

**COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 23 January 2019 at 7.00 pm**

**MINUTES**

**The Worshipful the Mayor in the Chair**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:**

Councillors Councillor Danial Adilypour, Councillor Scott Ainslie, Councillor David Amos, Councillor Donatus Anyanwu, Councillor Liz Atkins, Councillor Mary Atkins, Councillor Jonathan Bartley, Councillor Matthew Bennett, Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite, Councillor Tim Briggs, Councillor Lucy Caldicott, Councillor Rezina Chowdhury, Councillor Fred Cowell, Councillor Kevin Craig, Councillor Edward Davie, Councillor Jon Davies, Councillor Jim Dickson, Councillor Ibrahim Dogus, Councillor Jane Edbrooke, Councillor Pete Elliott, Councillor Peter Ely, Councillor Paul Gadsby, Councillor Adrian Garden, Councillor Pauline George, Councillor Nicole Griffiths, Councillor Nigel Haselden, Councillor Dr. Mahamed Hashi, Councillor Claire Holland, Councillor Jack Hopkins, Councillor John Kazantzis, Councillor Jessica Leigh, Councillor Joshua Lindsey, Councillor Marianna Masters, Councillor Jackie Meldrum, Councillor Irfan Mohammed, Councillor Philip Normal, Councillor Emma Nye, Councillor Lib Peck, Councillor Jane Pickard, Councillor Joanna Reynolds, Councillor Mohammed Seedat, Councillor Iain Simpson, Councillor Joanne Simpson, Councillor Becca Thackray, Councillor Martin Tiedemann, Councillor Tina Valcarcel, Mayor Christopher Wellbelove, Councillor Clair Wilcox, Councillor Andy Wilson and Councillor Sonia Winifred

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Anna Birley, Councillor Linda Bray, Councillor Marcia Cameron, Councillor Jacqui Dyer, Councillor Annie Gallop, Councillor Mohamed Jaser, Councillor Maria Kay, Councillor Ben Kind, Councillor Jennie Mosley and Councillor Timothy Windle

**ABSENT:**

**1. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were none.

**2. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2018 be signed and approved as a correct record of proceedings.

### **3. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Lib Peck on her appointment to the Mayor's new violence reduction unit after six years of leading Lambeth Council and having been a Councillor for 17 years, he reminded Council that when she was elected she won by just five votes. The Mayor thanked Councillor Peck for all her support she gave him over the years including those many years when he was deputy for housing. He wished her every success in her new role.

The Mayor reminded Council about his forthcoming events:

On 4 February 2019 the Mayor will be hosting a small reception in the Mayor's Parlour for friends and colleagues of past Mayor Mark Bennett to mark five years since his death.

5 February 2019, the Mayor will be holding the first ever joint civic service with the Mayor of Southwark, at Southwark Cathedral.

24 February 2019 the Mayor will be re-running the Gay Times tango that was first held in the assembly rooms in 1975 on 24 February by the Gay Liberation Front in what was a prelude to what went on to be London Pride. He was pleased that London Pride were working in partnership with the Council along with the Two Brewers and Gay Times.

On 1 March 2019, another first, the Mayor will be hosting a Mayor's Pokemon Go reception.

The Mayor read out the following statement on behalf of Councillor Tim Briggs, "I accept that Councillor Bartley did not say that a vote for Brexit was racist. The recurrent theme of Councillor Bartley's speech was that if Brexit went ahead, it would open the floodgates to a tide of racism and nationalism and that our country rejected and fought the hard right and fascism 80 years ago and we will not allow their poisonous politics to take hold in Britain today. This new piece of hysterical project fear nonsense led to my assumption that Councillor Bartley believed that the majority of people that voted for Brexit had racist motives for doing so and I apologise for any misunderstanding."

Councillor Ed Davie made the following statement on behalf of Councillor Valcarcel "As Disability Champion of the Council; I am delighted to show you tonight the plaque presented to the Council by Accessible to celebrate our support for promoting disabled access to buildings across the borough. Accessible, formerly known as Disabled Go, carry out very detailed audits of venues and publish the details on their website. This enables disabled people to plan visits confident in what they will find when they get there. Council buildings, schools, pharmacies, GPs and hospitals have already been audited. We hope that more community halls would be audited as part of the local investment plans / projects for each ward. The Southbank BID is commencing an audit of all its buildings and the public realm. The New Town Hall is listed on the Accessible website with full details of the steps list and the changing places toilet. I have asked the Chief Executive to arrange for this plaque to be installed in the Civic Centre in next few days. I would like to thank Councillor Meldrum who introduced Disabled Go for Lambeth."

### **4. PETITIONS, PNQS AND DEPUTATIONS**

**RESOLVED:**

To suspend Committee Rules and Procedure 10.3, to allow three deputations

(instead of two):

Yvonne Ellis on Sexual Abuse awareness in the community, addressed Council and noted the following points:

- She was a Lambeth resident and founder of Daughter Arise which supported survivors of sexual abuse. In 2010, she set up the Daughter Arise organisation to support sexual abuse survivors.
- Over the last eight years, as a volunteer, she had seen how sexual abuse had negatively affected lives. People suffering from sexual abuse did not want to talk about sexual abuse because of its ugly nature. Most people suffered in isolation and silence because they felt shame and suffered from a fear of people finding out about their experience. Such experiences affected people's mental health, self-esteem and confidence.
- The issue affected many communities and the situation was not improving and she wanted to seek a partnership with the Council to support residents as sexual abuse had an impact in all aspects of life.
- She wanted to work in partnership with the Council to raise awareness of the issues and to challenge sexual abuse. More awareness was needed to be raised so that people were aware of the services available to them.
- There was a requirement for such a service and more could be done to better advertise the services so people were aware of the services when they needed to use them.

The Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector, Partnerships and Community Safety, Councillor Mohammed Seedat, responded and made the following points:

- He thanked Ms Ellis for her heartfelt reminder of the issues survivors had to face on a regular basis. He could not imagine the difficulty that survivors go through especially considering a large number of the population had to live abuse in reality and online and lived in fear of themselves.
- Often survivors of sexual violence felt like the incident from which they suffered was their fault and it was important to be clear that it was not. The Gaia Centre was a service that the Council was proud of (and in which the Council had invested £6.5 million since 2012) and a service which was helping at least 1600 women every year but this was not enough.
- The problem in relation to sexual abuse was far greater. At least 5,500 reports were made to the Police in relation to violence against women and at least a third of those related to sexual violence.
- It was important that the borough had champions and the Gaia Centre wanted to empower women so that they could remain champions. It was also important that men were aware of the issues.
- There should never be taboos regarding the subject of sexual abuse, including social or cultural ones. There were other related problems in the community such as forced marriage, genital mutilation, "honour" based violence or sexual abuse. These issues needed to be dealt with and the Council would continue to work with its partners to resolve this issue.
- Lambeth, the community and Daughter Arise would continue to work together.
- The Mayor noted his thanks to Ms Ellis and all her work to raise sexual abuse awareness.

ii. Laura Swaffield and Unison Members on funding for libraries in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, made the following points:

- Between 1985-2015, the Council closed a third of the borough's libraries and reduced funding by three quarters. Since 2015, the Council had ruined four

- of the remaining ten libraries by reducing staff and making them smaller.
- The remaining six proper libraries suffered from high demand, were overrun and people had to be turned away. This reduction in service had not saved money but had cost more money than the previous service.
- The Council's policy impact assessment stated that should such a reduction occur, then it would disadvantage those the Council considered as priority such as older people, young people, disabled, poor, those needing help with IT and English language. Libraries had been observed for a week to see how they worked and it was clear that they did not work.
- The waste had been calculated at about £8 million and rising. Over £3 million had been spent on one of the properties to invest into a gym, which was not needed, and £3.5 million in another property (West Norwood Library) to open a cinema. Both the businesses had the properties rent free for five years. More cuts were also expected to be made.
- Running a library only cost £120,000. For this, a frontline service would be provided, residents would have a safe place to go, staff would be trained to provide other services, Programme and Events were also provided, including those involving members of the black and LGBT community amongst others. These events brought people together and met people's real needs with little funding required. Staff were not asking for more money but simply to stop sabotaging the resource.

The Cabinet Member for Equalities and Culture, Councillor Sonia Winifred responded and stated that:

- Libraries were an important subject to her and a matter close to her heart. She had worked in libraries for over 20 years. Sharing that history brought herself and library staff together. Many years ago she had the opportunity to start working in a library it did give her the opportunity to work in a library and realise the efficient librarian service see what library service looks like.
- It was important to be able to share the training that library staff had with members of the public. Equality and diversity was at the forefront of the provision of the services provided. 130 public libraries had closed in the UK in the past year, but none in Lambeth.
- The Council had worked to improve libraries in the backdrop of funding pressures and had been successful. The libraries had been kept open and some have been refurbished including Brixton, Streatham, Upper Norwood and Clapham and had improved the offer available to individuals online. In relation to diversity, over 2000 people attended the last Black History Month event.

The Mayor noted his thanks to Ms Swaffield for her deputation.

iii. From Tamora Langley on making Milkwood Road safe for Jessop Primary School pupils, children using Milkwood community park and local residents and to introduce traffic calming and a crossing, noted the following points:

- The walk to school with both her daughters was scary as Milkwood Road was known as a risky area for pedestrians. The road was useful to drivers who enjoyed driving fast as it was a wide and straight road. Although there was the speed limit of 20mph in the area, the speed watch system had found cars in the area to run at 40mph. The average speed in the area was 30mph.
- The positive speed indicators for road safety did not appear to be making enough of a difference. The area was a tricky area even for an adult to across the road, including one parent whose child had been hit by a car. Most times it was not clear which way the traffic would be approaching.
- The school considered one part of the road unsafe to use as an exit. The

issue regarding Milkwood Road had been raised in the past. A petition had been placed online which had raised 351 signatures. Some of these signatures have to be taken out as they were not local. Initial measures to assist in the area was welcome as it would help with cars swerving around, however, the area was still not safe for children walking to school.

The Cabinet Member for Clean Air and Environment, Councillor Claire Holland responded:

- This was an issue that residents, teachers and parents had worried about for a long time and had been something the Councillor Jim Dickson and Councillor Pauline George had raised with her. Road safety was a top priority and the Council had signed up to the London Mayor's Vision Zero programme.
- One accident was one too many and she was sorry about the incident involving a child. The Council was determined to implement road safety on a borough wide basis. She had gone to Milkwood Road and was aware that the area could feel hostile because of cars and speed in which they travelled.
- One previous attempt to deal with the issue had been objected to by emergency services due to the negative impact it could cause to them. The ability for emergency services to adequately do their job was important but the Council could not negate its responsibility to the community. Plans were underway to draft appropriate measures and this would be consulted with residents.
- Officers would place temporary measures such as signage. She was happy to visit and examine the area further. One idea being explored involved closing the street for specific time periods, specifically the beginning and the end of the school day. It was important to find a solution to the issue and make roads safer.

### **Petitions**

The Mayor noted that he had received an additional petition relating to Fern Lodge since the last meeting of the Council.

Council received five petitions:

- i. From Councillor Jim Dickson, with 351 signatures relating to residents living in Milkwood Road who would like to see improved traffic calming, new pelican crossing and an improved enforcement for the 20mph limit.
- ii. From Councillor Jon Davies, with 15 signatures from residents who did not want their cul-de-sac to be turned into pedestrian route.
- lii. From Councillor Ibrahim Dogus, with 700 signatures for not cutting trees down outside Bayliss Road
- iv. From Councillor Ibrahim Dogus, with 250 signatures for residents against the new entrance to Southwark Station.
- v. From Councillor Marianna Masters, with 205 signatures for safer traffic in Valley Road.

## **5. CABINET STATEMENT**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Lib Peck, addressed Council and raised the following points:

- It was a time of great uncertainty and anxiety due to the terrible chaos at Westminster. She believed the Council should be at the forefront of campaigning against Brexit and the party needed to re-double its efforts to campaign for a people's vote.
- It was important to support European Union (EU) citizens living in Lambeth who felt anxious and uncertain during current times. Lambeth

was one of the first Councils to offer to pay for resettlement fees for EU nationals and now the government had belatedly agreed to do the same.

- Despite the last eight years of austerity and Brexit uncertainty, she was proud of the recent achievements the Council had made since it last met. This was the Council delivering on its manifesto.
- The Council would engage in discussion about climate change and the Council's commitment to carbon reduction by 2030 and this would sit alongside its cleaner air measures and divestment.
- There were new initiatives to stop smoking in playgrounds. Just before Christmas, a 24 hour shelter had been set up in Vauxhall, the Council had also opened an emergency shelter in Brixton Hill.
- The Council was attempting to tackle root causes of homelessness through the recommendations of Equality Commission, Councillor Davie's motion on poverty and building new homes.
- She was in Lollard Street recently to celebrate 70 new homes which had been built at Council rent. This was the Labour Council delivering for local people and it was standing up for residents and the most vulnerable. Whether it was on home building, leading way on living wage, tackling inequality or improving education, the Council had some excellent policies that it was implementing.
- She had been proud to lead the Labour Group and the Council for the last six years
- She thanked the Mayor for his kind words and was excited by the new challenge as the first Director of the first Violence Reduction Unit and she would take the last 17 years of experience and new innovative work from the public health model into the role.
- It would not be the last time she would speak in the Council Chamber but she could not pass up the opportunity to thank those who sent messages of support.
- Many members of staff had taken time to send emails as well as residents of Thornton ward who she had seen for 17 years and was seeing even more of at present time. She thanked her colleagues for their support.
- There had been many effective achievements made by the group and the Council. She had received messages from people working on Youth Justice, Young Offenders Centre (YOC), Advocacy Academy amongst others. It was working with these groups which she enjoyed the most as Leader.
- Lambeth's strength was in its diversity and dynamism and this was the spirit she would take with her. Lambeth would remain a great place to live, work and represent.

## **6. OPPOSITION STATEMENT**

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Jonathan Bartley, addressed Council, raising the following points:

- He wanted to offer his congratulations to the Leader of the Council on her new job.
- It was disappointing that the Leader of the Council had announced her appointment on twitter before other Council officers had been

informed.

- The Council had lost its Chief Whip and its Leader in the space of few weeks which led to residents asking why Labour Members were deserting their constituents, months after promising to represent them for the next four years. Broken promises and a failure to engage were the hallmarks of the administration.
- The Labour group had taken up symbolic consultations with residents regarding the Council's budgets, which had taken place long after the budgets had been prepared.
- Fake assurances had been given to residents that nothing would be done to Cressingham Gardens that residents did not want.
- The next Leader would do well to listen.
- In 2013, the Green Party warned Lambeth Labour that the six year freeze in Council Tax would leave the Council fewer options to tackle Tory austerity and protect the vulnerable.
- Had Lambeth not frozen the Council Tax, Lambeth would have an additional £10 million per year in revenue; this was equivalent to the £43 million the Council was now cutting over the next four years.
- The decision to freeze Council Tax was one of the most damaging decisions ever made by the Lambeth Labour Group and one for which vulnerable residents would pay for.
- He would warn against the reckless Lambeth's Estate Demolition Programme. The Council planned to underwrite the property speculation of Homes for Lambeth at a time of great uncertainty, cuts and a turbulent property market.
- Cabinet had now given the go ahead for hundreds of millions in loans to fund this speculation. This would lock the Council into a risky and reckless venture.
- If property market was to go into decline, then so would the Council. Maybe this was why senior members of the administration were leaving.
- Every Labour member in the Council chamber would be held responsible for what would happen and he would urge them to think again.
- More truly affordable homes could have been built in less risky ways.
- The Council may be losing a leader but did not have to forfeit its future.

## **7. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

### **1. Councillor Becca Thackray to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Andy Wilson:**

#### **Supplementary question**

Labour's proposed cuts to children's centres would save the Council £1.4 million over four years out of a total proposed saving of £43 million. This could be achieved by increasing the reserves by 9.6% rather than 10.1%. Will the Council do this?

#### **Supplementary answer**

The Children's Centres budgets were funded from the dedicated schools grant (which had been cut). The budget proposals put forward did not include Children's

Centres cuts as money for this as it did not exist. The Council was now coping with additional expenditure to come forward with well consulted plans for future budget proposals. Consultation emails were sent to 100,000 people and the Council had over 4,000 responses.

**2. Councillor Tim Briggs to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lib Peck:**

**Supplementary question**

This year, would Labour Council follow the Conservative policies by removing cuts to Adult Social Care or cutting care and blame someone else?

**Supplementary answer**

The Councillor should visit Wandsworth and talk to them about the virtues of having a living wage and other Labour policies that he now supported. He was aware of plans of adult social care. No further comment was required.

**3. Councillor Donatus Anyanwu to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lib Peck:**

**Supplementary question**

How will there be an emphasis of continuity regarding the Equalities Commission after the Leader steps down and moves to her new job?

**Supplementary answer**

The Equalities Commission had been set up and this took the details of how residents felt about their life chances and this would be used to gain information. Some of the 80 recommendations in the report had already been adopted by the Council and would be made intrinsic to how the Council worked. Some of the progress has been captured in the report and there had been a raised awareness of particular challenges that disabled adults faced. Events had been held celebrating the achievement of Black Caribbean children and raising their attainment and this would be maintained. All of Lambeth's contracts over 100k were paying over the London living wage and Lambeth was using its connections with businesses to make sure that this was continued. There were staff initiatives around the workforce ensuring the diversity at the higher end of the organisation and was more reflective of the community in the workforce.

**4. Councillor Ben Kind not present so the supplementary question fell**

**5. Councillor Pauline George to the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care (job share), Councillor Ed Davie**

**Supplementary question**

Could the Member confirm to the Council how the Lambeth Early Action Partnership (LEAP) programme had assisted in improving the mental health and life of young

people?

### **Supplementary answer**

LEAP was a ten year programme which had nearly £40 million invested in the four most deprived wards to support children and parents to get the best possible outcomes including around mental health. The social and emotional part of the programme supported family's, nurses, health visitors and others and focused on improving the wellbeing of parents to help the wellbeing of the children. Service users and evaluators had provided good feedback.

### **6. Councillor Joanna Reynolds to the Cabinet Member for Equalities and Culture, Councillor Sonia Winifred**

#### **Supplementary question**

Would some of the hard surfaces in Clapham Common be used instead of the green space area for events like Winterville?

#### **Supplementary answer**

The Council managed 72 parks and green spaces and 42 highways so the Council was committed to green spaces. Events were enjoyed by local residents and benefitted to the communities and green spaces. Winterville 2018 provided work experience for young people, provided concessions for schools, people living locally on lower incomes, residents living in the area which generated a £70,000 ring fenced funding via a parks investment levy. Event organisers were asked for damage deposit and had to pay for ground restoration. Working with grounds staff for the reinstatement of the ground following the Winterville event. Where it was felt that work was not progressing, a company had been hired to accelerate the work. The event organisers would continue to work with Lambeth. Following feedback from Winterville 2018, the Council was aware of how to put in place measures to deal with potential damage. Following the evaluation of Winterville in 2017, changes were made to deal with the potential issues that may arise in 2018 and there was a 20% reduction in the footprint of the event. The Council was in the process of a wholesale regeneration of the site in 2020. The Council was also reviewing the event strategy and this would take place in mid February 2019.

### **7. Councillor Joseph Corry-Roake to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Paul Gadsby**

#### **Supplementary question**

What steps did the Council take to ensure current and future refurbishments were completed to a high standard?

#### **Supplementary answer**

There were a set of procedures before, during and after the Lambeth Housing Standard. Meetings were held with residents who had access to resident liaison officers, monthly meetings were held with residents, inspections were made to homes during and after works were completed, resident's satisfaction surveys were completed and residents had a handover pack where they could advise on a 12 month defect period. The vast majority of Council tenants in Lambeth were happy

with the works produced and many homes built were safe, secure, dry and liveable. The Council was committed to fix any problems residents experienced and visits would be made to Clapham residents who had communicated their issues.

**8. Councillor Jackie Meldrum to the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care (job share), Councillor Ed Davie**

**Supplementary question**

How is the local Sustainability Transformation Partnership (STP) converting into an integrated care system taking local political decision making and engaging local communities in the 6 boroughs that made up the STP?

**Supplementary answer**

The South East London boroughs made up the National Health Service (NHS) South East London STP which formed an integrated care system. The integrated care system in Lambeth would be the first one of its kind in London and move away from the STP. This policy encouraged the NHS further cooperation between itself, local government and the trusts and not the market based model which was competitive in nature. In relation to addressing the democratic deficit, a Joint Overview and Scrutiny was in place that was attended by Councillor Normal and Councillor Adilypour as representatives. This was in addition to Councillor Ed Davie and Councillor Jim Dickson who were part of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The South East London Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs met regularly. The Cabinet members for Health also met regularly and had met recently at Southwark Town Hall, but more engagement was needed from local people and the Council. It was important to note that there were cultural working differences between the NHS and the Council. However, the Council could support the NHS to get the NHS closer to the people and this was something that the Council was committed to doing. Work had been completed with communities and partners and the Council was hoping to introduce the Local Care Networks. There would be 9-12 in Lambeth which would have a population of 30,000-50,000 each bringing more services to work with communities and local people, voluntary groups and ward Councillors to bring services closer to members of the public. Doctors would have an expanded ability to prescribe social programmes to patients in addition to traditional medicine.

**9. Councillor Nicole Griffiths to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lib Peck**

**Supplementary question**

Is the Council reassured that enough is being done to prevent further tragedies?

**Supplementary answer**

In relation to the Tulse Hill Estate and the issues raised at the community meeting, there was intensive work going on between officers and community groups and residents. This was supported by ward Councillors. In relation to some of the estate based improvements, these were scheduled to take place and some had already been completed. The young people that had raised the importance of the death of

the young person by a plaque and consideration had been given with regard to how to further commemorate the person and post traumatic therapy individuals needed. It was also important to consider the neighbourhood work which had produced greater sustainability plans. However, there was no room for complacency, either. It was important to ensure that the issues were being actively dealt with and that there was constant engagement with the community. The three ward Councillors in the area had done well to engage with the community in the way that they did. Councillor Peck would also do this more in London in her new role. It was important to respond as quickly as possible whilst also doing longer term preventative work.

**10. Councillor Scarlett O'Hara to the Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment and New Homes, Councillor Matthew Bennett**

**Supplementary question**

What reassurances could the Cabinet Member provide an inclusive opportunity for all residents to thrive?

**Supplementary answer**

He was pleased to welcome Mayor Khan into the Town Hall to announce Brixton as the first Creative Enterprise Zone. It was central to the Council's approach that while austerity was still prominent, the Council would work to provide more opportunities to local people. This meant affordable workspace both here and at International House. Ensuring that jobs were paid at London Living wage (17% of Lambeth residents were still paid below the Lambeth Living wage), attracting organisations into the those buildings like Business Launchpad and Capital Enterprise who would provide investment support and growth for businesses led by women and members of the Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) and Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) communities.

**11. Councillor Pete Elliott to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Paul Gadsby**

**Supplementary question**

Does the Cabinet Member think that the Metropolitan and Thames Valley Housing (MTVH) were indifferent to the housing crisis as the government?

**Supplementary answer**

There had been a lot of work done by Thornton Councillors to protect vulnerable residents on the estate. The answer provided was factually correct and Thornton councillors would work to protect the vulnerable residents in the area.

**8. REPORTS**

**8.1 IN YEAR CONSTITUTION CHANGES 2018/19**

Councillor Tim Briggs stated that the change related to Homes for Lambeth was insular in the way it was set up. It increased risk to resident. Not having any opposition representation on the Equalities Impact Assessment Panel was not acceptable and the Labour Administration should review their decision.

Councillor Pete Elliott was pleased with the changes to parental leave and it was a shame that the changes were presented as a whole as these would garner Green party support. The changes that remove public participation was not supported and the Green party wanted more engagement not less. The Council should focus on promoting methods of engagement rather than removing them if not used. He also expressed concern that the changes to the Ownership and Stewardship Panel meant that the Councillor receiving the special responsibility allowance for the relevant area did not need to be a member of the panel. It was disappointing that there was no opposition on the Equalities Impact Assessment Panel, and the opposition place was given to a ninth Labour Councillor. Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) relating to important decision were a weakness of the Council and having opposition representation could improve this.

Councillor Jessica Leigh informed Council that the changes on parental leave were welcomed. Changes such as these would make becoming a Councillor more accessible while increasing diversity.

Councillor Andy Wilson responded to the Green Party member by advising that the Homes For Lambeth business plan had been agreed by Cabinet and that the Labour group championed diversity and their Councillors represented this. Councillor Wilson also endorsed the changes on parental leave.

## **8.2 ADOPTION OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2019-2024**

Councillor Tim Briggs addressed Council and advised that a balance needs to be met on night time economies and needs of local residents. He also raised concern about the lack of information provided on licensed premises and that the cumulative impact area was not being upheld, as reported by residents. He also said that there was a perception that extensions were being granted without due consideration to the impact on residents. He urged the committee to visit premises rather than accepting written submissions.

The Chair of Licensing Councillor Fred Cowell informed Council that Lambeth were proud to have over 1200 licensed premises in the borough and a good policy balanced the interest of all parties. The policy before council had been extensively consulted on and there was more information and clearer guidance for applicants to ensure better quality applications. Some enforcement issues have been addressed mainly around problem drinking, unlawful employment and adhering to opening/closing times. The saturation zones were being managed properly and conditions upheld contrary to Councillor Briggs' statement. The Council were committed to maintain areas such as Brixton and Clapham as 24 hour economies and were working with venues to ensure the balance was met, and this policy delivered that.

Councillor Mohammed Seedat advised Councillor Briggs that many of the points he raised were operational matters whereas the report before them focused on the Licensing Policy. This was a widely consulted policy and the Council had a unique cultural offer spread across six main destinations in the borough (including West Norwood). The changes clarified the responsibilities of the Licensee and ensured they demonstrated they met

the conditions relating to modern slavery etc. We have also signed up to the night time safety charter. There may be a need for further amendments dependant on issues such as Brexit for example. He asked Council to support and approve the policy.

## 9. MOTIONS

### Reports:

In year Constitution Changes.

VOTE TOTALS:

YES:	42
ABSTAIN:	5
NO:	1
TOTAL:	48

**RESOLVED:** The recommendations in the report were approved.

Adoption of the Statement of Licensing Policy

VOTE TOTALS:

YES:	44
ABSTAIN:	6
NO:	0
TOTAL:	50

**RESOLVED:** The recommendations in the report were approved.

### Motions:

#### Motion 1: Green

To declare a climate emergency

Amendment 1: Labour

VOTE TOTALS:

YES	44
ABSTAIN	0
NO	6
TOTAL	50

The Labour Amendments was **CARRIED**

Substantive Motion as amended by Labour

VOTE TOTALS:

YES	49
ABSTAIN	0
NO	1

TOTAL 50

The motion was **CARRIED** and Council **RESOLVED**:

### **Motion to declare a Climate Emergency**

Full Council notes:

1. Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO2 levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;
2. In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we reduce our CO2eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible; [1]
3. Individual and collective action is needed to make this reduction. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;
4. Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption;
5. Unfortunately, our current plans and actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050; [2], [3]
6. In Lambeth, the consequences of government inaction to address this emergency will include:
  - Increased risk of flooding and damage to buildings and infrastructure.
  - Health problems, particularly for children, the disabled and older people.
  - Higher energy and food costs.
  - Increases in social injustice and inequality.
7. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in October, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities; [3]
8. This administration has shown leadership by being one of the first local authorities to set out a clear plan to divest their pension portfolio from carbon intensive fossil fuel assets.
9. This council has already taken bold steps towards carbon neutrality, including changing street lights to LED alternatives; reducing council offices from 14 buildings to two; changing our parks maintenance fleet to electric vehicles and prioritising greener and healthier transport methods in our draft Transport Strategy.
10. The Council is also working with local organisations, such as Repowering London, to build community energy projects; building new, high-quality, energy-efficient Council homes through Homes for Lambeth and is continuing to lobby for the Ultra Low Emission Zone to be extended across the borough.
11. The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, and Councils around the world, including Bristol, Brighton & Hove and Stroud, have responded by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.[4]

Full Council believes that:

1. Central government guidelines to cut carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 is not a sufficiently urgent response.
2. All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Lambeth, London and the UK that Councils

- commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible
3. Cities are uniquely placed to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions, as they are in many ways easier to decarbonise than rural areas – for example because of their capacity for heat networks and mass transit.
  4. The consequences of global temperatures rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity’s number one priority.
  5. Bold climate action can deliver economic and social benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings, market opportunities and improved health and well-being.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Declare a ‘Climate Emergency’;
2. Pledge to work to make the Borough of Lambeth carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions
3. Call on Westminster to address their chronic lack of action and funding for carbon reduction initiatives by providing the powers and resources to the Mayor of London and local authorities to make the 2030 target possible;
4. Continue to work with other Local Authorities (within London and across the UK) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;
5. Continue to work with partners across the borough and beyond to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;

Council resolves:

1. To call on central Government to provide additional powers and resources to support local and national action towards the 2030 target.
2. To pledge to do everything within the Council’s power to make Lambeth carbon neutral by 2030
3. To continue our planning and support in the borough for adaptation to the climate change that is already happening
4. To develop a strategy for Lambeth Council to play a leadership role in promoting community, public and business partnerships for this Carbon Neutral 2030 commitment throughout Lambeth
5. To continue to work with partner bodies across Lambeth and London to ensure the climate emergency is adequately reflected in the development and implementation of all borough wide strategies and plans including Transport and Local plans.
6. To continue to work with key partner organisations to investigate all possible sources of external funding to support this commitment
7. To draw up a Climate Change Action Plan and provide an annual report on progress made.

## **Motion 2: Labour**

Poverty in the UK and Lambeth

Amendment 1: Green

VOTE TOTALS:

YES	5
ABSTAIN	1
NO	43

TOTAL 49

The Green Amendment was not **CARRIED**

Original Motion

VOTE TOTALS:

YES	49
ABSTAIN	0
NO	1
TOTAL	50

The Original motion was **CARRIED** and Council **RESOLVED** to:

### **Poverty in the UK and Lambeth**

Lambeth Council:

- Welcomes the Report of Professor Philip Alston, United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, into poverty in the UK.
- Agrees with Professor Alston that: ‘the experience of the United Kingdom, especially since 2010, underscores the conclusion that poverty is a political choice. Austerity could easily have spared the poor, if the political will had existed to do so.’
- Agrees with Professor Alston that “local authorities, especially in England, which perform vital roles in providing a real social safety net have been gutted by a series of government policies.”
- Fully supports the statement that “For almost one in every two children to be poor in twenty-first century Britain is not just a disgrace, but a social calamity and an economic disaster, all rolled into one.”
- Notes that over the past eight years Lambeth’s funding from central government has been cut by 56%.
- Notes that whilst rightly condemning Conservative and Liberal Democrat central government policies such as austerity imposed on Councils and Universal Credit, Professor Alston praises the creativity of Councils in seeking to protect their vulnerable residents.

Notes that:

- Two-thirds of children living in poverty in London live in a household where at least one parent is in paid employment. In work poverty occurs because of low wages, exploitative contracts, cuts to welfare and rising living costs.
- Only 15 of London’s 32 boroughs are accredited London Living Wage employers. Lambeth was one of the first Councils to pay the London Living Wage and accreditation was granted by the Living Wage Foundation in 2012.

- The London Food Poverty Campaign named Lambeth as the council with the most effective approach to food poverty in London whilst neighbouring Conservative-run boroughs of Wandsworth and Westminster came last and second-last.
- This Council is supporting the creation of a record number of better paid jobs and new businesses. For example, we have recently secured the commitment for the London Living Wage at International House, a former Council office building which will become one of the biggest affordable workspaces in London.
- The Council's financial resilience strategy has helped thousands of residents with debt advice, to get the benefits they deserve, to boost their incomes and to be supported through the introduction of Conservative welfare reforms.
- This Council has made it a priority to give young people the best start in life, by securing record investment in the most deprived areas through the Lambeth Early Action Partnership, putting youth services in the hands of young people through the Young Lambeth Cooperative (YLC) and working with the voluntary sector to keep open adventure playgrounds, one o'clock clubs and children's centres despite the scale of government cuts.
- Despite this, too many Lambeth children - over 21,000 - still live in poverty.

Council resolves to:

- Commit to working with our public health team and across the Council to look into the issue of local poverty and reviewing if there is even more we can do to reduce it despite the failures of central government.
- Renew our financial resilience strategy to provide support and advice to people adversely affected by government welfare policies and universal credit.
- Deliver the recommendations of Lambeth's Equality Commission, including the 'Routeways' project which helps residents escape low pay.
- Ring-fence funding from our developer tax to invest in services for children and youth services in every part of Lambeth.
- Continue to work with schools, children's centres and the voluntary sector to protect front-line services in the borough from government cuts.
- Continue to campaign against the government's austerity measures which are increasing poverty and misery in Lambeth and across the country.

Motion 3: Conservative

To break all links with the Maduro regime

Amendment 1: Labour

VOTE TOTALS:

YES	44
ABSTAIN	5
NO	1
TOTAL	50

The Labour Amendments was **CARRIED**

Substantive Motion as amended by Labour

VOTE TOTALS:

YES	43
ABSTAIN	5
NO	1
TOTAL	49

The motion was **CARRIED** and Council **RESOLVED**:

### **Venezuela**

Council notes that Labour Councillors specifically condemned the violence against the people of Venezuela carried out by the Maduro regime, including death squads and *Chavismo* militias in the Labour group amendment to Councillor Briggs motion in October 2017.

Council notes that inflation in Venezuela is now 60,324% a year. An estimated 81% of the population live in poverty, with 9.6 million people having two or less meals a day. 8 million school children have stopped attending school. Water and electricity are cut off for parts of the day, health services have broken down, standards of living are plummeting, an estimated 2.6 million people are fleeing the country, yet still the regime tries to blame anyone but itself.

On behalf of the substantial Latin American community in Lambeth Council expresses its support for the people of Venezuela over their oppressors

Council believes that the Conservative party in Lambeth should stop using the appalling crimes of the Maduro regime for cheap and irrelevant political point-scoring and that Councillor Briggs should stop making false and absurd assertions about the actions of fellow Councillors.

Motion 4: Labour

Parental Leave

The Motion was **CARRIED** and Council **RESOLVED**:

### **Parental leave**

**This Council notes:**

- That analysis of the 2018 Local Election results by the Fawcett Society found that only 34% of Councillors in England are women, up 1% since 2017. Of the seats that were up for election in 2018, 38% went to women, up just 3 percentage points on 2014 when these seats were last contested;
- That across England, Labour has improved its representation since seats were last up for grabs, with 45% women compared with 40% in 2014, Liberal Democrat representation up from 34% to 36% whilst the Conservative Party saw a fall from 31% to 29% in the share of its Councillors who are female;
- That as of the 2018 local elections, only 26 out of 119 Labour Councils and only 33 out of 130 opposition Labour Groups are led by women;
- As of summer 2017, only 4% of Councils in England and Wales have parental leave policies, according to research by the Fawcett Society;
- That the equalities section of the Labour Party Democracy Review mandates all Labour Councils and Labour Groups to introduce a parental leave policy for to cover their group and their Council as applicable;
- That the role of a Councillor should be open to all, regardless of their background, and that introducing a parental leave policy is a step towards encouraging a wider range of people to become Councillors, and is also a step to encourage existing Councillors who may want to start a family to remain as Councillors;
- That parental leave must apply to parents regardless of their gender, and that it should also cover adoption leave to support those parents who choose to adopt.

**This Council resolves:**

- To adopt the parental leave policy drafted by the Local Government Association Labour Group's Women's Taskforce to give all Councillors an entitlement to parental leave after giving birth or adopting;
- To ensure that Councillors with children and other caring commitments are supported as appropriate;
- To notify the LGA Labour Group that this Council has passed a motion at full Council to adopt the parental leave policy.

Motion 5: Labour

Ending Section 21 evictions

Amendment 1: Conservative

VOTE TOTALS:

YES	2
ABSTAIN	0
NO	48
TOTAL	50

The Conservative Amendment was **NOT CARRIED**

Amendment 2: Green

VOTE TOTALS:

YES	5
ABSTAIN	0
NO	45
TOTAL	50

The Green Amendment was **NOT CARRIED**

Original Labour Motion

VOTE TOTALS:

YES	49
ABSTAIN	0
NO	1
TOTAL	50

The Motion was **CARRIED** and Council **RESOLVED**:

### **Ending Section 21 evictions**

This Council notes that:

- With homeownership out of reach for many people, the number of households nationally who are renting privately has almost doubled over the last 20 years, and it is estimated that four out of ten homes in Lambeth are now rented privately.
- The government's consultation earlier this year on changes to the length of fixed-term tenancies from six months to three years, whilst still permitting a tenant to end a tenancy early if they wish, was welcome as it gives tenants more security, and allows them a certain degree of flexibility in case their circumstances change.
- However, the Government did not consult on abolishing Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988, which allows landlords to evict tenants at the end of a fixed-term tenancy without providing them with a reason. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation recently estimated that 80 percent of all evictions since 2015 occurred under the provisions of Section 21.
- The threat of a "no-fault eviction" can cause great insecurity and stress for people who rent privately in Lambeth and it discourages tenants from complaining about substandard privately rented accommodation.
- Lambeth Council is taking action to improve conditions in the private rented sector by expanding its Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licensing scheme and prosecuting rogue landlords who put tenants at risk with substandard and overcrowded accommodation.
- The Lambeth Labour manifesto pledged 'to campaign for more powers from

central government to improve the standard and security of the private rented sector and for controls on rent rises.’

This Council believes that:

- Abolishing section 21 would help to make renting more secure, improve standards and increase tenant confidence.

This council resolves to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, asking him to abolish Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988 and to speedily implement the Government’s other proposal to extend fixed-term tenancies as the very first steps to end insecurity and unfairness in the private rented sector.
- Introduce a Private Renters Charter, as set out in the Lambeth Labour manifesto, to set out the rights of renters and what support the council can give to them.
- To consult with private renters, landlords and organisations that support private renters on what the charter should include and what more the council could do to support them.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm

MAYOR  
Wednesday 13 February 2019

Date of Despatch: Thursday 31 January 2019

Contact for Enquiries: Wayne Chandai

Tel: 020 7926 0029

Fax: (020) 7926 2361

E-mail: [wchandai@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:wchandai@lambeth.gov.uk)

Web: [www.lambeth.gov.uk](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk)