

COUNCIL

Wednesday 13 July 2016 at 7.00 pm

MINUTES

The Worshipful the Mayor in the Chair

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Councillors Councillor Danial Adilypour, Councillor Michelle Agdomar, Councillor Scott Ainslie, Councillor Adedamola Aminu, Councillor David Amos, Councillor Donatus Anyanwu, Councillor Liz Atkins, Councillor Mary Atkins, Councillor Matthew Bennett, Councillor Alex Bigham, Councillor Anna Birley, Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite, Councillor Linda Bray, Councillor Tim Briggs, Deputy Mayor Marcia Cameron, Councillor Malcolm Clark, Councillor Marsha de Cordova, Councillor Kevin Craig, Councillor Edward Davie, Councillor Jim Dickson, Councillor Max Deckers Dowber, Councillor Jane Edbrooke, Councillor Florence Eshalomi, Councillor Paul Gadsby, Councillor Adrian Garden, Councillor Bernard Gentry, Councillor Nigel Haselden, Councillor Rachel Heywood, Councillor Robert Hill, Councillor Jack Holborn, Councillor Claire Holland, Councillor Jack Hopkins, Mayor Saleha Jaffer, Councillor John Kazantzis, Councillor Ben Kind, Councillor Vaila McClure, Councillor Paul McGlone, Councillor Jennie Mosley, Councillor Matt Parr, Councillor Lib Peck, Councillor Jane Pickard, Councillor Guilherme Rosa, Councillor Neil Sabharwal, Councillor Mohammed Seedat, Councillor Joanne Simpson, Councillor Martin Tiedemann, Councillor Amélie Treppass, Councillor Christiana Valcarcel, Councillor Christopher Wellbelove, Councillor Clair Wilcox, Councillor Andrew Wilson and Councillor Sonia Winifred

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Rezina Chowdhury, Councillor Fred Cowell, Councillor Jacqui Dyer, Councillor Annie Gallop, Councillor Jackie Meldrum, Councillor Diana Morris, Councillor Louise Nathanson, Councillor Sally Prentice, Councillor Iain Simpson and Councillor Imogen Walker

ABSENT:

1. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Lib Peck, led tributes on behalf of the Council to the late former Councillor Rob Roach, outlining his dedication to working with and for the community in Lambeth. Councillor Florence Eshalomi AM also led tributes to the late Sam King MBE.

The Mayor announced that as part of her official duties, she would be supporting Faiths Together in Lambeth, a multi-faith charity which worked to build community cohesion between different groups of faith. She further announced her support for the Streatham Drop-In Centre for Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

The Mayor further highlighted the results of the Gipsy Hill by-election and welcomed Councillor Luke Murphy on behalf of the Council.

3. **SPECIAL ITEM: UNITING OUR COMMUNITIES**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Lib Peck, introduced the item and highlighted the need for such a debate following a rise in hate crime after the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union. She further expressed Council's sadness at the death of Jo Cox MP.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Tim Briggs, gave the following statement:

"Madame Mayor, many changes have taken place since our last meeting, one of which was the death of Jo Cox MP, whereby someone who was loved by many people, was tragically and unnecessarily taken from them.

I am aware that Jo Cox was especially committed to the rights of refugees particularly from Syria. I once wrote in a Lambeth Weekender article that how we treat people coming from abroad is a sign of our humanity as a society. Jo Cox clearly was committed to helping people from abroad, and it is desperately sad that she is now gone, and can no longer do that.

But we must distinguish between the sense of danger, and its reality. The sense of danger can get blown out of proportion to the randomness of a crime committed by an individual, and the sense of danger can also be blown out of proportion considering the unlikelihood of something so unpleasant ever happening again.

I understand from officers when I last asked a week or so ago that there have been no hate crime incidents in Lambeth targeted at minorities. I hope that is still true.

The result of Britain voting to leave the EU has also left people feeling vulnerable.

We are a very pro-EU borough, and a pro-EU city, so perhaps the shock was greater here than elsewhere. And Lambeth is so diverse, and we all enjoy that diversity so much, perhaps we allowed ourselves to forget about the bigger picture of people outside London.

I grew up outside London and I do not believe that the vast majority of people outside London are racist or anti-diversity (if I can put it that way) for one second.

So with regard to uniting our communities, let me say this on behalf of our Group and perhaps some other members.

Wherever you are from, wherever your parents or grandparents came from, whatever your sexuality, or religion, or whatever is important to you and your identity and your happiness, we are privileged to serve you as your representatives here in Lambeth.

The Conservative Group believe strongly that residents are not here to pay tax and support the council, but the council is here to support you, as best it can, in living your lives with as much freedom and opportunity as possible.

And within the work we do as Councillors, we will continue to adhere to the values of the Rule of Law, due process, and the protection of minorities that allow our Lambeth diversity to flourish.

And I am sure that is what Jo Cox would have wanted.”

Rabbi Janet Darley addressed Council and raised the following points:

- There had been a change in public rhetoric within the past few weeks, and the result of the EU referendum had made many people feel they had permission from the country to act in a certain way;
- Anecdotally, she had heard of an increase in Lambeth residents discussing hate crimes directed against them;
- An emergency meeting had been held with Citizens UK Council, and many concerns had been raised;
- Nonetheless there had been many successful multi-faith events held within the Borough;
- The new Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, had expressed interest in a Deputy Mayor for Integration.

Councillor Lib Peck further added that many people had felt so threatened by an increase in hate crimes because such instances go to the heart of what many in attendance feel about London as a multi-cultural and tolerant city. She gave her thanks to all citizens of south London, and to Rabbi Darley. She further added that she would discuss the prospect of a Deputy Mayor for Integration with the Mayor of London, and stated that he was personally passionate about a London for all Londoners.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 13 April and 18 May 2016 be approved as accurate records of the proceedings.

4.1 YOUTH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

The Lambeth Youth Mayor, Diogo Costa, introduced the Lambeth Youth Cabinet. Points raised included the following:

- There was a forthcoming jobs fair which would seek to raise aspirations among young people in the Borough;
- Youth Cabinet had been working with the Youth Offending Service Management Board in order to help young people move away from crime;
- Many young people were not urged to better themselves because of mental health issues.

The Member of the Youth Parliament addressed Council and highlighted the forthcoming 11 November 2016 annual sitting of the Youth Parliament. There would be one motion debated which would be chosen by young people around the country. She further challenged the notion that young people were apathetic and encouraged all in attendance to help young people become involved.

The Cabinet Member for Families and Youth People, Councillor Jane Pickard, addressed Council and thanked the youth representatives for their contribution. She reiterated Lambeth Council's support for lowering the voting age to 16, as it would encourage political involvement and furthermore pressure schools to offer political education. She also stated that Cabinet were exploring the possibility of a work shadowing scheme for Cabinet Members.

RESOLVED:

That the Youth Council Annual Report be approved.

5. PETITIONS, PNQS AND DEPUTATIONS

a) Petitions

A petition was received from Councillor Marsha De Cordova concerning pavements on Gauden Road, with 509 signatures.

A petition was also received from Councillor Anna Birley concerning school catchment areas in Lambeth, with 160 residents.

b) Public Notice Questions

There were none.

c) Deputations

A deputation was received from Laura Swaffield. Points raised included the following:

- The crisis in the libraries had gotten worse, and a conservative estimate suggested that roughly £82,000 had been spend on maintaining and securing the Carnegie and Minet libraries since 18 May 2016, which was 2-3 times the cost of running both libraries for a year;
- The libraries were in deprived wards and united diverse communities;
- The usage of Carnegie library was going up by 31% a year, and the closure had occurred during exam time, leading to overcrowding in other libraries;
- The timeline is stretching beyond what the Council initially projected, and some communities would be left without library provision for a year;
- Therefore, Council were urged to re-open the Carnegie and Minet libraries.

The Cabinet Member for Business, Regeneration and Culture, Councillor Jack Hopkins, responded and made the following points:

- The costs of security were being reduced, and many of the increased costs were a result of the recent occupation of the libraries;
- Temporary costs of maintaining the buildings were not representative and did not take into account accumulated savings from the re-purposing of the buildings. He added that it was not the case that it had cost the Council as much money to provide security in the closed buildings as it would have done to keep them running as fully functioning libraries;
- The buildings could not be re-opened. Savings have had to be made from the library budget this year;
- He further stated that he would share with Laura Swaffield the figures he had

seen which gave him confidence that the decision was the correct one.

The Mayor thanked those who presented the deputation and advised that a full written response would be sent in 10 days.

6. CABINET STATEMENT

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred.

7. OPPOSITION STATEMENT

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred.

8. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

1. The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Tim Briggs, to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Matthew Bennett.

Supplementary Question

Councillor Briggs asked why foam masts had appeared at Bourne House on the Notre Dame estate, and what had become of the Cabinet's commitment to resident involvement in housing decisions, as it seemed that consultations were being taken after decisions had been effectively decided in advance.

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Bennett responded that Councillor Briggs had not been in touch with him about the issue before the meeting, and that it was his party which was responsible for the shortfall in Council housing. He further added that Councillor Briggs was welcome to come to him outside the meeting with any concerns he has about this matter.

2. Councillor Scott Ainslie to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite.

Supplementary Question

Councillor Ainslie asked if earmarked recycling areas could be further encouraged as Lambeth was 21st out of 32 London boroughs when it came to recycling targets.

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Brathwaite responded that Lambeth's recycling policy was a success and that she was committed to working on it further.

3. Councillor Andrew Wilson to the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Tim Briggs

Supplementary Question

Councillor Wilson stated that the Government's policy of encouraging building of so-called "starter homes" would force Lambeth to replace affordable housing with housing that cost £450,000, which would take somebody on the London Living Wage 50 years of saving £100 a month in order to afford a deposit. He asked Councillor Briggs if he defined "hard working" residents to only include the wealthy.

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Briggs responded that starter homes were homes which were priced at up to £450,000 and there had been a fundamental misconception as to their affordability. Furthermore, first-time buyers would get a 20% discount on market rates.

- 4. Councillor Michelle Agdomar to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Matthew Bennett**

Supplementary Question

Councillor Agdomar expressed concern about the plight of those suffering from mental health conditions and noted that there was a difficulty in moving them into housing so that they could live independently.

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Bennett responded that many of those with mental health issues needed to live in social housing as a result of their care. One of the reasons for bringing Lambeth Living back in-house was to focus on joining up care and housing in order to support those with mental health problems.

- 5. Councillor Dany Adilypour to the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Tim Briggs.**

Supplementary Question

Councillor Adilypour asked Councillor Briggs if he would support the Mayor of London's scrapping scheme for used cars.

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Briggs responded that he was not aware of the scheme but would look at it further.

- 6. Councillor Marcia Cameron to the Cabinet Member for Healthier and Stronger Communities, Councillor Mohammed Seedat.**

Supplementary Question

Councillor Cameron asked what work was being undertaken over the summer to reduce youth violence.

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Seedat responded that youth violence doesn't necessarily increase in summer time. The Mayor of London had pledged £400,000 to tackle knife crime which has increased in Lambeth. Youth violence as a whole, however, has declined in Lambeth. Councillor Seedat further added that he would work with partners from the Young Lambeth Co-operative and the Youth Council on this matter.

- 7. Councillor Bernard Gentry to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite.**

Supplementary Question

Councillor Gentry asked if Councillor Brathwaite would seek help from Transport for London when quiet ways would be put in and further asked if there was a date set for a decision on quiet ways.

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Brathwaite responded that there was no date set but a report was upcoming. She thanked Councillor Gentry for co-operation on this issue and acknowledged his hard work in trying to find a solution to what was a long-standing problem. She further added that she would be speaking to TfL in order to ask them to pay for the cost of breaking up concrete surfaces in the future.

8. Councillor Guilherme Rosa to the Cabinet Member for Investment and Partnerships, Councillor Paul McGlone.

Supplementary Question

Councillor Rosa asked what was being done to improve the representation of Portugese residents in Councils.

Supplementary Answer

Councillor McGlone agreed that this was an important issue but stated that Portugese representation was not included within equalities data, but that he would look into this in future.

9. Councillor Malcolm Clark to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Matthew Bennett.

Supplementary Question

Councillor Clark stated that budgets on housing improvements were too small and further asked what was being done to improve support for housing blocks which were too small to warrant their own Tenants and Residents Associations.

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Bennett responded that with the Lambeth Housing Service investment program, Council was ahead of schedule in the work it had done. He further stated that he would talk to Councillor Clark after the meeting in order to address the issue of blocks lacking TRAs.

9. REPORTS

9.1 SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

Councillor Gentry stated that there had been concerns that scrutiny's purpose was to rubber-stamp what the administration had already agreed prior to the meeting, and consequently people were losing faith in the process. He further added that there should be a review of what happened at the Garden Bridge Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as members were given false information regarding employment provision at the Garden Bridge.

Councillor Davie stated that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had involved over 500 residents over the past year. He further outlined the

committee's work in reducing acute mental health admissions by 80% and noted that the fact that Labour members has called-in decisions proved that it was not a mere rubber stamping exercise.

RESOLVED:

That the Scrutiny Annual Report 2015-16 be approved.

9.2 CONSTITUTION 2016 - 17

Councillor Briggs questioned the use of taxpayer's money for the payment to members for Special Responsibility Allowances and Special Neighbourhood Leads. He stated that it was unclear what these Special Neighbourhood Leads are useful for, given that it was part of a Councillor's remit to be involved with their communities. He further added that these extra payments were perceived by residents as being unfair when the Council was making the decision to close the libraries.

Councillor Gadsby stated that the SRA budget had fallen this year. SNLs carried out specific key responsibilities within their neighbourhoods. He also added that the Conservative Group had themselves requested extra staff support from taxpayers' money despite this not being set out in the Constitution.

RESOLVED:

That the changes to the Constitution set out in the agenda pack be approved.

9.3 PAY POLICY 2016 - 17

Councillor McGlone stated that it was vital that salaries paid to senior officers and managers were disclosed. Lambeth had 2750 employees in 2016, when in April 2010 it had 3900. These cuts to staff had come about as a result of the 50% cuts to the Council's budget from the Conservative Government. There was therefore a need to deliver services that cost less and this required talented managers that could do this. He further added that the number earning in excess of £100,000 remained the same as the previous year and the new Chief Executive was on a salary 7% less than his predecessor.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Pay Policy Statement for 2016/17 be approved;
- 2) That the appointments made to posts attracting remuneration in excess of £100,000 per annum and severance packages in excess of £100,000 in the year 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 be noted;
- 3) That the proposed new legislation in relation to recovery of public sector exit payments be noted;
- 4) That the proposed new legislation in relation to a "cap" on public sector exit payments be noted.

10. MOTIONS

Emergency Motion

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

- Councillor Mohammed Seedat
- Councillor Bernard Gentry
- Councillor Scott Ainslie
- Councillor Adrian Gardner
- Councillor Jack Holborn
- Councillor Tim Briggs

Voting:

Amendment 1

For: 46

Against: 2

Abstention: 2

Substantive Amended Motion:

For: 46

Against: 2

Abstention: 2

RESOLVED:

This council notes the concern in our community about an increase in reports of hate crime across the country since the end of the recent divisive European referendum campaign.

"This council, which is proud of our borough's long history of diversity and toleration, resolves to reassure all people living in this area that they are valued members of our community by:

- 1. Continuing to work with our residents, local community groups and police to prevent racism and xenophobia.**
- 2. Welcoming the reassurance from the leader of the council that European citizens are welcome in our borough irrespective of the referendum result.**
- 3. Sending a clear message that racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in Lambeth or in our country.**
- 4. Committing to support freedom of movement for EU nationals.**

Motion 1 – Parks and Green Spaces:

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

- Councillor Bernard Gentry
- Councillor Donatus Anyanwu
- Councillor Amelie Treppass
- Councillor Scott Ainslie
- Councillor Jack Hopkins
- Councillor Tim Briggs

Voting:

Amendment 1

For: 47

Against: 2

Abstention: 1

Substantive Amended Motion:

For: 47

Against: 2

Abstention: 1

RESOLVED:

This Council agrees that the revised events strategy builds on Lambeth's record as one of the only boroughs in London that gives back to local parks.

Notes that the volume, frequency and length of music events in the parks and green spaces across the borough has been developed with input from local residents and businesses, as well as event organisers over five years and is set out in the report.

It also notes that the events strategy includes a new formula to ensure that revenue taken from events is reinvested back in to the space the event was held and reflects the council's need to use its resources to plug gaps in funding. Further notes that the strategy includes strengthened governance arrangements to ensure that councillors and resident's opinions are taken in to account during the event approval process

The Council notes that increased sound levels will be limited to a maximum of eight event days per zone per year, helping to limit the negative impact of such events.

Notes that the Council adheres to the current legislation that governs the use of metropolitan parks and open spaces including Article 7(1)(vii) of the Greater London Open Parks and Open Spaces Order 1967 and will continue to work within the parameters of all relevant legislation.

Motion 2 – Schools in Lambeth:

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

- Councillor Max Deckers-Dowber
- Councillor Bernard Gentry
- Councillor Scott Ainslie
- Councillor Sonia Winifred
- Councillor Jane Edrooke
- Councillor Claire Holland

Voting:

Amendment 1

For: 2
Against: 48
Abstention: 0

Amendment 2

For: 1
Against: 49
Abstention: 0

Substantive Motion

For: 48
Against: 2
Abstention: 0

RESOLVED:

This council notes the outstanding efforts of Lambeth’s teachers and pupils in delivering another year of excellent results and providing school places to all children, regardless of ability. Ofsted’s annual report states that, despite high levels of disadvantage, Lambeth has “nothing but good and outstanding secondary schools”, while 94% of our primary schools are good or outstanding.

Council is very concerned, however, that these achievements will be undermined by the Conservative Government’s continued drive towards turning all schools into academics - regardless of the wishes of teachers, pupils and parents – and ill-thought through changes to funding mechanisms, which will see a 20% cut in Lambeth’s education budget.

Council further notes that:

- **Despite amendments to the government’s recent white paper, there remains a clear ideological steer from ministers towards forced academisation.**
- **The NUT estimates the cost of the process of academisation will be in the region of £1.3bn and that this money could be better spent on funding schools places at a time when there is a shortage of school places in London.**
- **There is widespread opposition to forced academisation from the Local Government Association, Conservative councils across the country and MPs of all parties**
- **The current national schools funding formula has helped Lambeth’s pupils achieve remarkable year-on-year improvements, despite the high levels of deprivation that many face, and any move to level down, rather than level up schools funding will jeopardise further improvements.**

Council calls on the Government to:

- **Halt its plans to force academy status and re-think its policy, which is undemocratic, expensive, fails to meet the needs of local pupils, excludes parental involvement and removes local accountability.**
- **Give the council the ability to ensure all schools support the needs of local children including providing places regardless of ability and**

- enough places to meet future demand.
- **Look again at its planned new funding formula and ensure that London schools do not see their budget needlessly slashed at a time when it is critical that we maintain and increase levels of investment in their future.**

Motion 3 – Gipsy Hill By-Election:

Voting:

Amendment 1

For: 47

Against: 3

Abstention: 0

Substantive Amended Motion

For: 47

Against: 3

Abstention: 0

Motion 4 – Armed Forces in Lambeth:

Voting:

Substantive Motion

For: 50

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

RESOLVED:

This council notes that our community has a debt of service to those individuals who have served in the Armed Services, as recognised by the Armed Forces Covenant and Lambeth’s own Community Covenant. It further notes however that there is a lack of accurate information about how many veterans, reservists and dependents there are in the United Kingdom and Lambeth, making it difficult to judge their needs and shape services accordingly.

This council resolves:

- 1. To support the Royal British Legion’s Count Them In campaign calling for the next national census to include additional questions on the Armed Forces community.**
- 2. To write to the government asking ministers to make a public statement supporting this campaign and ensuring that the next census includes these questions.**

Motion 5 – Financial Transaction Tax:

Voting:

Amendment 1

For: 2

Against: 48

Abstention: 0

Substantive Motion

For: 48

Against: 2

Abstention: 0

RESOLVED:

This council notes the positive international consensus on a financial transaction tax that deducting a tiny fraction of one percent of the value of trades in equities, bonds and derivatives could raise billions if introduced in a concerted way.

It further notes that the revenue raised could be used to support public services and reverse the unfair cuts to Lambeth and other councils by the current Conservative government.

This council resolves to:

- 1. Support the introduction of a properly designed financial transaction tax that avoids negative economic consequences, but generates additional revenue for public services.**
- 2. Calls on such a tax to be set jointly by the UK with our international allies, particularly with our partners in Europe and the United States.**
- 3. Write to the government calling for them to end their indifference to this issue, and work to introduce such a tax, the proceeds of which should be used to offset the enormous cuts that Lambeth Council and other local authorities have suffered under this government.**

The meeting ended at 10.05 pm

MAYOR
Wednesday 19 October 2016

Date of Despatch: Thursday 21 July 2016

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