

## COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday 21 July 2021 at 7.00 pm  
Assembly Hall - Lambeth Town Hall

**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 Scarlett O'Hara, Councillor Linda Bray, Councillor Tim Briggs, Councillor Lucy Caldicott, Councillor Marcia Cameron, Councillor Rezina Chowdhury, Councillor Malcolm Clark, Councillor Joe Corry-Roake, Councillor Edward Davie, Councillor Ibrahim Dogus, Councillor Stephen Donnelly, Councillor Jacqui Dyer, Councillor Pete Elliott, Councillor Peter Ely, Councillor Paul Gadsby, Mayor, Councillor Annie Gallop, Councillor Adrian Garden, Councillor Nicole Griffiths, Councillor Nigel Haselden, Councillor Dr. Mahamed Hashi, Councillor Claire Holland, Councillor Mohamed Jaser, Councillor John Kazantzis, Councillor Ben Kind, Councillor Nanda Manley-Browne, Councillor Marianna Masters, Councillor Jackie Meldrum, Councillor Irfan Mohammed, Councillor Philip Normal, Councillor Emma Nye, Councillor Jane Pickard, Councillor Joanna Reynolds, Councillor Mohammed Seedat, Councillor Becca Thackray, Councillor Martin Tiedemann, Councillor Tina Valcarcel, Councillor Christopher Wellbelove, Councillor Clair Wilcox, Councillor Andy Wilson, Councillor Timothy Windle and Councillor Sonia Winifred

### **APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Anna Birley, Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite, Councillor Fred Cowell, Councillor Kevin Craig, Councillor Jon Davies, Councillor Jim Dickson, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Pauline George, Councillor Maria Kay, Councillor Jessica Leigh, Councillor Joshua Lindsey, Councillor Jennie Mosley, Councillor Iain Simpson and Councillor Joanne Simpson

### **ABSENT:**

Councillor Jack Hopkins

### **1 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests**

None were declared.

## 2 Minutes - 21 April 2021

**RESOLVED:** unanimously that the minutes of the meeting dated 21 April 2021 be approved as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Mayor.

## 3 Minutes - 2 June 2021

The proposed amendment from the Conservative Member was **NOT CARRIED** by 1 vote for to 42 against and 5 abstaining.

The unamended minutes were **CARRIED** by 42 votes for to 1 against and 5 abstaining.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting dated 2 June 2021 be approved as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Mayor

## 4 Announcements

The Mayor reported that she had attended two black plaque unveilings. One unveiling was for Olive Morris and the other was for Windrush Day. The Mayor also noted that she attended a Brockwell Park Annual Tree Celebration and Dedication Ceremony and visited the Michael Tippett College Enterprise Project.

## 5 Petitions and Deputations

A deputation was made to Council opposing Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

- Angela McFarlane and Georgina Shelly stated that they were representing five petitions and noted that LTNs had been implemented without consultation and were responsible for causing long-term suffering for the community, including the most vulnerable. Emergency LTNs needed to be removed with immediate effect and proper consultation and establishing pollution and traffic baselines. In particular, residents had noted approximately 60% of objections stated that their mental health and 30% their physical health had been negatively affected. There were concerns over children's health and safety near roads with increased traffic, and some residents were considering moving home. One school run had increased from 5 to 15 minutes and to nearly an hour on the return journey, access to health services had become difficult and one A&E trip had taken over 30 minutes. Many feared walking in LTN streets after sunset, with one resident using door-to-door taxis after having been mugged. LTNs restricted safe access to people's homes and there was increased pollution, traffic and noise on roads outside LTNs. Delivery drivers were forced to navigate around barriers and deliveries were difficult and the sudden implementation had negatively affected businesses.
- The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport, Environment and Clean Air, Councillor Daniel Adilypour, responded that LTNs aimed to allow residents, the majority who neither owned nor had access to cars, to move around safely and affordably after public transport restrictions caused by Covid-19. Businesses and town centres needed to be accessible to the public. The Council wanted to avoid a car-led recovery once restrictions were lifted. The deputation was an example of the democratic processes that LTNs had gone through, with many improvements made to the LTN scheme as a result of ongoing resident feedback. There was an upcoming consultation where all residents could input and would be based on recently gathered data. However, it was noted that a small minority appeared to dislike the democratic process and that criminal vandalism of LTN sites and barriers had taken place.

A deputation was made to Council in favour of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods:

- Andrew Hetherington and Katrina Wright stated their support for the LTN scheme with many residents reporting improvements to their lives as a result of the LTNs. In particular, it was noted that residents' health had improved, with one child no longer needing an asthma inhaler since traffic reductions, and they felt safer at night as roads were quieter and more people were around. Residents were now cycling or walking instead using cars or public transport, children could cycle to school on their own and one resident had reconsidered their position on LTNs and now cycled his children to school. LTNs were helping address climate change issues and lower carbon footprints. LTN equipment vandalism was a concern, which was dangerous for all road users and particularly when close to schools. Vehicles drove through filters quicker and more frequently after damage to camera equipment and illegal behaviour would increase when filters were not enforced. Robust vandal proof structures were needed and the Council needed to work with Police to ensure enforcement.
- The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport, Environment and Clean Air, Councillor Daniel Adilypour, responded that it was important to have a balanced debate on the issue. Enforcement against vandalism for LTN equipment was being accelerated and perpetrators would be prosecuted. The vandalism put residents' lives at risk and there was no justification for planters being damaged, oil being thrown on the road, and members of staff and contractors threatened and prevented from doing their jobs. Residents would be engaged via consultation so that both sides of the issue could engage and have their views taken into consideration. The overwhelming majority of residents opposed vandalism and Council would seek to implement physical closures if this continued.

A deputation was made to Council regarding Temporary Accommodation:

- Davida Dawkins stated that she would like an end to temporary accommodation in its current form and noted that the number of homeless households was too high. When an individual became homeless, they were sheltered in a home that was not safe and posed health risks, and then charged to live in a low-standard home. Lack of funds was not an acceptable excuse for poor provision of homes nor was it acceptable for children to live in such conditions, given the detrimental effect on young persons' mental health. Residents in Denby Court had lived in insecurity and residents felt that they were viewed as sources of revenue. Residents in temporary accommodation often had long waits to receive secure homes, were downgraded on the housing priority banding, felt separated from society, and removed from support networks, schools and areas of familiarity. They suffered from depression and instability, with a large percentage from black and ethnic minority communities. The Council was urged to stop charging rent and council tax for low-standard temporary accommodation, give homeless households a higher housing register priority and work to reduce inequality and contribute to a fairer society.
- The Deputy Leader of the Council (Planning, Investment and New Homes), Councillor Matthew Bennett, responded on behalf of Councillor Maria Kay, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness. Homelessness was a crisis across the country and was being driven by the shortage of genuinely affordable homes. Some Lambeth councillors had experienced homelessness and all were familiar with the scale of the crisis, but it was disappointing to see the scale of homelessness in one of the world's wealthiest cities. Councillors worked with residents to complete repairs and this support would continue, with 60% of Denby Court families living in temporary accommodation now having suitable alternative accommodation. Central Government benefit cuts, declining

building of genuinely affordable homes and falling incomes had forced families out of the private rented sector. Temporary accommodation had risen from 2,700 families in January 2021 to 2,915 in July 2021, with ten more families made homeless every week. The Council was spending £10 million a year on temporary accommodation and trying to ensure support networks were maintained. However, 85% of temporary accommodation was leased from private sector landlords, the number of people bidding for housing was three times the number available and 30,000 people were on the waiting list who had to be assessed by need, irrespective of their housing circumstances. The Council needed to build homes and Lambeth was committed to deliver and support residents.

Council received two petitions:

- From Councillor Jane Pickard with 600 signatures. This was for a 20 MPH speed limit in Crowndale.
- From Councillor Ben Kind with 25 signatures from Brixton Water Lane residents wished to secure the car park on the estate.

## **6 Youth Council Annual Update**

Mellisa McArthur, Commissioning Manager, Youth and representatives from Lambeth's Youth Council, provided the following information:

- The Youth Council allowed young people to be heard and it needed a greater profile.
- Lambeth was seeking UNICEF's Child Friendly City accreditation, which would allow for greater equality and improve service accessibility.
- In December 2020, a campaign called 'My Body Is Mine' had started which focused on raising sexual assault awareness, period poverty and female genital mutilation.
- Period poverty was not just a lack of access to sanitary products due to financial constraints, but covered education, natural biology and was a result of a patriarchal society. 10% of UK girls could not afford sanitary products and students were missing school, with My Body Is Mine seeking to distribute free sanitary products to girls in England. The Red Box Project in schools and colleges did not exist outside of educational institutions. Young boys and girls needed to be taught that periods were an ordinary part of human life.
- The educational curriculum needed to be more inclusive and have a greater diversity, particularly regarding Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) history. The curriculum was not as diverse as the Government stated, with British colonialism and the transatlantic slave trade only optional courses and being educated about such subject matters should be mandatory learning in Lambeth schools. In many cases, BAME history was not taught correctly, including the role of BAME communities in the industrial revolution or the Indian contribution to World War I, and the UK had a long way to go in tackling racism.

Councillors Tim Briggs, Nicole Griffiths and Ed Davie then spoke, stating that:

- Councillor Briggs stated that the Youth Council was a positive driver of change but disagreed with some of the points made and noted the importance to make a distinction between making points supported by evidence and value judgments.
- Councillor Griffiths stated that she was inspired by the dedication shown by the Youth Council, particularly for the work during the most challenging period in their lives and

the injustices they raised. The de-colonisation of the school curriculum and participation in the Citizens Assembly was essential for further progress, and Council would continue to listen.

Councillor Davie recorded his inspiration and learning from young people, highlighting their positive perspectives on sexuality compared to older generations. In particular, his earlier belief that period poverty was solely about financial stability had changed to include the impact of various social issues, such as education. It was important for older generations to be challenged and educated by young people, and he would continue to be taught.

## **7 Cabinet Statement**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Claire Holland addressed Council, noting the following:

- Whilst it was positive to see Council meeting in person, it was not celebratory as Covid-19 was still ongoing, with high case rates in the borough and some individuals closely associated with the Council were isolating or shielding. There was no special fast track pilot scheme available to residents, unlike those used by Ministers. Restrictions had been lifted at a time when infection rates were increasing as the Government did not know how to manage the pandemic and was being reckless. Many residents in the borough had suffered as a result and this was demonstrated by the memorial on the wall of St Thomas' Hospital.
- The Council had a collective responsibility alongside health, law, enforcement, business and consumers to spread a message to act with caution, continue to socially distance and wear masks, following the leadership of the Mayor of London.
- The Council continued to work with the NHS to increase vaccination rates and significant progress had been made for care home staff and through the Council's outreach work.
- Protecting people was the best way to rebuild the economy and local businesses and was also the morally responsible option.
- Social and climate justice were intertwined, with the Citizen's Assembly bringing forward recommendations for tackling the climate crisis, whilst considering those most at risk and building a fairer and more just society.
- England's national football team had performed well at Euro 2020 and their commitment for racial justice was praised and was a cause shared by the Council.

## **8 Opposition Statement**

Councillor Jonathan Bartley, Green Group Co-Leader, addressed Council, noting the following:

- Mr Dernardo Samuels-Brooks had been killed in his ward on 10 June 2021 aged 17. All of the Council's thoughts were with his family and friends.
- He and Councillor Ainslie were both familiar with Mr Samuels-Brooks.
- Mr Samuels-Brooks was an outgoing young man, with significant support needs, who desired to be accepted by his peers and had a passion for football.
- Mr Samuels-Brooks had been let down by the system.
- The Council had a responsibility to every child in the borough, but inclusion and not assimilation was needed, and individual needs changed. Mr Samuels-Brooks was not successfully included and it was important that the processes and systems be changed and developed, with input from children, to support future generations.

## 9 Questions from Councillors

1. **Councillor Scott Ainslie to Councillor Claire Holland, Leader of the Council  
Supplementary Question**

Councillor Ainslie asked what new initiatives were expected to be announced at Conference Of the Parties 2026.

**Supplementary Answer**

Councillor Holland stated that the Council was continuing to lobby the Cabinet Office with three different proposals at Conference Of the Parties 2026 including an exhibition and an event. Various announcements would be made in the near future.

2. **Councillor Tim Briggs to Councillor Daniel Adilypour, Cabinet Member for  
Sustainable Transport, Environment and Clean Air (job-share)  
Supplementary Question**

Councillor Briggs asked what date could be given for the additional traffic to evaporate after the introduction of LTNs.

**Supplementary Answer**

Councillor Adilypour stated the data would be gathered to make assessments and then an informed decision could be made based on the data.

3. **Councillor Marianna Masters to Councillor Andy Wilson, Cabinet Member for  
Finance and Investment  
Supplementary Question**

Councillor Masters asked if the Council could request Council partners to continue to update risk assessments to consider the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on specific groups such as BAME, pregnant and older workers, and how they could mitigate risks. Further, if flexible working options could be expanded upon to meet the needs of employees.

**Supplementary Answer**

Councillor Wilson stated that assistance would be given to Council partners to ensure that Covid-19 secure measures were taken, especially regarding the workforce. The Council had strong relationships with local employers and consulted with them on working terms and conditions. A project was underway to examine the best use of remote working whilst ensuring that services were still delivered to residents. Future discussions would be held with organisations regarding the terms and conditions in relation to flexible working.

4. **Councillor Paul Gadsby to Councillor Mahamed Hashi, Cabinet Member for  
Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport, Environment and Clean Air (job-share)**

**Supplementary Question**

Councillor Gadsby asked how the Council was monitoring the e-scooter scheme, how the success of the scheme would be monitored and how residents' concerns would be addressed as a result of the trial on e-scooters.

**Supplementary Answer**

Councillor Hashi stated that a regulated trial would evaluate the safety benefits and how they would affect the reduction of emissions. It would also enable the Council to properly understand the evidence on whether e-scooters were a viable form of transport. E-scooters and other motorised transport were banned from parks and the Council needed to work on helping residents understand this. The e-scooters to be trialled would turn off automatically on specific spaces including parks.

**5. Councillor Mary Atkins to Councillor Andy Wilson, Cabinet Member for Finance and Investment**

**Supplementary Question**

Councillor Atkins asked what benefit to businesses a fair tax mark could achieve.

**Supplementary Answer**

Councillor Wilson stated that a fair tax mark could help change the local economy so that Council-contracted organisations paid a fair tax and businesses could use this to enhance their brand. Small- and medium-sized enterprises with fair tax accreditation stood a greater chance of winning Council contracts and residents would be more likely to purchase goods and services from them.

**6. Councillor Scarlett O'Hara to Councillor Jaqui Dyer, Deputy Leader of the Council (Jobs, Skills and Community Safety)**

**Supplementary Question**

Councillor O'Hara asked how the Council was working with the Police to ensure that young people were treated with respect and dignity during stop-and-searches.

**Supplementary Answer**

Councillor Dyer stated that the Lambeth Made Safer Strategy was tending to the issue. Police, neighbourhood leads, Black Thrive and King's College London were developing training to help build trusting relationships with the Police. Kings College London and Black Thrive Lambeth were involved in research of the impact of stop-and-search on the mental health of children and young people and this would be made available to the Council. Mental Health and emotional wellbeing interventions would also be created to further the support.

**7. Councillor Jackie Meldrum to Councillor Claire Holland, Leader of the Council**

**Supplementary Question**

Councillor Meldrum asked how coordination and practice for the four types of EU citizens (those with visas, pre-settled status, those with settled status and those with no status) would be implemented and whether resources were available to enact changes to Council processes and policies.

**Supplementary Answer**

Councillor Holland stated that Lambeth residents who were EU or EEA residents without relevant notification were encouraged to contact the Council. Support and advice would continue to be provided and £113,000 had been invested to support Voluntary and Community Sector groups to support residents with applications. Additional Adults and Health staff had been appointed to assist with applications relating to vulnerable adults.

**8. Councillor Nicole Griffiths to Councillor Claire Holland, Leader of the Council**

**Supplementary Question**

Councillor Griffiths asked what planning had been done or mitigations in place to deal with extreme weather arising from the climate emergency, including high temperatures and flooding.

**Supplementary Answer**

Councillor Holland stated that it was important to lobby Government and move toward to a carbon-zero future. The Council would learn from other boroughs to implement adaptation strategies on flood risk and build sustainable buildings that took account of climate change. The Council would also continue to invest and support residents so that they can take measures to protect themselves.

## 10 Reports

### 10.1 CORPORATE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Councillors Tim Briggs, Scott Ainslie and Adrian Garden spoke on the Corporate Committee Annual Report, raising the following points:

- Councillor Briggs welcomed the report and stated that Corporate Committee could be considered more important than Scrutiny as it held officers accountable to members. One of the benefits of Corporate Committee over Scrutiny was the submission of shorter reports, quicker responses and greater accountability as a result. He also praised the outgoing Chair, Councillor Garden, for his dedicated service.
- Councillor Ainslie also thanked Councillor Garden as the outgoing Chair of the Corporate Committee. There remained unresolved issues regarding corporate risk, governance, audit and accountability in Lambeth, as highlighted by the 2016 LGA peer review noting a level of corporate disobedience and non-compliance with processes with no consequence. Senior management should send a strong message about expectations and clarify where accountability sat and then take action on non-compliance. There was progress on appointing an independent person onto the Corporate Committee, but this was delayed by Members not completing a skills audit; and a Homes from Lambeth challenge session was delayed from July 2019 to February 2021.
- Councillor Garden noted that additional information on Corporate Committee's decisions, recommendations, suggestions and criticisms had been added to the Annual Report. The Committee had made many recommendations resulting in visible change and value to the borough. He offered thanks to all committee members, including Labour opposition counterparts, Councillor Ainslie and Councillor Briggs, for their dedicated work.

**RESOLVED:** That the 2020-21 Corporate Committee Annual Report be approved.

### 10.2 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Councillors Tim Briggs, Jonathan Bartley and Liz Atkins spoke on Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report, raising the following points:

- Councillor Briggs stated that the Committee should be chaired by an opposition councillor, which would result in a beneficial change of the focus and methodology, including in scrutinised areas being different to ones chosen by a Labour majority. Councillor Briggs commended both the report and Councillor Liz Atkins for her chairing.
- Councillor Bartley also commended Councillor Liz Atkins for her chairing. There had been improvements, such as on questioning and the establishment of the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee. However, it was disappointing to see the Sub-Committee's remit excluded regeneration and Homes for Lambeth, and appeared to have been implemented at the expense of the Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee. The implementation of the Scrutiny Improvement Review was a positive outcome, but a wider independent review was still required. Members of the Committee were more willing to hold Cabinet to account, but Cabinet appeared to have a defensive stance towards Scrutiny. However, an opposition councillor was needed as Chair or a Vice-Chair, which

would help improve residents' lack of trust, openness and accountability.

- Councillor Liz Atkins stated that over the past year the Council had provided robust challenge, ensuring evidence-based decisions and a wide range of perspectives were heard. Attention was focused on reducing risk, protecting the vulnerable, ensuring sufficient resourcing and provided effective delivery. A Commission had been set up to examine LTNs, and had scrutinised the Police following the Sarah Everard vigil on Clapham Common. The Committee worked cross-party, benefitting from the expertise of the Green and Conservative councillors. However, it was important that Scrutiny widened its scope to make greater efforts to identify external witnesses and ensure challenges were not driven by party allegiance.

**RESOLVED:** That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2020-21 be approved.

## 11 Motions

### Motion 1: Green: Improving Temporary Accommodation for Lambeth Residents

Councillor Jonathan Bartley requested that a recorded vote be undertaken for the first motion, under procedure rule 14.3 (Constitution, Part 4, Section B(d), page 94).

The amendment from the Conservative Member was **NOT CARRIED** by 1 vote for, to 47 against.

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain
ADILYPOUR Daniel		x	
AINSLIE Scott		x	
AMOS David		x	
ANYANWU Donatus		x	
ATKINS Liz		x	
ATKINS Mary		x	
BARTLEY Jonathan		x	
BENNETT, Matthew		x	
O'Hara Scarlett		x	
BRAY Linda		x	
BRIGGS Tim	x		
CALDICOTT Lucy		x	
CAMERON Marcia		x	
CHOWDHURY Rezina		x	
CLARK Malcolm		x	
CORRY-ROAKE Joe		x	
DAVIE Ed		x	
DOGUS Ibrahim		x	
DONNELLY Stephen		x	
DYER Jacqui		x	
ELLIOT Pete		x	
ELY Peter		x	
GADSBY Paul		x	
GARDEN Adrian		x	

GRIFFITHS Nicole		x	
HASELDEN Nigel		x	
HASHI Mahamed		x	
HOLLAND Claire		x	
JASER, Mohamed		x	
KAZANTZIS, John		x	
KIND Ben		x	
MANLEY-BROWN Nanda		x	
MASTERS Marianna		x	
MELDRUM Jackie		x	
MOHAMMED Irfan		x	
NORMAL Philip		x	
NYE Emma		x	
PICKARD Jane		x	
REYNOLDS Joanna		x	
SEEDAT, Mohammed		x	
THACKRAY Becca		x	
TIEDEMANN Martin		x	
VALCARCEL Tina		x	
WELLBELOVE Christopher		x	
WILCOX Claire		x	
WILSON Andy		x	
WINDLE Tim		x	
WINIFRED Sonia		x	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>

The Original Green Party Motion, on improving temporary accommodation for Lambeth residents, was **NOT CARRIED**, with 5 votes for, 42 against and 1 abstention.

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
ADILYPOUR Daniel		x	
AINSLIE Scott	x		
AMOS David		x	
ANYANWU Donatus		x	
ATKINS Liz		x	
ATKINS Mary		x	
BARTLEY Jonathan	x		
BENNETT, Matthew		x	
O'Hara Scarlett		x	
BRAY Linda		x	
BRIGGS Tim			x
CALDICOTT Lucy		x	
CAMERON Marcia		x	
CHOWDHURY Rezina		x	
CLARK Malcolm		x	
CORRY-ROAKE Joe		x	

DAVIE Ed		x	
DOGUS Ibrahim		x	
DONNELLY Stephen		x	
DYER Jacqui		x	
ELLIOT Pete	x		
ELY Peter		x	
GADSBY Paul		x	
GARDEN Adrian		x	
GRIFFITHS Nicole	x		
HASELDEN Nigel		x	
HASHI Mahamed		x	
HOLLAND Claire		x	
JASER, Mohamed		x	
KAZANTZIS, John		x	
KIND Ben		x	
MANLEY-BROWN Nanda		x	
MASTERS Marianna		x	
MELDRUM Jackie		x	
MOHAMMED Irfan		x	
NORMAL Philip		x	
NYE Emma		x	
PICKARD Jane		x	
REYNOLDS Joanna		x	
SEEDAT, Mohammed		x	
THACKRAY Becca	x		
TIEDEMANN Martin		x	
VALCARCEL Tina		x	
WELLBELOVE Christopher		x	
WILCOX Claire		x	
WILSON Andy		x	
WINDLE Tim		x	
WINIFRED Sonia		x	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>

**Motion 2: Labour: Supporting refugees to make Lambeth their home**

The amendment from the Conservative Member was **NOT CARRIED** by 1 vote for, 42 against and 5 abstentions.

The amendment from the Green Party was **CARRIED** by 47 votes for, 0 against and 1 abstention.

The Substantive Motion from Lambeth, on supporting refugees to make Lambeth their home, as amended by the Green Party, was **CARRIED** and Council **RESOLVED**, by 47 votes for, 0 against and 1 abstention.

**Supporting refugees to make Lambeth their home**

Council notes that Refugee Week, World Refugee Day and Windrush Day took place in June. We celebrate the role that refugees and migrants have played in making Lambeth the successful, tolerant and exciting place it is. But we also recognise there is much more to be done, and that the issues of COVID-19, climate and ecological breakdown, conflict, extreme economic inequality, political persecution and discrimination against LGBTQ+ people will continue to drive people to seek sanctuary in the UK.

Council celebrates and thanks all those in Lambeth who have supported thousands of refugees settle in our community, access services and find employment, including Lambeth Council staff, Lambeth's voluntary sector and the many Lambeth residents who have offered their homes and their support, particularly to those fleeing the war in Syria. We especially recognise the work of the South London Refugee Association. We pay tribute to the NHS in Lambeth that has vaccinated residents regardless of their migration or residency status.

Council notes that since 2016 Lambeth has so far welcomed 28 families – almost 120 people – of Syrian, Iraqi and Sudanese backgrounds to make our borough their home who get a bespoke package of intensive support from Single Homeless Project (SHP) who we commission. These families have incredibly rich and varied backgrounds but have often experienced complex trauma, making it all the more important that the council and our community partners such as Lambeth Citizens are able to provide them the deep support required.

Council notes with concern the ten fold increase in the number of migrants waiting for their initial asylum claims to be processed in the UK since 2010 (65,000 cases in 2020 and approximately 5,500 in 2010).

Council condemns the 'Hostile Environment' put in place by the Conservative-Liberal Democrat government and enthusiastically embraced by the current Conservative administration, that has seen refugees and migrants stigmatised and racial profiling increase for all Lambeth residents. We will continue to seek justice for the Windrush generation and support Lambeth's EU Citizens whose life in this country has been put at risk by this Brexit-backing government's mismanagement of the Settled Status process.

Council also condemns the current Home Secretary's New Plan for Immigration, which will have a devastating impact on refugees and migrants.

Council will:

- Work with all in our borough to enact the principles of the Cities of Sanctuary movement, working to create a welcoming and collaborative borough and celebrating the contribution of people seeking sanctuary.
- Engage people seeking sanctuary in decision making processes at all levels and in all activities promote understanding of asylum and refugee issues, especially by enabling refugee voices to be heard directly.
- Continue to support vulnerable refugee families from Syria and other areas of conflict to settle in Lambeth.
- Continue to support unaccompanied child asylum seekers and live up to the Safe Passage pledge we made to resettle 20 child refugees and then increase Lambeth's pledge to 100, in line with other local authorities like Lewisham and Brighton and Hove (<https://www.safepassage.org.uk/our-turn>).
- Refuse to collaborate with the Home Office on the new immigration rules on rough sleeping and back the #SupportdontDeport campaign.
- Refuse a Home Office embedded officer in our No Recourse to Public Funds service.

- Ensure no child in Lambeth is denied free school meals because of their immigration status if they would be otherwise eligible.
- Work with Lambeth's NHS services to ensure undocumented migrants can safely use GPs locally to obtain medical advice and receive Covid vaccines.
- Continue to provide health and other information in various languages to ensure migrants are aware how to access services.

Council resolves to write to the Home Secretary:

- Outlining our objections to the New Plan for Immigration, and request a rethink to build a better and fairer immigration system.
- To request an extension to the deadline for the EU Settlement Scheme.
- To ask that the government extends the settled status model to undocumented migrants from other parts of the world, as called for by Citizens UK.
- To call on the government to end the Hostile Environment and the discriminatory practices and racial profiling that have seen immigration services work with the Police and other bodies to target particular professions such as delivery drivers and retail workers.
- To ask for a resumption of and set annual targets for the resettlement schemes to ensure that the UK plays its part alongside other European and G7 nations in giving sanctuary to those fleeing conflict in Syria and elsewhere, especially the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, so that Lambeth can resettle the additional 38 families we have committed to receiving before 2025.
- To allow those seeking asylum who have waited for more than 6 months for a decision to work, as called for in the 'Lift the Ban' campaign.
- To implement the recommendations of the Joint Inquiry by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees & the All Party Parliamentary Group on Migration into the Use of Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom.

### **Motion 3: Conservative: Establishing an independent committee to reduce youth knife crime in Lambeth**

The Original Conservative Member Motion, on establishing an independent committee to reduce youth knife crime in Lambeth, was **NOT CARRIED**, with 1 vote for, 42 against and 5 abstentions.

### **Motion 4: Labour: Lambeth's Child Friendly Community ambition**

The amendment from the Conservative Member was **NOT CARRIED** by 1 vote for, 47 against and 0 abstentions.

The Original Labour Motion, on Lambeth's Child Friendly Community ambition, was **CARRIED**, and Council **RESOLVED**, with 47 votes for, 0 against and 1 abstention.

### **Lambeth's Child Friendly Community ambition**

Council:

- Welcomes Lambeth council's successful application to become a UNICEF Child Friendly Community.
- Notes that this begins at least three-year's work to gain accreditation by putting the rights of children and young people at the centre of decision-making; amplifying the voice of children and young people to have more say in decisions that affect them; and

supporting more children and young people to access more opportunities.

- Recognises the historic failures in Lambeth to provide adequate support and care for children and young people. We welcome the positive steps taken by the council in recent years to recognise and rectify the challenges faced by children and young people by improving and integrating services, adopting poverty reduction measures, and tackling discrimination.

Council further notes:

- The council now must build on that and other work and accelerate wider progress by putting the rights and voices of our children at the centre of what we do, and better harness the borough's very considerable assets to make Lambeth the best place in London to grow up.
- Many of Lambeth's children and young people are growing up in poverty, are living in fear or victims of violent crime, and are exposed to high levels of air pollution.
- That structural racism results in Black children and young people being disproportionately affected by these disadvantages and that Covid-19 and its effects have also worsened many existing problems and inequalities.

Council commits:

- To using the Child Friendly Community process to improve the conditions in which children and young people develop in Lambeth so that they are safer, healthier, and happier with better access to decent housing, education, cultural and sporting activities, green space, play areas, and active travel.
- To harness Lambeth's positive strengths, including our young, diverse, and engaged population, our location in the centre of a great world city and in hosting many important cultural, health and educational bodies of all sizes, to create more opportunities for our children and young people whilst elevating their voices and rights.
- To deliver these ambitions in partnership with our young people, community groups, residents, businesses, schools and partners through: Ensuring children and young people's voices and opinions are heard and their rights respected when making decisions that affect them; Offering jobs, apprenticeships and training to children looked after, care leavers and other Lambeth children and young people, especially those living in deprived circumstances; Offering sporting, cultural, work, and other experiences to children and young people especially those who would find it harder to access them by other means; Ensuring excellent education, play, health, social care, advice and policing services for children and young people; and creating genuinely affordable, quality housing, well-lit, accessible green, play and community space well served by active travel routes.
- Council commits to working with partners to find sufficient investment to fund posts and activities to deliver these objectives.

#### **Motion 5: Labour: Make the National Covid Memorial Wall Permanent**

The amendment from the Green Party was **NOT CARRIED** by 6 votes for, 42 against and 0 abstentions.

The Original Labour Motion, Make the National Covid Memorial Wall Permanent, was **CARRIED**, and Council **RESOLVED**, with 48 votes for, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

#### **Make the National Covid Memorial Wall Permanent**

Council notes:

- That families and volunteers who have lost loved ones to the Covid-19 pandemic created the National Covid Memorial Wall on the bank of the Thames in the north of the borough, with each of the 150,000 hearts representing someone in the UK who we have lost.
- That the memorial has been created by Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice, made up of 3400 families of those who have tragically died from Covid-19 and who are calling for a Covid inquiry now.
- Council welcomes:
- The creation of the memorial as a fitting and moving tribute to all those who have been lost to the pandemic, particularly in such a visible location in Waterloo and next to St Thomas' Hospital where so many have worked relentlessly for the last 18 months to protect people from the pandemic.
- The work the council has already done with the organisers of the National Covid Memorial Wall, Guys' and St Thomas' Hospital Trust, Transport for London, and local stakeholders to find a way to make sure the memorial can remain in place.
- The letter organised by Afzal Khan MP and signed by Florence Eshalomi MP, Helen Hayes MP, and Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP, calling on the government to make the National Covid Memorial Wall a permanent memorial to the victims of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The government's commitment to launching an independent public Covid inquiry, following the campaign from Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice, which was supported by Lambeth councillors, but believes that inquiry must begin immediately as families have also called for.
- Council resolves:
- To work to protect the National Covid Memorial Wall and work with the organisers of the memorial, the owners of the wall, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital Trust, and the government to make it a permanent and lasting memorial to all those lost during the pandemic.

The meeting ended at 9.58 pm

MAYOR  
Wednesday 22 September 2021

**Date of Despatch:** Friday 30 July 2021  
**Contact for Enquiries:** Wayne Chandai

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