

COUNCIL

Wednesday 22 January 2020 at 7.00 pm

MINUTES

The Worshipful the Mayor in the Chair

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Councillors Councillor Danial Adilypour, Councillor David Amos, Councillor Donatus Anyanwu, Councillor Liz Atkins, Councillor Mary Atkins, Councillor Jonathan Bartley, Councillor Matthew Bennett, Councillor Anna Birley, Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite, Councillor Linda Bray, Councillor Tim Briggs, Councillor Lucy Caldicott, Councillor Marcia Cameron, Councillor Rezina Chowdhury, Councillor Malcolm Clark, Councillor Joe Corry-Roake, Councillor Kevin Craig, Councillor Edward Davie, Councillor Jon Davies, Councillor Jim Dickson, Mayor Ibrahim Dogus, Councillor Stephen Donnelly, Councillor Jacqui Dyer, Councillor Pete Elliott, Councillor Peter Ely, Councillor Paul Gadsby, Councillor Annie Gallop, Councillor Nicole Griffiths, Councillor Nigel Haselden, Councillor Dr. Mahamed Hashi, Councillor Claire Holland, Councillor Jack Hopkins, Councillor Maria Kay, Councillor John Kazantzis, Councillor Ben Kind, Councillor Jessica Leigh, Councillor Joshua Lindsey, Councillor Jackie Meldrum, Councillor Irfan Mohammed, Councillor Philip Normal, Councillor Jane Pickard, Councillor Joanna Reynolds, Councillor Iain Simpson, Councillor Joanne Simpson, Councillor Becca Thackray, Councillor Tina Valcarcel, Councillor Christopher Wellbelove, Councillor Clair Wilcox, Councillor Timothy Windle and Councillor Sonia Winifred

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Scott Ainslie, Councillor Fred Cowell, Councillor Pauline George, Councillor Mohamed Jaser, Councillor Mohammed Seedat, Councillor Martin Tiedemann and Councillor Andy Wilson

ABSENT:

Councillor Adrian Garden, Councillor Marianna Masters, Councillor Jennie Mosley and Councillor Emma Nye

1. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 October 2019 be approved as a correct record of proceedings and signed.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Council noted the results, set out below, from the December 2019 general election:

Constituency	Member of Parliament	Party
Dulwich and West Norwood	Helen Hayes	Labour
Streatham	Bell Ribeiro-Addy	Labour
Vauxhall	Florence Eshalomi	Labour and Co-operative Party

Councillor Tim Briggs paid tribute to the many years of service offered to residents by Kate Hoey who had stood down as the MP for Vauxhall, and highlighted that the Conservatives had won a majority in the House of Commons with 365 MPs.

Councillor Jonathan Bartley, Leader of the Opposition, reflected on the election results across the UK and highlighted that the Green Party was looking forward to building cross-party relationships with the boroughs MPs, especially in relation to taking action to address the climate emergency.

Councillor Jack Hopkins, Leader of the Council, congratulated the newly elected MPs and thanked the Acting Returning Officer and election staff for their hard work in conducting a well organised election. Councillor Hopkins highlighted the important work that was taking place locally in relation to climate change and stated that more needed to be done by central government to tackle the emergency.

4. PETITIONS, PNQS AND DEPUTATIONS

a) Deputations

1. A deputation was made to the Council requesting more openness and community participation in Lambeth's citizens' assembly on climate change. The speaker specifically requested an update on progress in relation to the remit of the assembly and opportunities for local outreach. A number of other issues were highlighted, including:
 - The fact that Lambeth Council had become the first local authority in London, and one of the first in the country, to declare a climate emergency.
 - Concerns relating to delays in setting up the citizens' assembly.
 - A request for the Council to confirm who had been commissioned to facilitate the assembly.
 - The need for further information to clarify how and when residents could engage with the assembly in order to develop a strategy / set of recommendations to reduce carbon emissions across the borough.
 - The importance of ensuring local planning policy, including the Lambeth Local Plan, adequately addressed climate change issues.
 - A request for the Council to confirm how the assembly would be funded.

The speaker concluded his presentation by stating he was looking forward to working with the Council moving forward to ensure the assembly delivered on its objectives.

The Deputy Leader of the Council (Environment and Clean Air), Councillor Claire Holland responded. Council noted that:

- The speaker was thanked for his speech.
- Following regular meetings with a wide range of environmental groups, including Extinction Rebellion and Mums for Lungs, it had been decided to delay setting up the assembly to ensure it was organised robustly.
- A steering group, involving a wide range of representatives including community groups, some of the borough's biggest institutions, young people and climate groups, had been established
- An independent organisation would be commissioned to run the citizens' assembly. It was highlighted that this organisation would be appointed in due course.
- Assembly meetings would be open to the public and information would be provided to clarify how residents' could contribute.
- Despite the positive work that was taking place across Lambeth greater leadership was required from central government to tackle the climate emergency.

2. A deputation was made to the Council in relation to the need to address issues relating to school exclusions in Lambeth. Speakers from the Advocacy Academy and representatives from Dunraven school shared personal stories, statistics concerning the impact of exclusions and raised concerns about stop and search and racism within the Education and Criminal Justice System.

The Deputy Leader of the Council (Children and Young People), Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite responded. Council noted that:

- The speakers were thanked for their powerful contributions, both at the meeting and in bringing about social change by challenging agencies across the borough to do more to reduce school exclusions in Lambeth.
- Initiatives such as Raising the Game had made a positive contribution to tackling both the attainment gap and disproportionately high exclusion rates faced by Black Caribbean pupils across the borough.
- Reducing inequalities in exclusions was a priority for the Deputy Leader (Children and Young People).
- Despite provisional figures for 2018/19 highlighting that school exclusion rates in Lambeth had reduced by 73%, more needed to be done across the borough to reduce the number to zero.

3. A deputation was made to the Council about inspiring and supporting opportunities for young people. The speaker highlighted a number of issues, including:

- The work that was carried out by Inspirational Youth in Streatham. It was noted that this organisation worked with young people and adults to unlock potential through self-awareness, evolution and empathy.
- The need for organisations to work together to promote self discipline, self improvement and to ensure school initiatives were complemented by other activities.
- The importance of involving young people in the design of local services and programmes delivered across the borough by various organisations.

The Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Community Safety (job share), Councillor Jacqui Dyer responded. Council noted:

- The positive impact of Inspirational Youth.
- The pressures faced by children and young people.
- The importance of listening to and engaging with young people to ensure local services could respond to their needs and demands.
- Initiatives that were in place, and the work that was still needed, to make Lambeth one of the best places in the country for children and young people to grow up in.

b) Petitions

Council received a petition from Councillor Nicole Griffiths, with 149 signatures, concerning the Streatham Hub Children's Centre.

5. REPORTS

5.1 LAMBETH MADE SAFER STRATEGY UPDATE

Councillor Jack Hopkins, Leader of the Council introduced the report and highlighted, that the programme had only existed for one year but there had been considerable progress with implementation. He believed one of the most powerful parts of the strategy was the engagement and was complimentary of Councillor Jacqui Dyer and Councillor Mohammed Seedat for their hard work on this programme.

The external speakers highlighted some of problems faced by young people in Lambeth, these included:

- The work on the Tulse Hill estate to reach out and engage with young people.
- The impact on the mental health of young people who were caught up in the system.
- More support should be provided to young people who were involved with or affected by violent events.
- The services provided by the Gaia Centre mainly targeted those that were aged 11 to 17 who had experienced sexual or domestic violence.

- That networks and partnerships for grassroots organizations in order to provide support be expanded.

Councillor Briggs, Conservative Member, discussed the report explaining the appendices were the most helpful in terms of understanding the strategy and the work stream of the strategy. He felt that parts of the main report were confusing and too broad and some of it needed further clarification. He also advised that the report generally lacked evidence around arguments on inequality and racism.

Councillor Nicole Griffiths, Co-Leader of the Green Group believed that the report was easy to understand and was clear that a lot of effort had gone into the development of the strategy which had the full support of the Green Group and were thankful to the Cabinet Members for taking on their feedback and recommendations. However, Councillor Griffiths advised that they would like to see the following included:

- greater use of youth outreach teams to reach young people; encourage children to attend youth clubs from a younger age;
- extensive, realistic, and relatable education in schools about drugs; better communication with the Police and the Community on Police school visits;
- accessible advice on the Lambeth website that offers guidance to parents that are concerned their child might be involved in dangerous activities
- all school should have access not just to social workers, but also pupil referral units, counselling, experienced youth workers and family support.

Councillor Jacqui Dyer, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Community Safety advised that this strategy was an excellent step forward, collectively working together, in a collaborative way to address a difficult change. She explained that every part of the system needed to be involved in order to make progress. The Council needed to continue to involve community members, giving them a voice to help them co-create and co-deliver strategies like these.

RESOLVED: That (1) the progress in relation to the serious youth violence strategy be noted; and that (2) the current and planned future approach be endorsed.

5.2 YOUTH COUNCIL ANNUAL UPDATE

The Youth Council presented their annual report to Council and highlighted various activities throughout the past year. This included discussion on the various fairs and events that the Youth Council attended and hosted throughout 2019.

Councillor Tim Briggs commended the Youth Councillors for being

involved in the Youth Council, their out-of-the-box thinking, and the controversial topics/discussions they lead within the community.

Councillor Nicole Griffiths thanked the Youth Councillors for their report and the amazing work they were doing and showed interest in future collaboration.

Councillor Jenny Brathwaite thanked the Youth Councillors for being the voice of the young people in the Lambeth Community. She then went on to praise the Youth Councillors on how talented, capable, and driven they were. She ended by agreeing with Councillor Briggs that having radical ideas and discussing controversial topics were the way to move forward and spread the message.

RESOLVED: That the Youth Council Annual update be noted.

5.3 CONSTITUTION: IN YEAR CHANGES 2019/20

Councillor Tim Briggs discussed changes in relation to the housing content of the report, particularly the resident engagement section. He stated that this part should not have been a reference within the Constitution and instead should have been a separate and more detailed terms of reference.

Furthermore, judgment on whether members were abiding to certain actions was currently seen as too vague and subjective. He also saw the Labour Council as too weak to get on top of what was happening to the Housing Department. Councillor Briggs was looking forward to further discussions with Councillor Gadsby, Cabinet Member for Housing, on the matter.

RESOLVED: That the changes to the Council's Constitution, set out in Appendix 1 of the report presented, be approved.

5.4 DRAFT REVISED LAMBETH LOCAL PLAN PROPOSED

Councillor Becca Thackray thanked the team responsible for the report and all the hard work and research done over the years to accumulate the level of details found within it. She went on to discuss the Carbon Emissions Report and that she would like for it to be shared with members of the Planning Committee as well as the developers. She hoped that the Lambeth Local Plan would be used as the basis for the community to be at the forefront of tackling climate emergency. Councillor Thackray claimed the Lambeth Local Plan Report demonstrated all the requirements at a very high level. To further support the initiative, Councillor Thackray would like to see the formation of a Carbon Budget for the Council.

Councillor Bennett explained that this was the third version of the Local Plan and was due back later in the year. He further advised that since the last round of consultation, 300 responses were sent in and over 2000

points were raised.

Councillor Bennett stated that a huge amount of progress had been made for the planning policies, pointing out three in particular: 1) carbon neutral efforts for Lambeth Council would be pushed 20% beyond current requirements to be even more energy efficient, including entrenching car-free development wherever possible. 2) Affordable housing currently had a strong track record and would continue to do so in the new Local Plan. The Mayor was also making strides in including the current housing mandates in the London Plan as they were a priority for Lambeth. 3) Building an inclusive economy was a key area of the Local Plan. This included making sure the London living wage was paid, having affordable work spaces, and providing spaces in big commercial developments for local businesses, social enterprises, and local charities.

Councillor Wilcox noted that planning needed to continue to adapt and change and the new Local Plan aimed to instil that for the community all whilst treading lightly on both London and National policies. This new plan aimed to: drive the creation of more homes, boost local economy, create places Lambeth can be proud of, safeguard Lambeth green spaces and heritage, and promote sustainability in the face of climate emergency. She continued by discussing the process that the Planning Committee undertook to clarify why decisions and amends could take so long and how each topic of the Plan varied in complexity. Councillor Wilcox also expressed concern about the members of the public and members of the Council not only having the opportunity to share their opinion but to also actually be heard.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Draft Revised Lambeth Local Plan Proposed Submission Version at Appendix 1 and the Proposed Changes to the Policies Map at Appendix 2 be approved for pre-submission publication and submission to government for independent examination.

- (2) That any minor amendments (typographical edits and formatting) of the documents in Appendices 1 and 2 prior to the start of pre-submission publication be delegated to the Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning Investment and New Homes.

6. CABINET STATEMENT

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jack Hopkins, addressed Council and highlighted:

- He had visited the North Brixton Islamic Cultural Centre in January, with Florence Eshalomi MP and other councillors, to offer support following anti-Islamic graffiti being spray painted on a building near the centre.

- The Council would work in partnership with the borough's diverse community to eliminate hate crime.
- The importance of working together and collaborating to address issues affecting the borough. This included updates on the work of the Lambeth Schools Partnership and activities that were taking place with other stakeholders, including a diverse range of community organisations, to improve outcomes for local people on matters relating to violence affecting young people, housing, and climate change.

The Leader of the Council concluded by stating that the borough's greatest asset was its diversity and by working together, and putting differences to one side, much more could be achieved in the year ahead.

7. OPPOSITION STATEMENT

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Jonathan Bartley, addressed Council and highlighted:

- That the Green Party had reflected on the results of the December 2019 general election and the uncertainty that local authorities, including Lambeth, would face following Brexit.
- Support for a letter that had been sent to EU citizens in January, by the Leader of the Council, encouraging local residents to apply for settled/pre-settled status. In order to make the process as smooth as possible it was noted that the Council had waived any fees for verification checks.
- The Constitutional Working Group had asked for the European Flag to be flown at the Town Hall on Friday 31 January 2020 ("Brexit Day").
- The progress that had been made since the Council declared a climate emergency in January 2019 was welcomed. However, it was emphasised that more still needed to be done across a wide range of areas including procurement, transport, housing, the corporate reduction plan, and the need for the citizens' assembly to be given real teeth. The importance of setting an annual carbon budget was also highlighted.
- Support for the Future Generations Bill which provided an opportunity to embed long-termism, prevention and the interests of future generations at the heart of government policy-making. It was hoped that these principles would be used by the Council to improve local policy moving forward.

8. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

1. Councillor Jonathan Bartley to the Deputy Leader of the Council (Environment and Clean Air), Councillor Claire Holland:

Supplementary question

Councillor Bartley asked whether the Council would set a carbon budget for each of the 10 years to 2030?

Supplementary answer

Councillor Holland responded by stating work was already underway to better

understand the Council's carbon emissions baseline. As a result, until this analysis had been completed, the Council was not in a position to commit to such budgets. It was also stressed that tackling the climate emergency went beyond setting an annual allocated carbon budget and required work and decision-making across the council and beyond based on a sound evidence base.

2. Councillor Tim Briggs to the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Community Safety, Councillor Jacqui Dyer:

Supplementary question

Councillor Briggs wanted to understand why Labour councillors in Lambeth had refused to condemn the Mayor of London for his failure to address rising crime across London. Councillor Briggs asked the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Community Safety to explain why, when City Hall staffing costs had increased by 82%, they had failed to put pressure on the Mayor to use his budget more effectively, especially when crime in London had increased by 21% while figures for the rest of the country had reduced by 8%.

Supplementary answer

It was noted Councillor Dyer had left the meeting and that a written response would be provided.

3. Councillor Nanda Manley-Browne to the Deputy Leader (Children and Young People), Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite:

Supplementary question

Councillor Manley-Browne asked whether the Council, specifically in relation to the Raising the Game project, had done any work to develop an inclusive curriculum and whether the Deputy Leader (Children and Young People) would be open to working with other groups such as the Black Curriculum Project as part of this.

Supplementary answer

Councillor Brathwaite agreed that this was an important issue and confirmed that an important work stream for the Raising the Game project was the development of a toolkit to help create an inclusive diversified curriculum for schools across the borough. Reflecting on her recent visits to schools, who had introduced a more diverse curriculum, Councillor Brathwaite highlighted such changes had improved the learning experiences for children. The Deputy Leader (Children and Young People) concluded by stating that the Council would be willing to work with any organisation who shared the Council's values and commitments to deliver a more inclusive education for all children and young people in Lambeth.

4. Councillor Marianna Masters to the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, Councillor Ed Davie:

Supplementary question

It was noted that Councillor Masters was not in attendance, so the Mayor moved

to the next question.

5. Councillor Tim Windle to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Paul Gadsby:

Supplementary question

Councillor Windle asked whether the Cabinet Member for Housing was aware of any standout examples in relation to projects that had used funding for green spaces and growing so that lessons learnt could be shared.

Supplementary answer

Councillor Gadsby provided an update on various environmental projects which would be delivered across his portfolio in the year ahead. This included schemes that had been designed taking into account the Council's commitment to tackling climate change, including the roll out of additional electrical charging points and an increase in cycle racks across a number of estates. It was also explained that the Housing Projects team had been working closely with the Section 106 and Neighbourhood Housing teams to identify funding applicable to estates in need of green landscaping improvements. Other projects in Stockwell, and elsewhere, were also highlighted.

6. Councillor Danny Adilypour to the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Jonathan Bartley:

Supplementary question

Councillor Adilypour welcomed the response from the Leader of the Opposition and accepted Councillor Bartley's apology for what he believed was a genuine mistake. Despite this, Councillor Bartley was asked what he was doing to increase opportunities for ethnic minorities to contribute to policy making, including opportunities to speak at events, within the Green Party?

Supplementary answer

Councillor Bartley stated that the Green Party was committed to standing up for the rights and concerns of BME communities but recognised more needed to be done to ensure this was reflected in both the party's policies and by ensuring BME party members and elected representatives were supported in their political careers, with opportunities to contribute at all levels of the party.

7. Councillor Liz Atkins to the Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment and New Homes, Councillor Mathew Bennett:

Supplementary question

Councillor L. Atkins welcomed the recently published Streatham Investment and Growth Strategy 2019-30 and asked whether the Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment and New Homes would work with the Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre, Streatham BID and the current leaseholders to determine the meanwhile use of the building. Councillor L. Atkins asked the Cabinet Member to support plans, which had been put forward by the Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre, to carry out a viability study and to publicly endorse their bid to crowdfund costs through the Mayor's CrowdFund London 2020 scheme and to

provide funding through Lambeth's Community Infrastructure Levy.

Supplementary answer

Councillor Bennett responded by stating he fully supported the work that had taken place to refurbish and rejuvenate Streatham Hill Theatre but recognised more still needed to be done. With this in mind, the Cabinet Member confirmed he was happy to support the suggestion that had been put forward by Councillor L. Atkins.

8. Councillor Tina Valcarcel to the Cabinet Member to the Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector and Partnerships, Councillor Jim Dickson:

Supplementary question

It was noted that Councillor Valcarcel was not in attendance, so the Mayor moved to the next question.

9. Councillor Pete Elliott to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Paul Gadsby:

Supplementary question

Councillor Elliott highlighted that he was happy with the response provided in relation to dealing with rodents on the Central Hill Estate. However, it was explained that this was just one of many issues that needed to be addressed. As a result, Councillor Elliott asked the Cabinet Member for Housing whether he would be willing to work together, with local residents, to look at options to re-establish a community centre on the estate.

Supplementary answer

Councillor Gadsby responded by stating that without further information he was unable to provide any commitment but would be happy to meet with Councillor Elliott to establish whether his suggestion to re-establish a community centre on the Central Hill Estate was viable.

10. Councillor Jon Davies to the Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment and New Homes, Councillor Mathew Bennett:

Supplementary question

Councillor Davies welcomed the response from the Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment and New Homes but asked for an update on when the actions, to improve member and community involvement in mayor planning applications, would be implemented.

Supplementary answer

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment and New Homes explained a number of the proposed actions required changes to the Council's Constitution. As a result, it was hoped that these changes would be put forward for consideration by Council over the next couple of months.

11. Councillor Nicole Griffiths to the Deputy Leader of the Council (Children and Young People), Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite:

Supplementary question

On the basis that the Council could have made an alternative decision, Councillor Griffiths asked the Deputy Leader of the Council (Children and Young People) to inform residents that the decision to reduce services or close Sure Start Children's Centres was one that had been taken locally by Lambeth, rather than as a direct result of external pressures.

Supplementary answer

Councillor Brathwaite responded by explaining that the Council's budget had been cut by more than half since 2010 by successive Conservative governments. It was also highlighted that changes to the Dedicated Schools Grant had resulted in £1.4m less per year for the Council to spend on children's centres. As a result, the need to make changes had been driven by significant reductions in the amount of money the Council received from central government. In response to these reductions it was explained that the Council had worked with staff, parents and schools to look at a model that delivered the best outcomes for each local area. It was recognised that such changes were not easy but that Lambeth still had the third most number of children's centres in London and was committed, despite cuts from central government, to providing excellent services across the borough.

During the discussion of this item the guillotine fell at 10.00pm.

RESOLVED: That the meeting continue for a further period of up to 30 minutes.

12. Councillor Joseph Corry-Roake to the Deputy Leader of the Council (Environment and Clean Air), Councillor Claire Holland:

Supplementary question

Councillor Corry-Roake asked for reassurances that the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups across the borough would be involved in both the planning and policy making process of the Council's response to the climate emergency.

Supplementary answer

The Deputy Leader (Environment and Clean Air) agreed that it was vital for the boroughs most disadvantaged communities to be fully involved across policy making in this area. This was particularly important as research had shown that vulnerable and disadvantaged groups were disproportionately affected by climate change.

13. Councillor Stephen Donnelly to the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Community Safety, Councillor Jacqui Dyer:

Supplementary question

Councillor Donnelly welcomed the response to his question and encouraged the Council to make full use the Employment and Skills Strategy.

Supplementary answer

It was noted Councillor Dyer had left the meeting and that a written response

would be provided.

9. MOTIONS

Motion 1: Green

The Labour amendment to the motion was **CARRIED** and Council **RESOLVED**:

Lambeth Living Rent

Lambeth Council notes:

- 1) Current high costs of Rent as a result of our broken housing market are unaffordable for any but higher income earners (the average wage is £26-30,000 whilst average rents are half that). High rents within the private rented sector in London are pricing people out of homeownership and pushing people into debt. Hardest hit are the younger generation, women, people from low income backgrounds and BAME communities.
- 2) The proportion of households who own their own home is at its lowest level for 30 years. Polling conducted by Shelter in 2017 found that one in three low earning private renters had to borrow money to pay rent.
- 3) Since 2010 the average rent has risen three times as fast as average incomes.
- 4) One in four families are now raising children in a private rented home, compared to just one in ten a decade ago.
- 5) Research by Generation Rent has found that measures, such as rent controls, which sets rents at 30% of local income would make renting affordable for those on average incomes and would also allow renters to save.
- 6) Genuinely affordable rents give people the freedom to live a decent life, helping lift families out of poverty and not 'just manage each month.
- 7) The failure of the current Conservative government to listen to local authorities like Lambeth and address other important aspects of the housing crisis, particularly the limited funding available to build more council level rent homes and genuinely affordable homes for sale.

Council further notes:

- 1) Local authorities' currently have limited influence on private sector rental values or powers over private landlords.
- 2) Lambeth's corporate parenting responsibility and duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act in preventing homelessness, including towards those who despite losing their home are not deemed to be in priority need.
- 3) The prevalence of eviction on the grounds of rent arrears, leading to so-called "intentional homelessness" and the council's duty to help all who are homeless to secure suitable accommodation, regardless of whether they are intentionally homeless'.
- 4) Lambeth Labour's council motion of January 2019 which called for the abolition of Section 21 evictions which are at the heart of many unfair evictions.
- 5) Lambeth councillors' high level of casework on housing issues including evictions, arrears, homelessness, temporary accommodation and the resulting physical and mental health issues caused by housing insecurity, high costs and poor standards.
- 6) The launch of Lambeth Homelessness and rough sleeping strategy which has been welcomed by the sector and partners in the borough and which aims to

support those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

- 7) The success of the London Living Wage campaign in raising awareness of low pay and encouraging more employers to follow Lambeth council's lead and pay a living wage.
- 8) The London Living Rent levels set for every ward in London by the Mayor of London using average local incomes and ward-level house prices based on 1/3rd of average local household incomes and adjusted for the number of bedrooms in each home.
- 9) London has the worst gender pay gap in the UK and childcare costs are 28% higher than the rest of the UK. London is by far the most expensive place to be a student in the UK. Any calculation of Living Rent must therefore take into account the lower incomes of women and should include a separate 'Student Living Rent' figure, as proposed by London Assembly Member Sian Berry.
- 10) A third of Lambeth children are currently living in poverty. Contributors to this include high rents, low incomes, benefit caps and housing benefit being set at 80% of renters rent.

Council resolves to:

- 1) Support the administration's manifesto commitments to support private renters, including the introduction of a HMO licensing scheme, implementation of maximum fines of up to £30,000 for rogue landlords, the naming and shaming of prosecuted bad landlords, the planned consultation from Lambeth council into extending selective licensing more widely across the borough and the plans for a Private Rented Charter.
- 2) Support the call from Mayor Sadiq Khan for powers to control rent rises to be devolved to London.
- 3) Ensure that questions on rent levels and controls will be part of the planned consultation on selective licensing and to ask Cabinet to commission a report to explore the idea of setting and publishing an annual 'Lambeth Living Rent' for the private rented sector with a view to exerting influence on the rental market within Lambeth. The Lambeth Living Rent should be calculated using a methodology that utilises existing annually published data based on detailed research from organisations, such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Existing methodologies will be evaluated for their relevance to Lambeth and their alignment with the values of this Council.
- 4) Continue to lobby the Government for the power to establish and enforce local rent controls and for more powers to protect private renters, as the Cabinet Member for Housing did last year.
- 5) To continue with plans for the implementation of a private landlord licensing scheme; and
- 6) To call on the government to pass legislation to enable the Council to control rents
- 7) Continue to push for the highest number of council level rents on all new build housing proposals and continue to intervene directly where the private market fails by building the new council homes that residents need.
- 8) Support the work of Lambeth's scrutiny committee which has had four sessions in the past year on housing issues.
- 9) Promote the work of all organisations working to support private renters such as London Renters Union, South London Citizens, Generation Rent and

Shelter to private renters in the borough.

Motion 2: Labour

The Green amendment to the motion was **CARRIED** and Council **RESOLVED**:

The crisis in young people's mental health

Council believes that, despite the best efforts of Lambeth's families, communities, health, social care and education workers, our young people's mental health is in crisis.

Council notes that in the UK, one in eight children and young people have a diagnosable mental health condition. The number of young people presenting at A&E departments with mental health conditions has tripled since the Conservative/Lib Dem coalition came to power in 2010.

Council notes that due to a decade of austerity and funding shortages, local authorities and the NHS are only able to support fewer than 50% of the young people who need to access mental health services.

Council notes the recent survey by Young Minds, the leading charity for young people's mental health in the UK, which found that: Two thirds of young people could not find support when they first needed it; 75% of young people agreed that they had had to manage their mental health on their own when they couldn't find help elsewhere but only 17% felt confident in their ability to do this; and 90% of GPs agreed that they had seen a rise in the number of young people seeking support for their mental health in the last three years.

Council notes that in Lambeth suicide is the leading cause of death amongst young people aged 20 to 34. Suicide accounts for over 6 men and nearly 3 women per 100,000 residents (25 people per year).

Council notes that an inadequate and penalising benefits system, inequality and deprivation, poverty, housing insecurity and the related trauma result in higher instances of mental health conditions and higher suicide rates.

Council notes the evidence that by reducing poverty, inequality and focusing on wellbeing through properly funded public services life expectancy increases and in turn suicide rates would decline.

Council notes that the Conservative Government has promised to increase funding to the NHS, but has provided few details for how this will benefit mental health services. Council further notes that local authorities like Lambeth, who provide vital social care services that are crucial for people living with mental health conditions, have seen their budgets cut by more than 50% since 2010.

This Council:

- Commits to implementing the London Borough of Lambeth's Suicide Prevention Strategy 2018-2021 to help improve the mental health and wellbeing of its residents.
- Welcomes the holding of the Lambeth Poverty and Health Summit in

November and looks forward to implementing its proposals in 2020.

- Welcomes the creation of Lambeth Together and supports its efforts to continue to improve mental health provision in Lambeth.
- Calls on the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care and Lambeth's Suicide Prevention Lead to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care outlining the scope of the mental health crisis for young people in Lambeth and call for a detailed funding strategy from the government which adequately responds to the crisis in young people's mental health.
- Calls for the government to prioritise the NHS Long Term Plan for the first term of Parliament and to prioritise adequate funding for mental health services within this plan.
- Commits to supporting the Mayor of London's #ZeroSuicideLDN campaign by providing suicide prevention training to all Lambeth staff and contractors.
- Commits to campaigning to get 100,000 Londoners to take suicide awareness courses, such as those facilitated by Thrive LDN, a suicide prevention group.
- Commits to ensure the provision of counsellors and wellbeing practitioners in schools and colleges.

Motion 3: Conservative

The motion was not carried.

Motion 4: Labour

RESOLVED:

Defending Lambeth's diverse communities

Council notes that since the referendum in 2016, reports of hate crime in the UK have almost doubled. Council further notes that we live in a society where abuse and hatred is becoming more commonplace, and many seek to find differences with each other instead of celebrating similarities and shared values.

Council believes that as elected representatives, we have a responsibility and duty to stand up for all of our residents, no matter their background, experiences, or beliefs. Council further believes that it is vital that we lead in establishing a more respectful and open space for debate.

Council notes that the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, has called black people 'piccaninnies', gay men 'bumboys', compared women who wear the Burqa to 'bank robbers' and said EU residents treat 'Britain as their own', as if this country was not their home. Council believes that expressing such views, and having seemingly no remorse for doing so, is not befitting of the highest office in the country, let alone elected office of any kind. Council further believes that the normalisation of such hateful and bigoted views at the heart of British politics will normalise and legitimise more hatred, and potentially feed the trend of increasing hate crime in the UK.

Council expresses its concern that the despicable way the Government has treated some Windrush Generation residents may be repeated with our EU residents with the withdrawal of Britain from the European Union. Council believes that our greatest asset is our diversity, and we value all of our communities, including all of our residents from the European Union. Council further believes that our EU citizens

are an integral part of our communities and make an invaluable contribution to our businesses, the delivery of our public services, and to wider public life and we will stand with them and do all we can to protect them in the period of transition that will follow.

This Council:

- Is proud that tens of thousands of citizens come from other parts of the Commonwealth, European Union and elsewhere to work, study and make their home in our diverse borough.
- We value and appreciate the huge contribution immigrants make to our social, cultural and economic life in Lambeth, London and the UK.
- We are particularly grateful to those who work in our public sector including health, social care, education and community safety without whom services would collapse.
- We are also proud that Lambeth is home to have one of the UK's largest LGBT+ communities and has vibrant Muslim, Jewish and other religious communities.
- Commends the Leader of the Council for writing to all EU citizens in Lambeth expressing these sentiments, and encouraging them to request settled status and asking for their views on what more we could do to celebrate and support their contribution.
- Commends the council for supporting our EU residents applying for settled status ahead of Brexit, with fee free identity document scanning for those applying to the government's EU Settlement Scheme in order to make sure monetary barriers do not come in the way of our EU citizens applying for settled status.
- Commits to support efforts to make Lambeth a Zero Hate Crime borough and stand with our minority communities against prejudice, inequality and attacks by government.

Motion 5: Labour

RESOLVED:

Taking real action to tackle the climate emergency

Council notes that:

- In January 2019, Lambeth became the first borough in London to declare a climate emergency.
- In order to lead by example, Lambeth brought forward its target for becoming carbon neutral by 20 years, from 2050 to 2030.
- Since then, the council has undergone a huge shift in strategic thinking, with tackling the climate and biodiversity crisis becoming one of the borough's core goals in its strategic documents, such as the Borough Plan.
- Lambeth has invested resources to ensure that tackling the climate crisis is central to everything that we are doing as a borough despite cuts to our budget of 56% as a result of Tory/Lib Dem austerity.
- In the last year, the council has made huge strides in reducing the council's carbon footprint.
- In May 2019, Lambeth published its first Responsible Procurement Strategy

which aims to tackle carbon emissions in the council's supply chain.

- In July 2019, Lambeth made its commitment to a New Green Deal for Lambeth with a just transition to create a safe and sustainable future for our most vulnerable residents and our young people; with that, the council published the first iteration of its Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan, which sets out how Lambeth Council will become a carbon neutral council by 2030, including refitting buildings like schools and libraries, and installing energy efficiency upgrades on Lambeth's estates.
- In July 2019, Lambeth agreed to installing new energy efficiency measures including new boilers at 10 Lambeth schools, which will save over 300 tonnes of carbon every year.
- In September 2019, Lambeth agreed a deal to enable the council to purchase 100% renewable energy from 2020 onwards.
- In October 2019, the council published its new Transport Strategy which is focused on decarbonising the transport system in the borough that is responsible for around 30% of the emissions in the whole borough.
- In October 2019, the council published its new Green Events Guide, green travel initiatives, recycling systems, elimination of single use plastic, managing energy and water more efficiently, as well as choosing sustainable products, materials and suppliers.
- The Council has installed over 130 electric vehicle charging points in the past year and is reshaping the borough's streets to prioritise walking, cycling and public transport.
- The Council is in the process of moving its vehicle fleet to ultra-low emission standards, with our parks fleet becoming 90% green and purchasing five new electric vehicles for our waste fleet.

Further notes that:

- The Council will be holding a fully representative and independent citizens assembly in the Spring of this year to build consensus right across the borough including with residents, businesses, community groups and anchor institutions, to instigate genuine collective action on the climate crisis.
- The citizens assembly will enable residents, public services, business, young people and the council to honestly and openly discuss the trade-offs associated with climate action in this period of Tory austerity.
- In the coming year, the council will look at our strategy for increasing tree cover to enable cooling, improve air quality and increase biodiversity in the borough.
- Despite local authorities like Lambeth taking the lead with the limited resources we have, successive Tory governments have been found wanting when it comes to tackling climate change.
- A net zero target of 2050 for the government is nowhere near sufficient enough to steer us away from climate catastrophe.
- We could do so much more as a borough if we had a government willing to invest in local authorities and local communities instead of starving us of resources to protect even our most vulnerable

Therefore, this Council calls:

- On the Deputy Leader (Environment and Clean Air) to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy requesting that the government adopts the national Labour Party's ambitious but necessary 2030 net zero target.
- On the government to properly resource the fight against the climate crisis and to resource local authorities like Lambeth so that it can radically reduce its emissions and create a more biodiverse, low-carbon society.

The meeting ended at 10.12 pm

MAYOR

Date of Despatch: Friday 7 February 2020

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