

**Council, 22 January 2020**

**Council Motions**

**Wards:** All

**Report Authorised by:** Director of Legal and Governance, Alison McKane

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**Report summary**

Motions and amendments submitted by Councillors, in accordance with Standing Order 13, are set out below. Motion 1 and 2 will be debated as per council and committee rules and procedures.

**Key to shading:**

**Bold – additions**

~~Strikethrough~~ – deletions

**Motion 1: Green**

**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 and women.
- 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.

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 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.
- 5) The success of the London Living Wage campaign in raising awareness of low pay and encouraging more employers to pay a living wage.
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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) 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.
- 2) Write to the Government asking for the power to establish and enforce local rent controls.
- 3) To investigate the implementation of a private landlord licensing scheme; and
- 4) To call on the government to pass legislation to enable the Council to control rents
- 5) Push for the highest number of council level rents on all new build housing proposals.
- 6) Set up a Housing Scrutiny Committee to look at rent, repairs and other areas of housing in both the social and private housing sector.
- 7) Promote the London Renters Union to private renters in the borough.

### **Amendment 1: Labour**

#### **Lambeth Living Rent**

Lambeth Council notes:

- 7) 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, and women, **people from low income backgrounds and BAME communities.**

- 8) 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.
- 9) Since 2010 the average rent has risen three times as fast as average incomes.
- 10) One in four families are now raising children in a private rented home, compared to just one in ten a decade ago.
- 11) 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.
- 12) Genuinely affordable rents give people the freedom to live a decent life, helping lift families out of poverty and not 'just manage each month.
- 13) 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:

- 9) Local authorities' currently have limited influence on private sector rental values or powers over private landlords.
- 10) 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.
- 11) 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'.
- 12) 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.**
- 13) 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.
- 14) 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.**
- 15) 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.
- 16) 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.
- 17) 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.
- 18) 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:

- 8) 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.

- 9) **Support the call from Mayor Sadiq Khan for powers to control rent rises to be devolved to London.**
- 10) **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.**
- 11) ~~Write to~~ **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.**
- 12) ~~To investigate~~ **continue with plans for the implementation of a private landlord licensing scheme; and**
- 13) ~~To call on the government to pass legislation to enable the Council to control rents~~
- 14) **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.**
- 15) **Support the work of Lambeth's scrutiny committee which has had four sessions in the past year on housing issues.**
- 16) ~~Set up a Housing Scrutiny Committee to look at rent, repairs and other areas of housing in both the social and private housing sector.~~
- 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 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 the suicide rate amongst people aged 10-34 years is 6.3 men and 2.7 women per 100,000 residents.

Council notes that inequality and deprivation result in higher instances of mental health conditions and higher suicide rates.

Council notes the evidence that by reducing inequality 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:

- 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.

### **Amendment 1: Conservative**

#### **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~~ **despite increases in mental health funding for many years, Labour** local authorities **like Lambeth** and the NHS are **still** 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 the suicide rate amongst people aged 10-34 years is 6.3 men and 2.7 women per 100,000 residents, **which is an appalling indictment of the Labour council which has run Lambeth since 2006.**

Council notes that inequality and deprivation result in higher instances of mental health conditions and higher suicide rates, **and notes that Conservative-run Wandsworth has been recognised as the 4<sup>th</sup> best place in the whole country for social mobility, helping to give residents the kinds of opportunities that sustain better mental health and lower suicide rates.**

Council notes the evidence that by reducing inequality through ~~properly funded~~ **better run** 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~~ **and will provide** 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~~ **old-style funding grant** cut by more than 50% since 2010, **giving an actual budget decrease of about 3% a year, which the Labour-run council seems incapable of managing competently, despite its massively increased income from other sources.**

This council:

- 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 help actually devise and implement** a detailed ~~funding strategy from the government~~ which adequately responds to the crisis in young people's mental health, **instead of Labour councillors blaming everyone else for their poor record.**
- 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~~ **demanding** the Mayor of London's ~~#ZeroSuicideLDN~~ campaign ~~by providing suicide prevention training to all Lambeth staff and contractors~~ **do his job by diverting resources to make sure that our children are kept safe from being stabbed on our streets, rather than spending money training well-paid Lambeth employees and contractors.**
- Commits to **helping charities raise money** campaigning to get 100,000 Londoners to take suicide awareness courses, such as those facilitated by Thrive LDN, a suicide prevention group.

## **Amendment 2: Green**

### **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 ~~the~~ **suicide is the leading cause of death amongst young people aged 20 to 34.** ~~rate amongst people aged 10-34 years~~ **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**

#### **To support proposals planned by the new Conservative Government that help local residents**

On 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in the Queen's Speech, Her Majesty set out proposals from her new Conservative Government that Labour councillors in Lambeth have been asking for repeatedly over many years in the Council Chamber, without those councillors providing any detail on how to finance them. The proposals include:

- The National Health Service's multi-year funding settlement of a record £34 billion a year, agreed earlier in 2019, to be enshrined in law. Steps will be taken to grow and support the National Health Service's workforce and a new visa will ensure qualified doctors, nurses and health professionals have fast-track entry to the United Kingdom. Hospital car parking charges will be removed for those in greatest need.
- The Conservative Government will seek cross-party consensus on proposals for long term reform of social care, and ensure that the social care system provides everyone with the dignity and security they deserve, and that no one who needs care has to sell their home to pay for it. The Government will continue work to reform the Mental Health Act.
- A modern, fair, points-based immigration system will welcome skilled workers from across the world to contribute to the United Kingdom's economy, communities and public services.
- Measures to support working families, raising the National Insurance threshold and increasing the National Living Wage
- To ensure every child has access to a high-quality education the Government will increase levels of funding per pupil in every school.
- To continue to take steps to meet the world-leading target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Government will continue to lead the way in tackling global climate change, and to protect and improve the environment for future generations, a bill will enshrine in law environmental principles and legally-binding targets, including for air quality. It will also ban the export of polluting plastic waste to countries outside the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and establish a new, world-leading independent regulator in statute.
- Measures will be brought forward to encourage flexible working, to introduce the entitlement to leave for unpaid carers and to help people save for later life.

Council welcomes and supports these proposals on a non-political, cross-party basis.

## **Motion 4: Labour**

### **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.

## **Amendment 1: Conservative**

### **Defending Lambeth's diverse communities**

Council notes that since the referendum in 2016, reports of hate crime in **London is up 51% since Sadiq Khan became Mayor, with LGBT+ hate crime growing at a faster rate than any other type of hate crime, and 2,835 homophobic hate crimes over the last 12 months in London** the UK have almost doubled. Council further notes that we live in a society where

abuse and hatred **and a lack of tolerance or understanding of people who are not part of London metropolitan elite** is becoming more commonplace, and many seek to find differences with each other instead of celebrating similarities and shared values.

**Council also notes that Labour councillors actually removed the Lambeth officer responsible for recording and assessing hate crime in 2015.**

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 by politicians - **that have shown that they do not believe in democracy by ignoring the will of the people and using all means to try to remain in the European Union - will normalise and legitimise more hatred, and potentially feed the trend of increasing hate crime in the UK.**

Council expresses its concern ~~that~~ **about** the despicable way the Labour Government has treated some Windrush Generation residents **by starting its 'hostile environment' policy when it was in power nationally in 2010, and is satisfied that this Labour** policy will not be repeated with our EU residents with the withdrawal of Britain from the European Union. Council believes that our greatest asset is our diversity, **including a tolerance of diversity of opinion**, 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~~ **Is appalled that** the Leader of the Council ~~for~~ **is only now** 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, **despite Labour councillors having previously refused to follow recommendations from Conservative councillors to set up an EU citizen advice line, email and drop-in service similar to the service in Wandsworth**
- 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, **to make up for the shame of Labour councillors having previously charged the highest fee in the whole of London, creating the greatest monetary barrier out of all 32 London councils on EU citizens, for its European Passport Service**
- Commits to support efforts to make Lambeth a Zero Hate Crime borough and stand with our minority communities against prejudice, inequality and attacks **exacerbated by government. elected politicians not listening and thinking they know better than**

**the people of this country, causing a massive breach of trust in democracy, and emboldening extremist views and extremism. We must repair that broken trust so that prejudice against minority groups does not find expression in violence and intolerance, but people once again feel more connected to one another, feel they have a shared interest in acting and expressing themselves within the law, and are punished properly if they break the law.**

## **Motion 5: Labour**

### **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.

### **Amendment 1: Conservative**

#### **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~~ **become increasingly effective** when it comes to tackling climate change.
- A net zero target of 2050 for the government is **a groundbreaking international commitment** ~~nowhere near sufficient enough to help ensure the UK does its part in averting~~ ~~steer us away from~~ climate catastrophe, **with the UK responsible for 1% of the world's greenhouse gases.**
- We could do so much more as a borough if we had a **Conservative leadership like next-door Wandsworth that was committed but also effective enough to make Lambeth net carbon neutral by 2030 and help tackle climate change, plant and maintain 60,000 trees like Wandsworth, or copy Wandsworth's huge number of electric vehicle charging points and high car club membership, all the while keeping council tax to just over half the amount it is in Lambeth to benefit all residents, but especially those on low incomes** ~~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~~ **all parties work together to** adopts the ~~national Labour Party's~~ ambitious but necessary **2030 2050** net zero target.

- On the government to properly resource the fight against ~~the climate crisis and to resource~~ **poorly-run** local authorities like Lambeth so that it can radically reduce its emissions and create a more biodiverse, low-carbon society.

## Amendment 2: Green

### 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 **and** brought forward its target for becoming carbon neutral by 20 years, from 2050 to 2030, **as the result of a motion tabled by the Green Party.**
- **In 2010, tackling climate change was one of the Council's six key strategy principles setting a baseline for its carbon emissions according to its 2011 Carbon Management plan entitled "Creating a Low Carbon Lambeth Council". But this was not implemented.** ~~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 **unspecified** 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~~ **some progress but could have done far more** in reducing the council's carbon footprint **and tackling the climate and ecological emergency such as looking at how it could stop incinerating the entire borough's waste, ending its estate demolition programme which will release thousands of tonnes of embodied carbon into the atmosphere, banning the use of glyphosate like other councils have done, establishing a proper Landlord Licensing Scheme to help address energy waste in private rented homes, applying a 2030 target to its Local Implementation Plan for Transport (rather than the 2050 target) and carrying out a feasibility study for a Workplace Parking Levy..**
- In May 2019, Lambeth published its first Responsible Procurement Strategy **which mentions carbon emissions only twice in the whole policy, one of those references being in the appendix.** ~~which aims to tackle carbon emissions in the council's supply chain.~~
- **Lambeth Labour has yet to reveal the details of the New Green Deal for Lambeth to which it expressed a commitment in July 2019.** Council must commit to ~~with~~ a just transition ~~to~~ and create a safe and sustainable future for our most vulnerable residents and our young people.
- **The council published the first iteration of its Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan, which doesn't sets out how Lambeth Council will actually become a carbon neutral council by 2030, nor does it contain a proper baseline for carbon emissions or their reduction targets. There is a lack of detail and many gaps that need to be addressed in the details for 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. **This compares with the aim in the council's 2011 report on reducing carbon which suggested a reduction of 1612 tonnes of CO2 from energy used in council buildings.**
- In September 2019, Lambeth agreed a deal to enable the council to purchase 100% renewable energy from 2020 onwards - **a move other London boroughs had already made more quickly including the City of London which committed to it a year and a half ago, before the first climate emergency motion in London was passed.**

- In October 2019, the council published its new Transport Strategy **which should have gone much further in its ambition.** ~~which is focused on decarbonising the transport system in the borough that is responsible for around 30% of the emissions in the whole borough.~~ **The strategy mentions “climate” just once and has no mention of “carbon” or “decarbonisation” anywhere in it. Tackling the climate emergency or decarbonisation also don’t feature anywhere in either the strategy’s “vision” or four guiding principles. The council also adopted the Mayor of London’s 2050 target - rather than its own 2030 target - in its Local Implementation Plan for the Mayor’s transport strategy which also begs huge questions about the Council’s actual commitment to decarbonising transport. The Council now appears to have abandoned any exploration of a workplace parking levy.**
- 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. **However, there has been insufficient action on ending the use of single use plastics across Lambeth since the council passed the Green Party’s motion on single-use plastic two years ago.**
- The council has installed over 130 electric vehicle charging points in the past year **following funding given to London Boroughs from City Hall’s Go Ultra Low City Scheme, and although much slower to install them than neighbouring boroughs like Southwark it is beginning to reshape Lambeth’s** ~~the borough’s~~ streets to prioritise walking, cycling and public transport **after its commitment to prioritise these things almost ten years ago in the Council’s 2011 Transport Strategy but more urgent action is required.**
- The council is **still** 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 **following the delegated decision made over two and a half years ago in May 2017 which noted that the decision was made on financial grounds because an “annual non-compliance fee of £202,000 would be levied if the existing fleet was not replaced, when the Ultra Low Emission Zone is introduced in 2019. This fee would impact on the Parks revenue budget, resulting in a direct overspend”.**

#### Council commits to:

- **Halt the estate demolition programme and estimate the release of embodied carbon from the demolition of the 6 estates**
- **Carry out a feasibility study for a workplace parking levy as agreed over a year ago**
- **Include a carbon neutrality commitment in all contracts with contractors and suppliers**
- **Monitor air pollution continuously across the borough, providing air pollution levels, including PM10 and PM 2.5, to the public on a daily basis**
- **Work toward introducing a proper landlord licensing scheme to raise standards over energy efficiency in private rented housing**

#### 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 **and will act on the recommendations, as Extinction Rebellion point out, it must have “the scope, budget, independence and impact to make all of us, the people of Lambeth, equal partners”.**

- The citizens assembly **aims to** 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 **but as Extinction Rebellion Lambeth state “a citizen’s assembly is a proven model, practised in diverse settings around the world, and anything that doesn’t follow the universally agreed standards is not a citizen’s assembly”.**
- 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 **Green Party’s** ~~national Labour Party’s~~ ambitious but necessary 2030 net zero target **rather than the Labour Manifesto lesser commitment to a “substantial majority of our emissions reductions by 2030”.**
  - 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.
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