COUNCIL
Wednesday, 7th May, 2008 at 7.00 pm
MINUTES

The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Angela Meader in the Chair

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Councillors ABRAMS, AKHTAR, AMINU, ANYANWU, BANKS, C. BENNETT, M. BENNETT, BOWYER, BRADLEY, BRAITHWAITE, CAMERON, CAMPBELL, CLYNE, DICKSON, DODSWORTH, EVANS-JACAS, FEWTRELL, FITZPATRICK, GIBSON, GIESS, GRAY, HASELDEN, HEATHER, HEYWOOD, HIPWELL, KAZANTZIS, KIMM, LUMSDEN, MCGLONE, MCHUGH, MCKENNA, D. MALLEY, S. MALLEY, MALONE, MARCHANT, MORRIS, NOSEGBE, O’MALLEY, PALMER, PATIL, PECK, POOLE, PRENTICE, PYCOCK, REED, ROBBINS, SABHARWAL, SANDERS, SAWDON, SMITH, THACKRAY, TRUESDALE, VALCARCEL, WALKER, WELLBELOVE, C. WHELAN and J. WHELAN

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Sheila Clarke, Councillor Jackie Meldrum and Councillor Stephen Morgan

ABSENT:

Councillor Ruth Ling and Councillor Sam Townend

1. PROCEDURAL MOTION

MOVED by Councillor Alex McKenna and SECONDED by Councillor David Malone, and:

RESOLVED:

Deputation

(1) That in accordance with Standing Order 23, Standing Order 10 be suspended to the extent necessary to enable the Council to receive a
deputation from Unison.

Motions and amendments to be deemed moved and seconded

(2) That in accordance with Standing Order 23, Standing Order 16 be suspended to the extent necessary to enable the original motions and all amendments on the agenda to be deemed moved and seconded.

Notices of Motion – motion 1: speaking rights

(3) That in accordance with Standing Order 23, Standing Orders 14.4 and 16 be suspended to the extent necessary to allow this item to be conducted as follows:

- Speaker rights to be divided in accordance with proportionality, and speakers called by the Mayor from lists of proposed speakers provided by the Group Whips.
- 5 minutes for the lead speaker for each party group (to be nominated by the relevant whip).
- 3 minutes for subsequent speakers.
- 3 minutes for one speaker for a summation of the debate by a member of the party group concerned (to be nominated by the relevant whip).

Timings

(4) That in accordance with Standing Orders 2 & 23, the following timings for the conduct of this meeting be agreed:

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Constitution 2008-09 – all three reports to be considered together:

9. Members’ Allowances Scheme: 2008/9 revisions
14. Lambeth Youth Council Annual Report 2007/8 9.50-10:00pm

Notes:

The guillotine falls at 10.00 p.m. In accordance with Standing Order 9.1, all remaining business is dealt with under the guillotine.

The Mayor will use her discretion over the specific timings of the meeting, in the light of any necessary advice from officers.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Gavin Dodsworth.

Deaths of former Councillor Greg Tucker and Mr. Anthony Naylor, former Lambeth Deputy Lieutenant

The Mayor announced the death of former Councillor Greg Tucker and, at the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Diana Morris addressed the Council on his life and Council service.

The Mayor also announced the death of former Lambeth Deputy Lieutenant Surgeon-Captain Malcolm Neville Naylor RD DL RNR (“Tony Naylor”) and, at the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Clare Whelan addressed the Council on his service to the Borough.

The Council observed one minute’s silence in remembrance of both Greg Tucker and Tony Naylor.

Executive Director of Environment, Culture and Community Safety

The Mayor congratulated the Executive Director of Environment, Culture and Community Safety, Robert Overall, on his new appointment as Executive Director of Environment, Sustainability and Highways at Essex County Council and thanked him for all his hard work in his time with the Council.

The Mayor’s announcements were received.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

It was noted that, by virtue of Part 2 of the Members’ Code of Conduct, that
all councillors had a personal interest in agenda item 9. There were no other declarations of interests.

4. MINUTES (26.03.08 & 24.04.08)

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the previous meetings held on 26th March and 24th April 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (STANDING ORDER 10)

**Petitions**

Petitions were submitted by:

- Councillor Sally Prentice in respect of defective central heating at Bedford House, Solon Estate (Ferndale ward);

- Councillor Sally Prentice in respect of cleaning in Ascot Court, Clapham Park Road (Ferndale ward);

The Mayor advised that in accordance with Standing Order 10.2, the petitions would be referred to the appropriate department for response and the presenting Councillor would be copied into this reply.

**Deputation**

One request for a deputation had been received, and, in accordance with the adopted procedural motion, this was received:

Deputation from Unison on concerns about the partnering proposals, in connection with Motion 22 “Partnering Contracts” from Councillor Jeremy Clyne (see pages 70 – 71 of the agenda).

Heenal Rajani addressed the meeting on behalf of Unison raising concerns about proposals to let long term contracts externally for the delivery of a range of Housing Services with effect from April 2009. The deputation felt that the proposals were disastrous and could potentially lead to the transfer of hundreds of Lambeth staff under TUPE regulations. The deputation sought assurances that the rights of staff would be protected and urged management to negotiate with the trade unions. The new contracting arrangements should be subject to extensive and meaningful consultation with residents so that they can have a say in whether or not the Council should enter into partnering arrangements with contractors.

Councillor Steve Reed, Leader of the Council, thanked the deputation for attending and highlighting their concerns. The main driver for the partnering arrangements was to achieve better value for money whilst improving service delivery and the Administration was keen to engage with the Trades Unions and staff to address the concerns raised.
6. **QUESTIONS (STANDING ORDER 12)**

The following supplementary questions and answers were given.

1. **By:** Councillor Jeremy Clyne

   **To:** Councillor Kirsty McHugh – Deputy Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods

   **Lambeth Living Board**

   **Supplementary Question**

   Were the concerns about this member of the board raised with you personally and what did you do about it? Why, following discussions with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, was it decided to reject the findings of the Chief Internal Auditor who recommended that the board member should resign?

   **Supplementary Answer**

   I first heard about the allegations via the Chair of the Housing Scrutiny sub-committee who advised that you had raised this issue in a public meeting. I was also notified by the person in question themselves, who is currently seeking legal advice. It is absolutely right for any allegations to be thoroughly investigated and the investigation is under way. However the investigation will not halt the preparation for Lambeth Living to “go live.”.

2. **By:** Councillor Andrew Gibson

   **To:** Councillor Steve Reed – Leader of the Council

   **Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act**

   **Supplementary Question**

   The implications of this Act are of great concern especially in respect of third parties such as foster carers. What risks does the Council face if third parties commit an offence? Can the Leader report back in a years time to provide an update on how case law is forming and what internal procedures the Council has put in place to guarantee compliance?

   **Supplementary Answer**

   These are very valid points you raise and the Council needs to take these risks into account. I would be happy to provide an update in a years time.
3. By: Councillor Rebecca Thackray

To: Councillor Sally Prentice – Cabinet Member for Environment

Reduction in CO₂ Emissions

Supplementary Question

Given that 37% of Carbon emissions in London come from domestic housing, what energy efficiency measures will be introduced in Lambeth’s 30,000 homes especially in the light of the transfer of housing management functions to the ALMO?

Supplementary Answer

Energy efficiency in homes is crucial to reducing the borough’s carbon footprint and energy costs. The Council is adopting a comprehensive approach and incorporating sustainability issues into its processes.

4. By: Councillor David Malley

To: Councillor Lib Peck – Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

Future Lambeth Update

Supplementary Question

The Streatham Masterplan concentrates on the central section of the High Road but could it be developed to include the extremities of the high road, particularly the south end?

Supplementary Answer

The Council has Masterplans now for all of the borough’s town centres and they do provide a particular focus on the town centres. However, this does not mean that other areas will be neglected and officers will investigate whether other projects can be developed for other sections of the High Road.

5. By: Councillor Ashley Lumsden

To: Councillor Steve Reed – Leader of the Council

Funding for CPA Inspection

Supplementary Question

I am surprised by the answer. The spending on the CPA inspections
has been well above the £800,000 required to reduce care charges in the borough. Will the Leader identify resources to reduce care charges?

**Supplementary Answer**

A similar level of resources was spent on the CPA inspection under the previous administration. The Council is concerned about the high costs associated with such inspections and has raised this issue with the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission.

6. **By:** Councillor Suzanne Poole  
   **To:** Councillor Paul McGlone – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

**Adventure Playgrounds Funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families**

**Supplementary Question**

There are very few play facilities in Norwood and the south of the borough in general. How many new play areas, and what percentage of the funding, will be spent here?

**Supplementary Answer**

There has been significant investment from central government in this area and funding will allow for the creation of around 25 new play areas. The Council has the opportunity to access over £1m in funding and there will be competing demands from across the borough which need to be balanced. There will be consultation with young people to identify needs and encourage support and investment in play facilities.

7. **By:** Councillor Adedamola Aminu (submitted on 15.04.08)  
   **To:** Councillor Lorna Campbell – Cabinet Member for Health & Care Services

**Personalised Care Services**

In the absence of the questioner no supplementary question was asked.

8. **By:** Councillor Roger Giess  
   **To:** Councillor Paul McGlone – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

**Primary School Places**
Supplementary Question

Does the Primary School Places Board still have a role in addressing the huge challenge presented by finding enough primary school places for the borough’s children?

Supplementary Answer

This body was set up by the previous Cabinet portfolio holder for Children and Young People and is still a relevant body but does compete for time with a large number of other boards and forums.

9. By: Councillor Clare Whelan
   To: Councillor Mark Bennett – Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport

Lambeth Parks and Open Spaces

Supplementary Question

Can the Cabinet Member provide assurances that he is investigating new opportunities to secure funding for the borough’s parks and green spaces, inform us of his personal view on whether the borough’s tennis courts should be free and assure us that events in parks will not simply be used as income generators.

Supplementary Answer

New opportunities are being explored and I am determined to secure new funding for regenerating the borough’s parks and green spaces. There is currently a review of the tennis courts underway and I will reserve my personal view on the matter until the review is complete. There is potential for income generated from events in parks to be shared so that smaller parks also benefit.

10. By: Councillor Christopher Wellbelove
    To: Councillor Steve Reed – Leader of the Council

Cabinet Reshuffle

Supplementary Question

Can you provide more details of the new areas the administration will be particularly focussing on?

Supplementary Answer

The administration will retain the same priorities as expressed in its election manifesto, specifically crime and young people. Additional
emphasis will be placed on tackling poverty and driving forward to address worklessness. Sustainability issues will also get a raised profile.

11. **By:** Councillor Julian Heather

**To:** Councillor Lib Peck – Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

**Streatham Hub Project**

**Supplementary Question**

There is concern about how the Streatham Hub project is being taken forward as timetables appear to be slipping again. Can the Cabinet Member provide an explanation for these delays and assurances about the future of the project?

**Supplementary Answer**

This is an incredibly complex and exciting project and it is the Council’s responsibility to examine every aspect of it in great detail and acknowledge the inherent risks involved in such a scheme. There are always risks associated with a project of this size but this is not an indication that there are any problems. The project is progressing well and I am confident that it will proceed to fruition.

12. **By:** Councillor Graham Pycock

**To:** Councillor Jackie Meldrum – Deputy Leader of the Council

**Consultation on Norwood Masterplan**

**Supplementary Question**

In the absence of Councillor Jackie Meldrum, the supplementary question was put to Councillor Lib Peck

Will the administration now start to take the needs of Norwood seriously and listen to the results of the consultation and what the people of Norwood say?

**Supplementary Answer**

In the two years that this administration has been in power, a Norwood Masterplan has been produced and action is being taken to consult with and draw on the experiences of residents to make improvements.
REPORT OF CABINET MEETING (MARCH 2008)

6.1 Vehicle Crossing over Footways and Verges

The Mayor invited the following speakers:

1. Councillor Nigel Haselden
2. Councillor Ashley Lumsden
3. Councillor Andrew Sawdon

RESOLVED:

That the use of enforcement powers against vehicles illegally crossing over footways and verges as contained within Section 16 of the London Local Authorities and Transport for London Act be approved.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS (STANDING ORDER 14)

Note: All voting on notices of motion was after the guillotine fell.

7. Correction

Motion 23

The original motion from Councillor Darren Sanders should be entitled “Amendment to the Constitution for the AGM”.

Amendment 1 should read as follows:

Amendment 1 – Councillor Mark Bennett

Delete title and replace with “Lambeth Police and Licensing Procedures”

Add “at present, formally” after “not” in first line

Delete in 3rd line “resolves….consultee for” and insert “instructs officers to consult Lambeth Police with a view to establishing a protocol to allow formal consultation of Safer Neighbourhood Inspectors which would enable managed consultation of Safer Neighbourhood Teams over”

Delete “act” and replace with “legislation” in 7th line and replace “their” with “each” in same line.

Replace “they” with Safer Neighbourhood Inspectors” in final line of first paragraph.

In second bullet point, replace “given the same weight as” with “able to advise. Add “with local knowledge and on local crime and ASB data” after “team”. Replace “acts” with “legislation.”
**Voting**

**Motion 1: Policing in Lambeth**

The Mayor invited speakers from all parties to address Council from a list submitted by the Whips. The speakers, in order, were:

1. Councillor Ashley Lumsden
2. Councillor Clare Whelan
3. Councillor Donatus Anyanwu
4. Councillor Michael Hipwell
5. Councillor Mark Bennett
6. Councillor Clive Bennett
7. Councillor Steve Bradley
8. Councillor Steve Reed
9. Councillor Peter Truesdale

**Amendment 1**

**Voting**

For: 31  
Against: 23  
Abstained: 0  

**CARRIED**

**Amendment 2**

**Voting**

For: 31  
Against: 22  
Abstained: 0  

**CARRIED**

**Amendment 3**

**CARRIED**

**Amendment 4**

**Voting**

For: 22  
Against: 31  
Abstained: 0  

**LOST**
Council welcomes the contribution made so far by the new Borough Commander Sharon Rowe to policing in Lambeth. Council notes that crime in Lambeth has fallen for the last six years and that local resident’s confidence in the Police has improved markedly in the past year but that violent crime is a serious problem in the Borough. Council also welcomes the Borough Commander’s joint working with the Administration to address the incidences of violent crime in Lambeth.

Council notes the continuing problem of police officer vacancies in Lambeth. Council welcomes the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams in every borough and the record numbers of police across London that Mayor Livingstone has worked hard to deliver. Council believes it should work positively with the borough commander and Metropolitan Police to increase the number of frontline police officers to address the needs of the people of Lambeth.

Council notes that Lambeth Police have been asked to review their asset base. Council notes the proposal to change the way Borough is policed and is keen to contribute fully to these discussions. Council notes that these proposals reflect six years of falling crime in the borough and changing expectations from local residents. Council further notes that these proposals are based on pilots already conducted in Enfield with great success.

Further, council notes that the proposals will mean that every part of the borough has its own frontline policing and high street access to local police.

The Council notes the important need to increase custody capacity in the Borough and that out-dated infrastructure does need to be replaced to provide an effective, efficient and modern police force.

Council notes that any re-organisation of the police with its focus on serious violence the police maintain a commitment to tackling crimes such as those covered by the vice squad which in themselves can lead to serious violence.

Council reaffirms the principle that the statutory bodies, which comprise Lambeth First, the local strategic partnership, must serve all sectors of the community and consult widely. The borough of Lambeth is represented by 63 elected ward councillors, with whom, consultation should normally be direct. Liaison, and determining community safety policy with the Council’s Cabinet is an executive function, which is no substitute for seeking and gaining public consent. The Council urges the Borough Commander to involve all councillors in the reviews currently under way.
Council believes that a well-resourced, community-based police service is needed in Lambeth. Consequently council resolves:

1. To ask the Borough Commander to report to councillors with the number of police officer vacancies in Lambeth and the actions she is taking to address this issue.

2. To ask the Borough Commander to consult fully with residents, councillors and stakeholders to ensure the voices of the community are listened to in her review of Lambeth’s police structures.’

**Motion 2: Herne Hill and Brockwell Park**

**Amendment 1**

Voting
For: 22
Against: 32
Abstained: 0

LOST

**Amendment 2**

CARRIED

**Amendment 3**

CARRIED

**Substantive motion**

Voting
For: 32
Against: 22
Abstained: 0

CARRIED

**RESOLVED**

In its plans to regenerate Herne Hill Junction, Lambeth Council has reassigned the minimum amount of Metropolitan Open Land necessary to make the improvements possible. This has meant that an area of no more than 1,000 square metres, currently part of Brockwell Park, will no longer be park land. Lambeth Council therefore resolves to commit to securing an equivalent area of green space elsewhere in order to prevent a net loss of green space in the borough.
This council congratulates the Herne Hill Forum for its ongoing efforts to regenerate Herne Hill and in particular the leadership shown by local people in the development of the Herne Hill Junction proposals.

This council warmly welcomes the Herne Hill Forum's perseverance in pursuing the junction scheme and notes that it is now nine years since the inception of the original proposal. This council believes that this type of community leadership should be nurtured by both councillors and council officers and that the Forum potentially provides a model to be replicated elsewhere across Lambeth.

**Motion 3: Drugs Market in Lambeth**

*Amendment 1*

**Voting**

For: 30  
Against: 22  
Abstained: 1

**CARRIED**

**Substantive motion**

**Voting**

For: 32  
Against: 22  
Abstained: 2

**CARRIED**

**RESOLVED**

This Council congratulates the administration on taking a tough stance against the drugs markets in Brixton which blights the lives of local residents. Council notes that the drugs market in Lambeth is a legacy of the libertarian attitude to minor drugs offences of the current Liberal Democrat mayoral candidate, Brian Paddick, when he was Lambeth’s Borough Commander.

Council further notes that since the Liberal Democrat candidate for London Mayor left the borough and his failed ‘soft-on-drugs’ policy was reversed, crime in this borough has fallen continuously for six years.

Council further notes that we must continue to tackle this issue relentlessly so that residents can feel safer on their streets.

This Council believes that a drugs trade affects the whole community leading to an increase in street crime and anti-social behaviour and has put tough policies in place, such as the Drugs Deterrent Policy, in order to address the
drugs market in high-crime areas in Lambeth. This Council recognises that crime is the resident's top priority and is committed to continuing to make Lambeth a safer place to live and condemns the previous Administration for tolerating drug dealing and drugs tourism in our borough.

Council notes that the DDP will allow police to take tough action on dealers and also on drugs tourists. Council further believes that this sends a clear message that Lambeth will not tolerate dealers or people who visit the borough to buy drugs.

**Motion 4: Areas for Improvement in the Planning Service**

Amendment 1

Voting
For: 31
Against: 22
Abstained: 1

CARRIED

Amendment 2

Voting
For: 22
Against: 31
Abstained: 0

LOST

Substantive motion

Voting
For: 31
Against: 22
Abstained: 1

CARRIED

RESOLVED

Council considers the quality and consistency of the town planning service within the authority to be critical to the Council's ambition to become an excellent authority.

Council notes the record of the Lib Dem and Conservative administration was fairly consistent over the duration of its tenure - Lambeth’s planning function was the worst in London. Had Lambeth performed any worse, it would have been stripped of all planning functions and been taken over by central Government.
Council further notes that in May 2006 the Council was barely able to process 60% of major applications in the 12 week target. The backlog of out of time major case applications was over 60.

Since May 2006, there have been very few instances of long delays in deciding major decisions and little evidence of inefficiency and inadequate consultation with the public and relevant stakeholders. Under new leadership, the Council is able to process 75% of major cases in 12 weeks and the backlog of major cases is likely to be under four by the summer. Lambeth is now midway in the London’s performance league with every chance of being in the top quartile in the next 12 months.

Council recognises that elected members from all parties and officers are spending long hours, including at week-ends, to improve the speed of delivery of decisions, but in some instances the quality of written reports presented to members, and to the public, falls short of the standards that could be expected of a council that aspires to excellence in service delivery.

Council notes that all members have a role to play in improving the planning function of Lambeth Council. In particular, Councillor Whelan may like to reflect that he attended barely 25% of meetings of both planning application committees upon which he sat as a full member over the last 12 months.

There is still much to do but given the progress made over the last two years to improve the service, the Council has confidence in the management of the planning function and that further progress is likely. It therefore sees little merit in merging the Council’s planning functions with another local authority.

**Motion 5: Siting of New Waste Depot for Veolia Refuse Collection Service**

**Amendment 1**

CARRIED

**Amendment 2**

Voting
For: 22
Against: 32
Abstained: 1

LOST

Substantive motion

CARRIED
RESOLVED

Council is committed to listening to residents. Council believes that consultation is important for residents and businesses in the vicinity of the proposed new permanent waste depot site to be operated by Veolia on behalf of the Council. All local councillors and residents will be invited to participate in this consultation.

Council is committed to ensuring that the multi-use games area on Vale Street is delivered as committed by the 2008 summer holidays. Council believes that this commitment reflects the value it places on local views and local provision.

**Motion 6: Lorna Campbell**

Amendment 1

Voting
For: 22
Against: 30
Abstained: 1

LOST

Original motion

Voting
For: 35
Against: 1
Abstained: 17

CARRIED

RESOLVED

This Council welcomes Councillor Lorna Campbell to the Lambeth Cabinet and notes this is the first time in 20 years that a black woman has held a front bench position in a Lambeth Administration. Council welcomes the fact that the Lambeth Cabinet increasingly reflects the diversity of our borough.

**Motion 7: 3 Stars**

Amendment 1

Voting
For: 23
Against: 31
Abstained: 0
Amendment 2

Voting
For: 21
Against: 32
Abstained: 1

LOST

Original motion

Voting
For: 30
Against: 24
Abstained: 0

CARRIED

RESOLVED

This Council notes the Audit Commission’s recent Corporate Assessment that gave the London Borough of Lambeth a three star rating. The Council further notes that the Audit Commission said Lambeth was “improving strongly” and was the fastest improving council in London.

This council notes that Lambeth’s benefits service, once the worst in London, is now the best; Lambeth is the first council in London to complete the building of a new school under the Government’s ‘Building Schools for the Future’ programme; that the council has the most ambitious carbon-reduction targets in the capital; and that the Labour administration has secured the ALMO to provide the biggest investment in social housing in Lambeth’s history.

This council believes that three stars is a great achievement for the Administration and officers of the council. This council resolves to use this good news as a spur for more change to ensure residents receive excellent services from their councils.

Motion 8: ALMO

Voting
For: 23
Against: 31
Abstained: 0

LOST
Motion 9: Voids

Amendment 1

Voting
For: 31
Against: 23
Abstained: 0

CARRIED

Substantive motion

Voting
For: 31
Against: 23
Abstained: 0

CARRIED

RESOLVED

Council notes that to ensure prudent financial management and guarantee a government subsidy of £3m to the HRA the administration consulted on whether to sell off 70 one-bed and studio flats.

Council notes that thanks to effective lobbying by the Administration it was ultimately not necessary to sell off these void properties and that the £3m Government subsidy was secured. This is in contrast to the previous administration’s reckless attitude to the HRA which left it £10m in deficit.

Council notes with alarm the boarded up council properties on the borough’s estates and streets and is committed to addressing this difficult issue. Council further believes this will be a much easier task following this administration’s work to put the HRA in order. Council congratulates the Labour administration for securing around £200m investment in our housing stock with the ALMO.

Motion 10: Loughborough EMB

Amendment 1

Voting
For: 31
Against: 23
Abstained: 0

CARRIED
Amendment 2

Voting
For: 30
Against: 18
Abstained: 1

CARRIED

Substantive motion

Voting
For: 31
Against: 22
Abstained: 0

CARRIED

RESOLVED

Council welcomes news of the extremely constructive dialogue which continues to take place between residents of Loughborough Estate, United Residents Housing, ward members and officers, and applauds the hard work of Loughborough Estate Management Board members in addressing in an appropriate, transparent and timely manner concerns about finance and staffing. Council notes that at the recent estate AGM ward members agreed to call for scrutiny to look at the estates previous difficulties.

Council welcomes the close liaison between Labour members in Coldharbour Ward, who have taken the lead on this issue, and the chair of Housing Scrutiny to keep him informed of developments relating to Loughborough EMB.

Council is disappointed, but not surprised, that the Vice Chair of Housing Scrutiny failed to add this as an item at the last Housing Scrutiny meeting when the Committee’s business for the entire year was drawn up. Despite this oversight by the Vice Chair, Council welcomes a proposal by the Chair of Housing Scrutiny to request a written report on developments at Loughborough EMB at a future sub-committee meeting.

Motion 11: Guns and Gangs

Amendment 1

Voting
For: 23
Against: 31
Abstained: 0

LOST
Amendment 2

Voting
For: 23
Against: 31
Abstained: 0

LOST

Original motion

Voting
For: 31
Against: 7
Abstained: 16

CARRIED

RESOLVED

This Council notes that consultation on the draft strategy produced by the Executive Commission on Children, Young People and Violent Crime has closed since the last council meeting.

This Council welcomes the report of the Executive Commission and its focus on the underlying socio-economic causes that contribute to violent crime in young people. This Council welcomes the reports recommendations in particular its plans for a crackdown on drug dealing on our streets; a new intelligence gathering unit to share information about the perpetrators; parenting support for families that are struggling to bring up their children; effective use of the Administration’s 40% increase in funding for youth services and a commitment to work with the third sector in delivering services to young people; a new partnership with business to provide skills for Lambeth residents; and more resources for schools to educate children about the dangers of violent gangs and how to stay out of them.

This Council is disappointed that no opposition councillors attended the summit on the 14th February that launched this consultation and believes this demonstrates the opposition’s complete disregard for the concerns of residents.

This Council resolves to continue to work with residents and relevant organisations to take tough action to tackle the presence of guns and gangs in our community in the coming months.
Motion 12: Tierney Road Builders Yard

Amendment 1

Voting
For: 30
Against: 22
Abstained: 0

CARRIED

Substantive motion

Voting
For: 52
Against: 0
Abstained: 0
CARRIED

RESOLVED

Council notes that for almost two years the residents of Kirkstall Gardens have had to suffer the use of the directly adjacent Tierney Road builders yard as an illegal dump for a growing mountain of waste material.

Council instructs Environmental Services to give urgent attention to ending this public nuisance which the law-abiding council tax payers of Kirkstall Gardens should not have to tolerate any longer.

Motion 13: Review of Lambeth Police Structure

Amendment 1

Voting
For: 25
Against: 23
Abstained: 0

CARRIED

Amendment 2

Voting
For: 31
Against: 23
Abstained: 0

CARRIED
Substantive motion

Voting
For: 31
Against: 23
Abstained: 0

CARRIED

RESOLVED

Council notes the Review of Lambeth Police Structure and will contribute fully to this review. Council notes the value of locally responsive and intelligence-led policing. Council resolves to ensure the police have a full discussion with residents and stakeholders and councillors on this issue.

Council further notes the Asset Management Plan for Gipsy Hill and Streatham police stations. Council further notes that the review of police structure will ensure that every part of the borough will have high-street access to frontline policing and this review will strengthen frontline policing.

Council therefore suggests that genuine public consultation be conducted, so that the scaremongering of the Liberal Democrat and Conservative Opposition can be exposed for the mythmaking that it is.

Council welcomes the Borough Commander’s review of the Lambeth Police Structure and its capital assets to ensure they are in line with the priority which the Metropolitan Police has quite rightly identified as the number one issue for Lambeth which is serious violence. Council notes the success of the Police during the past financial year in exceeding its detection targets for hate crime such as domestic violence, homophobic related crime, race crime and rape and will be looking forward to seeing a continuation of this work which has formed part of the overall trend in the Brixton-sub command which has seen crime reduced by nearly 12% in the past financial year.

Council recognises the contribution of the local police Safer Neighbourhood Teams as established by the Mayor for London in 2006 to improving safety community. It is of particular note that the encouraging partnership that is being developed in Thornton Ward between the various stakeholders; the local police, residents who are members of the Safer Neighbourhood Panel, Lambeth Council and the Clapham Park Project. The membership of the Thornton Safer Neighbourhood Panel is both diverse and representative of the ward including the election of a local Labour councillor to the Safer Neighbourhood Panel, which helps to ensure the bottom-up model of the Safer Neighbourhood Team works effectively. The Council welcomes the success of the local police in Thornton ward which in the past financial year has seen a greater decrease in crime than the Brixton sub-command average over the same period and is able to continue this with its full compliment of PCs and PCSOs.
Motion 14: Streatham Hill Megabowl Development

Amendment 1

Voting
For: 30
Against: 21
Abstained: 1

CARRIED

Amendment 2

CARRIED

Amendment 3

Voting
For: 30
Against: 21
Abstained: 1

CARRIED

Substantive motion

Voting
For: 30
Against: 7
Abstained: 16

CARRIED

RESOLVED

Council notes the concerns of local people in Streatham at the scale and style of the proposed redevelopment of the Megabowl/Caesar’s site.

While recognising the need for regeneration in the area and the benefits of larger shopping units and the planned arts and community space Council calls on all members to pay close regard to local views in arriving at a solution agreeable to all parties, which have been clearly articulated by Streatham’s hard working local MP Keith Hill.

Council welcomes the robust attitude of the administration which has ensured that discussions between the planning department and the developer have resulted in the withdrawal of the specific application, without negating the developer’s interest in regenerating this vital area of our borough.

Council further welcomes the consultation process put in place by the administration to hear local views on this development and the regeneration of Streatham as evidenced by the well attended public meeting on 18 March,
at the St Simon and St Jude Club, Streatham.

Council further notes that this first planning application has been withdrawn. Council encourages the developer to work with ward councillors and local residents to bring forward proposals that will deliver much-needed improvements to shopping and community/arts facilities in Streatham Hill in a development that is appropriate to the local environment.

Council welcomes the Streatham Hub project as an important step towards further extending the variety of first-class leisure facilities that Streatham residents can pursue.

Council notes with sadness that Councillor Jeremy Clyne’s own leisure pursuits appear to be limited to the tabling of countless spurious motions to Council.

**Motion 15: Estate Parking**

**Amendment 1**

Voting
For: 29
Against: 22
Abstained: 0

CARRIED

**Substantive motion**

Voting
For: 31
Against: 22
Abstained: 0

CARRIED

**RESOLVED**

Council welcomes the balancing of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) books and notes that this has led to tough but necessary decisions. These decisions were ducked by the previous Liberal Democrat/Tory Administration who instead chose to allow a £10m deficit in the HRA at the expense of decent homes for our residents.

Further, Council welcomes the righting of a historic wrong. The fact now that the implementation of a charge for parking on estates is now borne by the car owners on the estate rather than by all tenants regardless of whether they own a car or not as was previously the case.

However Council also notes the concern about the impact of the charges for estate parking in places such as Myatts Fields South Estate. In particular
Councillors Abrams and McKenna have raised the issues with the new lead for Housing and Regeneration who has agreed to meet with the residents to discuss their views about parking and in particular, a local ballot.

**Motion 16: High Crime Rates**

**Amendment 1**

Voting
For: 31
Against: 22
Abstained: 1

CARRIED

**Amendment 2**

Voting
For: 23
Against: 31
Abstained: 0

LOST

**Substantive motion**

Voting
For: 30
Against: 22
Abstained: 1

CARRIED

RESOLVED

Council welcomes the new opposition spokesperson for Safer Communities allowing more time for the previous incumbent to campaign in Portsmouth.

Council notes that according to official statistics for 2007 crime in Lambeth has reduced year on year for the last six years and welcomes the effort of the police and the innovative policies of the current Administration that have supported this work.

Council notes that residents are increasingly concerned by drunken behaviour on the streets since 2006 and that vandalism saw an 11 per cent rise. Council is committed to addressing these concerns by continuing its excellent relationship with the police and continuing to crack down on anti-social behaviour through the increased use of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and dispersal zones.

Council is concerned that the Liberal Democrat opposition feel that the
Council has undermined their efforts by withdrawing its own Community Crime Wardens. Council notes that the Metropolitan Police welcome the replacement of the effective wardens with the extra uniformed officers and note that there is a considerably increased visible police presence on Lambeth streets to assist police officers and to reassure Lambeth residents that they are safe.

Council further welcomes the 40% rise in funding for youth services and the focus of the Administration on ensuring Lambeth’s young people have the skills and facilities they need to get a better start in life. Council further notes that this Administration has put tackling worklessness at the heart of the Community Strategy. Council believes that tackling the causes of crime in this way, alongside the work of the Executive Commission on Children, Young People and Violent Crime, the X-it Project, Phoenix Programme, and the borough’s police force will lead to a sustained fall in residential crime and anti-social behaviour.

**Motion 17: Clapham Common**

**Amendment 1**

Voting
For: 31
Against: 21
Abstained: 1

CARRIED

**Amendment 2**

CARRIED

**Substantive motion**

Voting
For: 28
Against: 23
Abstained: 1

CARRIED

RESOLVED

Council regrets the typically erroneous and irresponsible Liberal Democrat claim that only £20,000 is being spent on maintenance on the Common this year, a claimed 80% reduction. Council notes that spending allocations have yet to be set and agreed. Council welcomes the FACT that in 2008/09, £430,000 of external funding (Section 106 monies) is being spent on Clapham Common. Council notes that resident satisfaction with parks and open spaces increased 13% in 2007 and there are currently 20 ongoing parks improvement projects over the borough, attracting some £5,000,000 of
external investment and funding.

Council disagrees profoundly with the recent comment from Councillor Darren Sanders that “Clapham Common is not a fifth of the place it was” which is an indication not only of his performance as a Liberal Democrat ward councillor since 2002, but also perhaps of a loss of interest in Lambeth, having been removed from the Liberal Democrat front bench and currently removing himself from Clapham Common at every opportunity to stand for Parliament in Portsmouth North.

Council calls on the Parks Department to draw up a full balance sheet to show both incomes and expenditures for Clapham Common.

**Motion 18: Streatham Vale Alleys**

**Amendment 1**

Voting
For: 31
Against: 21
Abstained: 1

CARRIED

Substantive motion

Voting
For: 30
Against: 22
Abstained: 1

CARRIED

RESOLVED

Council notes that the Council was not approached by vendors to take ownership of the alleys in Streatham Vale when they were put up for auction recently.

Council notes with concern that the problems associated with these alley-ways that have been exacerbated by interference by Liberal Democrat Councillors, who should be working for neglected residents in their own wards such as Streatham Wells, will continue until a proper management plan is put in place. Consequently the Council resolves to instruct officers to begin the process of negotiating an agreement with, or purchase from, the current owners of the Alleys in Streatham Vale and report to Streatham South Labour Councillors on the process for so doing within one month.
Motion 19: Post Office

Amendment 1

CARRIED

Amendment 2

Voting
For: 37
Against: 16
Abstained: 1

CARRIED

Amendment 3

Voting
For: 22
Against: 31
Abstained: 0

LOST

Substantive motion

Voting
For: 32
Against: 6
Abstained: 16

CARRIED

RESOLVED

Council notes with concern that the post office has yet to announce any change in its plans to close post office that serve residents living in Lambeth. Council welcomes the submission to the consultation from the Leader of the Council which strongly opposes all post office closures in Lambeth and those just outside the borough which are heavily used by Lambeth residents. Council instructs the Chief Executive to work with the Cabinet members for Employment & Enterprise and Culture, Leisure & Sport to look at all the available options, including the Essex and Lincolnshire models, with a view to placing post office counters within council facilities eg libraries.

Council also believes that local Councillors as community leaders, have a duty to those who may wish to reopen closed post offices. Therefore, Council agrees that the provisions of any ward purse offers Councillors the chance to contribute towards the costs of running such post offices should any such plans emerge.
Council further notes that the Liberal Democrats’ nationally stated solution is to privatise the post office.

**Motion 20: International Women's Day - 8 March 2008**

**Amendment 1**

CARRIED

**Amendment 2**

Voting  
For: 31  
Against: 22  
Abstained: 1  

CARRIED

**Substantive motion**

Voting  
For: 31  
Against: 22  
Abstained: 1  

CARRIED  

**RESOLVED**

Council notes the ways in which International Women's Day, 8 March 2008, was effectively marked by the borough. Council welcomes plans to bring forward suitable wide ranging plans to mark International Women's Day 2009. It further notes that the day will not only provide an opportunity to celebrate the women of this borough but a chance to highlight, broaden and build upon our absolute commitment to improving the wellbeing and the safety of the girls and women of Lambeth through our ongoing work in supporting victims of domestic violence and abuse, in addressing teenage pregnancy, in providing better opportunities for lone parents, and through working with the children and women of our newest, our most disadvantaged and our most excluded communities.

Council further notes the irony of the former Liberal Democrat Leader of the Council calling for more action on International Women's Day when he did not promote a single female Councillor to his Administration's Executive during four years in power. Today, four Labour women sit on the Cabinet, including the Deputy Leader of the Council. The progress delivered by Labour in the representation of women in frontline decision-making this International Women's Day compared to two years ago when Councillor Truesdale was Leader of the Council is in itself a cause for celebration.
Council also notes that 22 June 2008 is the 60th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks and invites the Mayor to mark this event with an appropriate celebratory event with an invitation to the Town Hall of survivors from the Windrush generation.

Motion 21: Sternhold Sidings

Amendment 1

Voting
For: 30
Against: 21
Abstained: 1

CARRIED

Substantive motion

Voting
For: 30
Against: 22
Abstained: 1

CARRIED

RESOLVED

Council notes that it is almost three years since work began on the Sternhold railway sidings development in Streatham Hill and 18 months since the Council’s planning applications committee decided that the development constituted a breach of planning controls. Now that the committee is at last due to meet again to consider enforcement action Council records its grave concern at the time taken to bring this matter to a conclusion.

Council notes that the only planning decision relating to the Streatham Sidings was approved under the Liberal / Tory administration Planning Applications Committee in September 2002 under the Chairmanship of Liberal Democrat Councillor Brian Palmer.

Council also notes that it is a matter of public record that work started at the Streatham Hill Depot in mid-September 2003; that work started on the downsidings in July 2005; and that all works were completed in February 2006, all under the Liberal / Tory administration of 2002 to 2006.

Council further notes that the Liberal Democrat / Tory administration of Lambeth Council took no legal action to stop the works by Southern Rail prior to their commencement, which would have been possible with a Court Injunction in early 2003. Council notes that it is also a matter of public record that the only political communication of any kind between Southern Rail and leaders of the Liberal Democrat / Tory Council was a short email dated 8th
November 2005 entitled “Weekend works, Streatham Hill sidings” from Cllr Jeremy Clyne to a member of staff at Southern Rail, simply complaining about “…construction has been taking place on a Saturday afternoon and Sunday”.

Council finally notes that the Labour Administration has since May 2006 sought through political, legal and professional routes, including politically led negotiations face-to-face with Southern Rail’s Managing Director, to leave no stone unturned to address the plight of residents in relation to the unacceptable development in Sternhold Avenue Rail Sidings.

**Motion 22: Partnering Contracts**

Amendment 1

CARRIED

Amendment 2

Voting
For: 30
Against: 22
Abstained: 0

CARRIED

Amendment 3

CARRIED

Substantive motion

Voting
For: 31
Against: 23
Abstained: 0

CARRIED

RESOLVED

Council is keen to ensure consultation with Council tenants and leaseholders over the proposed long-term partnering contracts which will produce material and substantial changes to the way services are delivered.

Council further notes with grave concern the shocking allegation by the Office of Fair Trading that 112 construction companies have engaged in bid rigging activities, and in particular cover pricing, in many cases involving contracts with local authorities. Cover pricing describes a situation where one or more bidders collude with a competitor during a tender process to obtain a price or prices which are intended to be too high to win the contract.
While the OFT’s investigation originated from a specific complaint in the East Midlands in 2004 the OFT says “it quickly became clear from the evidence that the practice of cover pricing was widespread.....The OFT has also received evidence of cover pricing implicating many more companies on thousands of tender processes”. In some cases, the OFT alleges, companies “agreed that the successful tenderer would pay an agreed sum of money to the unsuccessful tenderer (known as a 'compensation payment'). These more serious forms of bid rigging are usually facilitated by false invoices.”

Council calls for an immediate investigation by officers into the possibility of any such bid rigging activities having taken place in contracts with LB Lambeth and for action to ensure that no such activities take place in the future.

Council is concerned at the forgetfulness of the Vice Chair of Housing Scrutiny. In the last Municipal Year alone, he participated in at least two Housing Scrutiny meetings in which there was very detailed consultation and lively discussion of the new partnering contracts with tenants, leaseholders, Members and officers.

Council recommends that to aid his apparent memory loss, he re-familiarises himself with the minutes of previous Housing Scrutiny Committee meetings before he tables any future motions.

Further there have been discussions about the new partnering arrangements at Leaseholder Council, Tenants Council and all the area forums. The new Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration is committed to continuing this consultation.

**Motion 23: Amendment to the Constitution for the AGM**

Amendment 1

Voting
For: 8
Against: 45
Abstained: 1

LOST

Original motion

Voting
For: 23
Against: 31
Abstained: 0

LOST

In accordance with the procedural motion, items 8, 9 and 10 on the agenda were considered together.

Special circumstances justifying urgent consideration

On item 10, the Mayor was of the opinion that, although the revised arrangements for Standards Committee and further advice of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services on the proposed changes to Standing Orders as set out on the second despatch and annex to the order paper had not been available for at least five clear days before the meeting, nonetheless they should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances that:

(a) The Standards Committee changes needed to be put in place from Thursday 8th May 2008.

(b) Members needed to take account of the advice, where relevant, when considering the recommended changes to the Council’s Standing Orders and Constitution and the amendments submitted by members in relation thereto. Following discussion with the Chief Whip, these amendments were discussed with the opposition whips, and the changes proposed were set out on the first dispatch of the agenda.

(c) To enable the proposed changes to the Council’s Constitution to be incorporated into the Constitution with immediate effect, rather than delay this until the next Council meeting in July, as agreed at the annual meeting of Council held on 26th March 2008.

Standards Committee

Note by Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Advice had been received of a drafting error to advice circulated by the Standards Board for England on validity of Standards Committee proceedings under the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008. The Regulations require that for a meeting of the Standards Committee or any of its sub-committees to be valid at least three members must be present, including at least one elected member and one independent member.

This necessitated a change to the proposed amendments to the Constitution 2008-09. The proposed changes to SO 8.1 at page 18 of the second despatch were to be disregarded. For the avoidance of any doubt, the definitive changes required were set out in annex 1 {to be bound with these minutes}. The proposed changes to Part 3 (Standards Committees and its Sub-Committees), and SO 8.1 (quorum) at pages 114 – 119 of the first
despatch and pages 13 – 18 of the second despatch were replaced by Annex 1.

The Mayor invited speakers from all parties to address Council from a list submitted by the Whips. The speakers, in order, were:

10. Councillor Gavin Dodsworth
11. Councillor Roger Giess
12. Councillor Ashley Lumsden
13. Councillor Andrew Gibson
14. Councillor Darren Sanders
15. Councillor Clive Bennett
16. Councillor Graham Pycock
17. Councillor John Whelan
18. Councillor Alex McKenna

Constitution 2008-09: Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation Review

Voting:
For: 50
Against: 6
Abstained: 1

CARRIED

RESOLVED:

(1) That the revised Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Appendix 2 – Part 3, Section 4 of the Council’s Constitution 2008-09) be approved in relation to the discharge of executive functions.

(2) That the revised Financial Regulations (Appendix 3 – Part 3, Section 4 of the Council’s Constitution 2008-09) be approved.

(3) That the revised Access to Information Procedure Rules (Appendix 4 – Part 4, Section 2 of the Council’s Constitution 2008-09) be approved.

Members’ Allowances Scheme: 2008-09 Revision

Voting:
For: 34
Against: 23
Abstained: 0

CARRIED

RESOLVED:

That the existing Members’ Allowances Scheme be amended as set out in paras. 2.1 – 2.5 of the report, with the changes being backdated to 01.04.08, and Part 6 of the Constitution 2008-09 amended accordingly.
Constitution 2008-09

Amendment 1

Deemed MOVED by Councillor Ashley Lumsden and SECONDED

Voting:
For: 22
Against: 35
Abstained: 0

LOST

Amendment 2

Deemed MOVED by Councillor Darren Sanders and SECONDED

Voting:
For: 23
Against: 34
Abstained: 0

LOST

Amendment 3

Deemed MOVED by Councillor John Whelan and SECONDED

Voting:
For: 21
Against: 34
Abstained: 1

LOST

Substantive motion

Voting:

Councillor Ashley Lumsden called for a recorded Vote.

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Voting for – 32    Voting against – 23    Abstained – 1
J Dickson        R Giess
B Evans-Jacas    F Gray
D Fitzpatrick    J Heather
N Haselden       I Kimm
R Heywood        A Lumsden
M Hipwell        D Marchant
J Kazantzis      B Palmer
D Malley         S Poole
S Malley         G Pycock
D Malone         D Sanders
P McGlone        A Sawdon
K McHugh         R Thackray
A McKenna        P Truesdale
D Morris         C Whelan
N Patil          J Whelan
L Peck
S Prentice
S Reed
P Robbins
N Sabharwal
T Smith
C Valcarcel
I Walker
C Wellbelove

CARRIED

RESOLVED:

(1) That the Council’s Constitution 2008-09 including the responsibility for functions, rules of procedure, codes and protocols be approved.

(2) That on the unanimous recommendations of the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee (01.04.08), Councillor Pete Bowyer be appointed as Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2008-09.

10.  ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2007/8
At the invitation of the mayor, Mr Steve Phillips, Independent Member and Chair of the Standards Committee, introduced this report to Council.

The Mayor invited the following further speakers:

4. Councillor John Whelan
5. Councillor Roger Giess
6. Councillor Paul McGlone
7. Councillor Daphne Marchant
RESOLVED:

That the annual report of the Standards Committee be received.

11. **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CORPORATE COMMITTEE 2007/8**

Councillor Michael Hipwell, Chair of the Corporate Committee, introduced this report to Council.

RESOLVED:

That the annual report of the Corporate Committee be received.

12. **SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2007/8**

Councillor Roger Giess, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, introduced this report to Council.

The Mayor invited the following further speakers:

8. Councillor Paul McGlone
9. Councillor Susan Poole
10. Councillor Peter Robbins
11. Councillor Graham Pycock
12. Councillor Helen O’Malley

RESOLVED:

That the annual report of Scrutiny be received.

13. **LAMBETH YOUTH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2007/8**

Satya Panigrahi, the Youth Mayor, had been invited to introduce this report, but unfortunately had to give his apologies because of forthcoming examinations. Charlotte Ryan, the Deputy Youth Mayor, was also unable to attend for the same reason.

Councillor Florence Nosegbe, Deputy Cabinet Member for Young People, introduced this report to Council.

The Mayor invited the following speakers:

13. Councillor Suzanne Poole
14. Councillor Roger Giess
15. Councillor Paul McGlone

RESOLVED:

That the annual report of Lambeth Youth Council be received.
CLOSE OF MEETING
The meeting ended at 10.15pm

MAYOR
Wednesday, 9th July, 2008

Date of Despatch: Thursday 15th May 2008
Contact for Enquiries: Tim Stephens

Tel: 020 7926 2754
Fax: 020 7926 2361
E-mail: tstephens@lambeth.gov.uk
Web: www.lambeth.gov.uk