celebration for Okinawa day every year in collaboration with your Embassy. We would be thrilled to further deepen the ties between Southwark and Japan.

We were delighted to learn of your recent visit to Liverpool to sample Scouse, reflecting your commitment to building cultural connections across the United Kingdom. We would be honoured to host a similar occasion here in Southwark, showcasing a classic East End dish that has long been enjoyed by Londoners and remains a staple of our culinary tradition.

Should you accept this invitation, we would be pleased to arrange a visit at your convenience, including an opportunity to meet local community representatives and learn more about Southwark's cultural and historical landscape.

We very much hope you will consider joining us for this uniquely London experience, and we look forward to the possibility of welcoming you to Southwark soon.

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor Victor Chamberlain**

Leader of the Opposition, Southwark Council  
Liberal Democrat Group  
Borough & Bankside Ward

**Councillor Rachel Bentley**

Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Southwark Council  
Liberal Democrat Group  
North Bermondsey Ward

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