

Motions

Motion 1: Budget crisis in Cultural Service and “ghost libraries” (10.12.08)

Councillor Julian Heather

Council has been extremely concerned to hear of the budget crisis that has emerged in the Cultural Services department since April 2008. Council notes that the department has projected an enormous overspend of £2.8m, which is over 15% of the entire annual budget for this division.

Council notes that under the former Environment, Culture and Community Safety department, the budgets were well managed and monitored. Council is concerned that the Labour administration has shown no willingness to investigate or explain how this budget crisis has emerged.

Council notes that completely unrealistic savings were built into the budget, particularly in Parks, the Parks Rangers service and Events; and consequently these savings could not be achieved.

In an attempt to mitigate its own poor financial management, the council has introduced a number of cuts to the budget. As a result, the fountains have been switched off; the parks maintenance budget has been drastically pruned back; the Parks Rangers service will be reduced; funding is to be cut from the popular events in libraries; general maintenance to sports facilities won't be carried out and new computers promised for the public to use in libraries won't materialise.

Council notes that the administration has also introduced an expenditure freeze, which is intended to save approximately £1m across parks, libraries, leisure and sport and management. However, Council notes that the Labour administration has failed to spell out what specific areas have been frozen and what impact this will have on services and service users.

Council is concerned that the budget freezes will particularly impact on the parks service, with up to £0.5m being frozen on repairs and maintenance. This will have an ongoing impact on the condition and infrastructure of the borough's parks and open spaces.

Council notes that despite this package of drastic measures, it is likely that the budget will still be overspent. Council believes that the administration has managed the Cultural Services budget appallingly since it came to power.

In addition to presiding over a budget crisis, questions have been raised about the Audit Commission ratings awarded to the Cultural Services bloc on Labour's watch.

Council has been appalled to hear of the “Librarygate” scandal, which saw officers hatch a plan to open three ‘temporary libraries’ in order to hoodwink the Audit Commission into believing the Council was meeting its targets for library opening hours.

Council notes that despite a staggering total cost of almost £70,000, these 'libraries' only issued 25 books between them over a period of two months. This equates to a cost of approximately £2800 per book. Council believes that this has thrown into question the assessment of the whole Cultural Services bloc and raises doubts as to whether the returns submitted to CIPFA have been entirely accurate.

Council believes that if the Labour Administration were to focus as much time and energy on providing a real library service rather than 'ghost' libraries, it might stand a chance of giving the residents of the borough the quality of service that they deserve.

Amendment 1 – Councillor John Whelan:

Add at end:

Council condemns the blatant and cynical “manipulation” of data about virtual libraries designed to achieve a higher star rating in the Audit Commission’s recent inspections of Lambeth services. Administration members need to spend more time on improving cultural services and less hours of the day on ticking boxes for government inspectors.

Amendment 3 – Councillor Mark Bennett

Additions in Bold

Deletions in Bold and Underlined

Council has been extremely concerned to hear of the **projected** budget **crisis overspend** that has emerged in **the** Cultural Services. **Council notes that on the 16th June 2008 the former department of Environment, Culture and Community Safety was disbanded and Cultural Services and Community Safety joined with Adults Care Services to form a new department. department since April 2008.** Council notes that, **previously, Cultural Services, the department has** projected an **individual enormous** overspend of £2.8m., **which is over 15% of the entire annual budget for this division.** **Yet after hard work from staff and the Cabinet Member for Culture, the projected overspend in this sector is now less that £1m. Council further notes that this reduction has been achieved by making savings which have not affected frontline services for residents.**

Council notes that the Department of ACS/Community Safety/Cultural Services is projected to be within budget at the end of this financial year. Council congratulates officers on their work to achieve this so far and instructs them to ensure that the Department stays within budget for the remainder of the financial year.

Council notes that under the former Environment, Culture and Community Safety department, the budgets were well managed and monitored. Council is concerned that the Labour administration has shown no willingness to investigate or explain how this budget crisis has emerged.

Council notes that completely unrealistic savings were built into the budget, particularly in Parks, the Parks Rangers service and Events; and consequently these savings could not be achieved.

In an attempt to mitigate its own poor financial management, the council has introduced a number of cuts to the budget. As a result, the fountains have been

switched off; the parks maintenance budget has been drastically pruned back; the Parks Rangers service will be reduced; funding is to be cut from the popular events in libraries; general maintenance to sports facilities won't be carried out and new computers promised for the public to use in libraries won't materialise.

Council notes that the administration has also introduced an expenditure freeze, which is intended to save approximately £1m across parks, libraries, leisure and sport and management. However, Council notes that the Labour administration has failed to spell out what specific areas have been frozen and what impact this will have on services and service users.

Council is concerned that the budget freezes will particularly impact on the parks service, with up to £0.5m being frozen on repairs and maintenance. This will have an ongoing impact on the condition and infrastructure of the borough's parks and open spaces.

Council notes that despite this package of drastic measures, it is likely that the budget will still be overspent. Council believes that the administration has managed the Cultural Services budget appallingly since it came to power.

In addition to presiding over a budget crisis, qQuestions have been raised about the Audit Commission ratings awarded to the Cultural Services. bloc on Labour's watch.-

Council has been appalled to hear of the "Librarygate" scandal, which saw officers hatch a plan to open three 'temporary libraries' in order to hoodwink the Audit Commission into believing the Council was meeting its targets for library opening hours.

Council notes that Cultural Information Centres were not an attempt to deceive the Audit Commission but were a pilot scheme which offered despite a staggering total cost of almost £70,000, books and attempted to increase voter registration. The Liberal Democrats, while in power, neglected the electoral roll and excluded residents from voting. In contrast the Labour Administration has been working hard to increase registration since 2006. Some schemes have been more successful than others but Council believes that it should always try to ensure that residents in Lambeth can exercise their democratic right and should not apologise for trying to do so. these 'libraries' only issued 25 books between them over a period of two months. This equates to a cost of approximately £2800 per book. Council believes that this has thrown into question the assessment of the whole Cultural Services bloc and raises doubts as to whether the returns submitted to CIPFA have been entirely accurate.

Council believes that if the Labour administration were to focus as much time and energy into providing books as it has on cooking them, it might stand a chance of giving the residents of the borough the quality of service that they deserve.

Motion 2: Kerb Crawling (11.12.08)

Councillor Steve Reed

Council congratulates the Labour administration for its tough approach on tackling kerb crawlers. Council notes the recent recognition given to Lambeth by the Home Office, who will be using the Labour Administration's model from the Drug Deterrence Policy of publicly naming offenders to be applied to a national policy to name the sleazy individuals who are caught buying sex. Council further congratulates the recent pro-active approach as seen with Josephine Avenue but recognises that prostitution still exists in the borough. Council believes that this tough action with kerb crawlers as well as working hard to get prostitutes the right treatment, many of whom are caught selling their bodies to feed their habits, is the right approach.

Council is therefore astounded at the approach of the Liberal Democrats whose want to see prostitution legalised and brothels on street corners in Lambeth. It is clear that with this outrageous policy the Liberal Democrats are condemning the women who are at the mercy of their addiction to the continuing scourge of prostitution. Council urges the Leader of Lambeth Liberal Democrats to condemn the pimps, pushers and perverts in Lambeth and hopes Councillor Lumsden recognises that his support of this sleazy business would in practice give a free passport to more trafficking and would only compound the continued exploitation of young women. Council insists that the Liberal Democrats drop their dangerous policy and support the Labour Administration in their approach.

Amendment 1 – Councillor Ashley Lumsden

Additions in Bold

Deletions in Bold and Underlined

Council congratulates the Labour administration for its tough approach on tackling kerb crawlers. Council notes the recent recognition given to Lambeth by the Home Office, who will be using the Labour Administration's model from the Drug Deterrence Policy of publicly naming offenders to be applied to a national policy to name the sleazy individuals who are caught buying sex. Council **further** congratulates the recent pro-active approach to tackle **kerb-crawling** as seen with Josephine Avenue but recognises that prostitution still exists in the borough. Council believes that this tough action with kerb crawlers as well as working hard to get prostitutes the right treatment, many of whom are caught selling their bodies to feed their habits, is the right approach.

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Council notes that Councillor Reed continues his attempt to play party politics with this issue even though other Labour politicians including Keith Hill MP have supported an approach that includes tough action on kerb-crawling while recognising that prostitution cannot be “stamped out” by pontificating or legislating.

Motion 3: Mayor Johnson’s Youth Crime Action Plan (11.12.08)

Councillor Donatus Anyanwu

The Council welcomes Mayor Johnson’s attempt at a Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) for London and his rhetoric on tackling youth crime. Furthermore, Council broadly agrees with the objectives contained within the action plan. However, Council has severe reservations regarding the Mayor’s plans and believes it is further evidence that the Mayor is failing to deliver for London.

Council recognises that Lambeth is investing £2 million into youth provision and that its own YCAP – Young and Safe was based on intelligence and evidence gathered in our communities and through the borough’s pioneering Guns and Gangs Commission. Lambeth’s action plan contains plans for targeted intervention to tackle gangs and individuals who are most likely to commit crime.

In contrast, Mayor Johnson’s approach has been strikingly different:

1. The Mayor has only committed £700,000 for London as a whole and Council believes that what amounts to approximately £22,000 per Borough is a paltry sum to tackle youth crime.
2. Council notes that the majority of Boris’s new plans are not new at all and that if the Mayor had bothered to consult with schools and communities in Lambeth and Government Departments such as the DCSF, DoH and the Ministry of Justice it would have been apparent that most of his YCAP is nothing more than a re-packaging of schemes and programmes that already exist.
3. Council is most concerned that Mayor Johnson’s plan hardly devotes any attention to increasing targeted youth provision. Council believes that tackling the specific issues in local communities is the way to reduce crime and make people feel safer. Using a one size fits all approach, as the Mayor favours, Council believes is a shining example of how our new Mayor does not have any empathy for the problems that exist in inner city boroughs like Lambeth.

Finally, Council notes that last year in Lambeth, gun enabled crime was down over 40% and murder has fallen over 60%. Council recognises that the Labour Administration, through investing and developing action plans like Young and Safe is the only party that has an approach to crime that is fit for purpose and seeks to use the community to help shape its approach to tackling the unique problems in Lambeth. In contrast, Council notes that Conservative policy on tackling our toughest gangs seem to amount to an invitation to join the scouts or guides. While these groups should be congratulated, Council doubts that such difficult work should rest on their shoulders. As an alternative, the Liberal Democrats want to let young offenders get away with committing crime as well as legalising prostitution and licensing brothels on Lambeth street corners. Therefore Council urges the Mayor of London, his party and the Liberal Democrats to re-assess their

approach on youth crime and to follow the example currently being set by the Labour Administration.

Amendment 1 – Councillor Clare Whelan

Delete all after para 2 and insert:

Council is aware that the Mayor of London's number one priority is tackling youth crime. This is reflected in the "Time for Action" document which sets out the Mayor's vision for a programme of action for equipping young people for the future and preventing violence. Council welcomes the fact that the proposals are intended to complement work being done by other agencies, in particular London boroughs that have lead responsibilities for children's services, and to focus on the value the Mayor can add on these issues.

Note by Director of Legal and Democratic Services

If amendment 1 is carried, amendment 2 will fall.

Amendment 2 – Councillor Gavin Dodsworth

Changes to final paragraph onwards:

Additions in Bold

Deletions in Bold and Underlined

Finally, Council notes that last year in Lambeth, gun enabled crime was down over 40% and murder has fallen over 60%. Council recognises that the Labour Administration, through investing and developing action plans like Young and Safe is the only party that has an approach to crime that is fit for purpose and seeks to use the community to help shape its approach to tackling the unique problems in Lambeth. In contrast, Council notes that Conservative policy on tackling our toughest gangs seem to amount to an invitation to join the scouts or guides. While these groups should be congratulated, Council doubts that such difficult work should rest on their shoulders. As an alternative, the Liberal Democrats want to **let young offenders get away with committing crime as well as legalising prostitution and licensing brothels on Lambeth street corners. Therefore Council urges the Mayor of London, his party and the Liberal Democrats to re-assess their approach on youth crime and to follow the example currently being set by the Labour Administration.** tackle youth crime by:

- **Making young people pay back the damage caused to communities without involving the criminal justice system**
- **The formation of a Youth Volunteer Force to engage young people in activities that benefit local people**
- **Increasing activities for young people and protecting children's play areas**
- **Stopping the sale of alcohol to children**
- **Tackling alcohol abuse and drug addiction**
- **More police on the beat**
- **Running nationwide restorative justice programmes, with a particular emphasis on early intervention in schools and care homes**
- **Creating a dedicated PCSO youth officer in every area to work with teenagers most at risk of offending**

- **Targeting guns and knives through intelligence-led stop and search, hot-spot policing and action in schools**

Motion 4: Safeguarding Children & Haringey's Baby P (11.12.08)

Councillor Paul McGlone

Council notes that the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families responded on 1st December to the publication of both the urgent Joint Area Review of Safeguarding in Haringey as well as to the third Joint Chief Inspectors' report into arrangements for safeguarding children. Council also notes his statutory interventions following the conclusion that key weaknesses in Haringey included, 'inadequate leadership and management of safeguarding by the local authority and partner agencies'.

Council resolves to take stock of the effectiveness of safeguarding practice in Lambeth as requested of all local authorities by the Secretary of State.

Council notes that under The Children Act (2004) there is a legal duty to appoint a Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services, who respectively have legal responsibility and political accountability for Children's Services, including particular responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Council notes that as Lead Member for Children's Services in Lambeth, Councillor Paul McGlone is already overseeing a review of current safeguarding arrangements in line with the Secretary of State's requirements. These reviews and actions include looking at the recommendations of the recent Joint Area Review (JAR), which said that 'the contribution of local services to improving outcomes for children and young people at risk, or requiring safeguarding is good.' Other reviews will include any lessons to be learnt from the Baby P Haringey case; an audit of child protection cases; a review of case loads and the skill mix within social care teams; and the annual review of the option of appointing an independent chair of the Lambeth Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB).

Council also notes that the Government's response to the inspector's 22 recommendations in the third Joint Chief Inspectors' report into arrangements for safeguarding children need to be considered and the 4 recommendations for LSCB and Local Authorities implemented locally.

Council finally notes that the Secretary of State specifically requested each Local Safeguarding Children's Board responsible for a Serious Case Review which was judged inadequate to convene a panel, to be chaired by an independent person, to reconsider that review. Lambeth has one such inadequate review relating to the tragic death of a child in March 2006, where the review was published in August 2007. A report must be sent to the Secretary of State by the end of February 2009. Council notes that another child was seriously injured in May 2007 and was subject to a serious case review published in September 2008. This review was rated by Ofsted as 'good'. Both these Serious Case Reviews were considered by the LSCB.

Council urges all members to publicly pledge that the consideration of children's safety is at the centre of everything we do – above party politics and point-scoring.

Council resolves to give their full support to the Lead Member for Children's Services and to the Director of Children's Services as well as support staff who protect thousands of children every day of the year.

Amendment 1 – Councillor Suzanne Poole

Add at end:

Council welcomes the continued commitment of elected members and co-opted members of the CYPS Scrutiny Committee in examining the Council's safeguarding procedures for vulnerable children and young people.

Motion 5: Council as a Living Wage employer (05.01.09)

Councillor Rebecca Thackray (seconder: Councillor Andrew Gibson)

Council takes on the responsibility of becoming a Living Wage employer to help alleviate the 'working poverty trap' in the capital, a situation affecting around 400,000 Londoners who are paid less than can reasonably fund the basic costs of living in London.

Council seeks a review Lambeth Council's procurement, contract and best-value policies to ensure that the London Living Wage of £7.45 per hour, as set by the GLA's Living Wage Unit, is the minimum paid by Lambeth Council and by its contractors; and aims to promote the London Living Wage and London Citizens' Living Wage Employer Award to the private sector in Lambeth.

Amendment 1 – Councillor John Whelan

Add at end:

Council notes the agreement of the Mayor of London and the GLA to implement a London Living Wage at £7.45 per hour as contracts allow and recognises that neighbouring Southwark and Lewisham councils have already become a Living Wage employer.

Amendment 2 – Councillor John Kazantzis

Additions in Bold

Deletions in Bold and Underlined

This Council takes on the responsibility of becoming is a Living Wage employer as no Lambeth Council employee earns less than the London Living Wage (LLW) of £7.45 per hour. In fact the lowest pay rate for our direct employees is higher than the LLW at £8.08 per hour and only 147 staff earn less than £10 per hour. In addition, contractors such as Veolia, the Council's waste management contractor, pays at least LLW to all their staff. The Council acknowledges the importance of the Living Wage to help alleviate the 'working poverty trap' in the capital, a situation affecting around 400,000 Londoners who are paid less than can reasonably fund the basic costs of living in London.

This Council will continue to work towards the reduction of differential terms and conditions between directly employed staff and those employed by the Council's

contractors, with the aspiration of applying the Lambeth minimum wage to contractors' staff.

Council seeks a review Lambeth Council's procurement, contract and best-value policies to ensure that the London Living Wage of £7.45 per hour, as set by the GLA's Living Wage Unit, is the minimum paid by Lambeth Council and by its contractors; and aims to promote the London Living Wage and London Citizens' Living Wage Employer Award to the private sector in Lambeth.

Amendment 3 – Councillor Gavin Dodsworth

Add to end:

Council also reminds the Labour Group that Councillor Banks' amended motion on this subject, passed in February 2007, {28 February 2007 motion 20} stated the 'Lambeth Labour Group is currently working closely with officers to investigate the cost of implementing the Living Wage for all contracted out staff. The work is ongoing but this policy will be implemented as soon as is financially and practically possible'. In the light of this statement, Council will include the cost of the Living Wage in the upcoming 2009-2010 budget.

Motion 6: Council Tax Freeze (06.01.09)

Councillor John Whelan

Council is mindful of the current difficulties in the economy which have resulted in increased financial pressures on residents of the borough. This is especially the case with pensioners on fixed incomes, the disabled and lone parent households, as well as 30,000 tenants facing rent rises of between £12 and £15 a week from April 2009 together with above inflation increases in housing service charges.

Accordingly, in view of this pressing situation Council urges the administration to work with all councillors to help struggling families by agreeing to work towards the aspiration of freezing council tax for the next two financial years, while conducting a root and branch review of service delivery to ensure the maximum of efficiency savings to create a balanced budget acceptable to the community. Additionally, Council calls for more transparent and timely financial information for Scrutiny Committees in the current round of budget setting so as to build the basis for consensus

Amendment 1 – Councillor Clare Whelan

Add at end:

Council regrets the paucity of financial information on the upcoming 2009-2010 budget provided to the scrutiny committee reviewing the cultural services department. While noting the apology issued by Democratic Services, Council hopes there will be no repetition of this mishap.

Council also congratulates the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea for giving its Council tax payers a tax rebate of £50 a household in these difficult times, and will seek to emulate aspects of that Council's sound financial management.

Amendment 2 – Councillor Jim Dickson

Additions in Bold

Deletions in Bold and Underlined

Council is mindful of the current difficulties in the economy which have resulted in increased financial pressures on residents of the borough. This is especially the case with pensioners on fixed incomes, the disabled and lone parent households, as well as 30,000 tenants facing rent rises of **between** £12 **and** £15 a week from April 2009 together with above inflation increases in housing service charges.

Council is also reminded that many of these difficulties stem from the actions of the Liberal Democrat-Tory Administration between 2002-06, who hiked taxes by 40% - a record for Lambeth which dramatically impacted residents across the borough. Yet the council still the managed to fritter away taxpayers hard earned cash leaving the council bankrupt and with no money in reserves at the end of their term in office.

Accordingly, Despite, repairing much of the Lib Dem-Tory damage, council recognises in view of this the pressing economic circumstances and congratulates the Labour Administration for their financial management and their commitment to help residents and families by keeping Council tax as low as possible in the next two years. Council further congratulates the Labour Administration for their continuing situation Council urges the administration to work with all councillors to help struggling families by agreeing to work towards the aspiration of freezing council tax for the next two financial years, while conducting a root and branch review of service **delivery efficiency, a process that has already delivered over £36m of approved savings, to ensure the maximum of efficiency savings helping to create a balanced budget acceptable to the community with major additional investment in services and money in reserves to meet future external and internal risks.** Additionally, Council calls for **the administration to build on the excellent budget consultation arrangements now in place by providing even** more transparent and timely financial information for Scrutiny Committees in the current **and futures** rounds of budget setting **so as to build the basis for consensus.**

Motion 7: Redevelopment of Norwood Hall (06.01.09)

Councillor Irene Kimm

In the light of the concerns raised at the last consultation event of 2008 at Nettlefold Hall, this Council proposes to convene a public meeting on the Hainthorpe Estate to discuss the impact of the redevelopment of Norwood Hall.

This meeting's agenda should include the cost of the proposed leisure centre and pool and separate impact assessments on the local community relating to traffic, parking, and housing development targets for the area.

Amendment 1 – Councillor Graham Pycock

Add at end:

Council urges officers to publicise the meeting properly to ensure that local residents with an interest in the plans can attend, particularly those on the Hainthorpe Estate, Canterbury Grove, and other roads that are likely to be affected. Council also notes that for heritage reasons the memorial on the site to the former Jewish orphanage should be preserved and not damaged in the re-development as happened with the war memorial at the former Dick Sheppard Secondary School in Tulse Hill in the 1990s.

Amendment 2 – Councillor Jackie Meldrum

Additions in Bold

Deletions in Bold and Underlined

In the light of the concerns raised at the last consultation event of 2008 at Nettlefold Hall, this Council **welcomes the ongoing consultation with residents about regeneration in West Norwood and the West Norwood masterplan. Council notes that the masterplan will be going out to final consultation in February and is planned to be on the agenda at Cabinet in April. proposes to convene a public meeting on the Hainthorpe Estate to discuss the impact of the redevelopment of Norwood Hall.**

Council is concerned that only one Conservative member turned up to a public meeting that the Conservative Group had called for on the regeneration of the local area. But Council believes this may explain why some Conservative members do not have a full grasp of the issues in the West Norwood masterplan.

Council believes that in the current economic climate it is more important than ever to regenerate the centre of West Norwood including This meeting's agenda should include the cost of the proposed leisure centre and pool and separate impact assessments on involving the local community relating to traffic, parking, and housing development targets for the area in these plans.

Motion 8: Helping Lambeth residents through the economic downturn (06.01.09)

Councillor Jim Dickson

Council notes the swift action taken by the Administration in assembling a plan to help residents through the economic downturn and thanks the members of the Credit Crunch Taskforce for putting together sensible and achievable recommendations that provide a realistic prospect of making a genuine difference to those most at risk.

It further notes that since the publication of the Taskforce's report officers have been working hard to take the recommendations forward and looks forward to a report at February's Cabinet enabling a short and medium term programme to be agreed. Council also notes the significant financial backing of the Labour Administration of a minimum of £350,000 to support a package of measures that are likely to include:

- Expanding debt advice for individuals and support for small businesses
- Supporting access for residents to affordable credit
- Additional steps to ensure residents receive all the benefits to which they are entitled
- Providing additional support for residents to heat their homes

- Supporting community self help initiatives such as food co-operatives and food growing groups

Council further notes that this approach by Labour in Lambeth reflects the approach of the Labour Government nationally who have also demonstrated their commitment to helping to ease the pressure of the economic downturn for all residents. In contrast, council is disappointed by the response of the Conservative Party who have recommended a policy of doing nothing and 'letting the recession take its course' which would condemn residents to face the economic downturn alone. Council believes that given the higher levels of deprivation in the borough that the Conservative policy is even more inappropriate for Lambeth and council urges local Conservatives and their Liberal Democrats allies – for whom financial acumen has never been a strong point – to support the Administration policies that put them on the side of residents in facing the challenges of the credit crunch.

Amendment 1 – Councillor Graham Pycock

In line one delete “swift” and then delete final paragraph and replace at end with:

Council notes that Lambeth Council has a direct interest in the national Government’s policy on borrowing (gilts) and investment generally, as these issues have a substantial and direct impact on the council’s pension funds and reserves.

Council notes with concern that the work of its Pensions Committee and Finance Officers has been made much harder now that the Labour Government has no economic policy framework in place, having seemingly abandoned its “Golden Rules” (namely, only borrowing for investment, balancing the budget over the economic cycle, and not borrowing more than 40% of GDP). Council pension and finance staff need official guidance as to whether these rules are suspended or abandoned.

Council further notes that the Labour Government’s abandonment of its traditional support for Keynesian economics (Keynes having advocated that countries should pay down debt when the economy is strong, rather than borrowing vast amounts as the Prime Minister did when Chancellor). Council seeks confirmation or otherwise that the Government has indeed abandoned Keynesian economics, as UK gilts are typically an aspect of any large investment portfolio.

Council also notes that the Labour Party used to attack the Conservatives for allegedly having a £9 billion “black hole” in their policies: given that Government borrowing next fiscal year is likely to be some £90 billion more than originally envisaged, Council is at a loss to understand central Government’s position on debt and interest rates.

Given the foregoing, Council proposes that the leaders of Council’s three parties seek a meeting with Treasury ministers or officials to obtain clear guidance as to what Government borrowing policy might be for 2009, once the Chancellor gets round to drafting it definitively.

Further, Council notes that it is more expensive to insure against the failure of UK gilts, as measured in the Credit Default Swap market, than it is to insure against default of debt issued by Unilever or McDonald’s Restaurants. Council is deeply concerned about the implications of this: namely, that the international investment community has more faith in a washing-up liquid maker and a hamburger chain than it has in a Labour Government and therefore fears for its own holdings in gilts.

Council notes that the Administration's Credit Crunch Task Force has not done any preparation for the eventuality of a gilt strike, whereby investors literally are no longer prepared to give the UK Government credit. Council notes that the German Federal Government was not able to shift all its debt at an offering earlier this year. Council, therefore, mandates the Task Force to consider the implications of a gilt strike on all its central and pension fund investments.

Note by Director of Legal and Democratic Services

If amendment 1 is carried, amendment 3 will fall.

Amendment 2 – Councillor Andrew Gibson

Add at end:

Council further notes that the Labour Government is to increase employers' and employee's National Insurance rates in 2011 to reduce its ballooning deficit. Council notes that the former tax increase is a misguided "tax on jobs", and that both of these tax increases would have an impact on the Council's budget. Council supports calls for these tax increases to be ameliorated. If they are not ameliorated, Council calls on the Cabinet member for Finance to set out, as part of his work on the Credit Crunch Task Force, how he intends to accommodate these proposed tax rises, and to explain how they will affect the Council's core policy to combat worklessness.

Amendment 3 – Councillor Gavin Dodsworth

Additions in Bold

Deletions in Bold and Underlined

Council notes the **swift** action taken by the Administration in assembling a plan to help residents through the economic downturn and thanks the members of the Credit Crunch Taskforce for putting together sensible and achievable recommendations that provide a realistic prospect of making a genuine difference to those most at risk.

It further notes that since the publication of the Taskforce's report officers have been working hard to take the recommendations forward and looks forward to a report at February's Cabinet enabling a short and medium term programme to be agreed. Council also notes the significant financial backing of the Labour Administration of a minimum of £350,000 to support a package of measures that are likely to include:

- Expanding debt advice for individuals and support for small businesses
- Supporting access for residents to affordable credit
- Additional steps to ensure residents receive all the benefits to which they are entitled
- Providing additional support for residents to heat their homes
- Supporting community self help initiatives such as food co-operatives and food growing groups

Council further notes that this approach by Labour in Lambeth reflects the approach of the Labour Government nationally who have also demonstrated their commitment to helping to ease the pressure of the economic downturn for all residents. In contrast, council is disappointed by the response of the Conservative Party who have recommended a policy of doing nothing and 'letting the recession take its course' which would condemn residents to face the economic downturn alone. Council believes that given the higher levels of deprivation in the borough that the Conservative policy is even more inappropriate for Lambeth and council urges local Conservatives and their Liberal Democrats allies – for whom financial acumen has never been a strong point - to support the Administration policies that put them on the side of residents in facing the challenges of the credit crunch. that whilst these measures are in direct contrast to unprecedented rent increases for Council tenants and the cost of care charge increases still hitting the most vulnerable in the Borough, it will try to find a joined-up response to the current economic downturn. Council further admits that there is 3757% difference in the amount of money (£350000) set aside for the suggested package of measures and the total projected overspend (£13500000) as identified by the Temporary Accommodation Scrutiny Commission, and sincerely apologizes to Lambeth citizens for wasting their money so that when help is most needed, a decent response cannot be afforded.

Motion 9: Vale Street Civic Amenity site (07.01.09)

Councillor Clare Whelan (seconder: Councillor Suzanne Poole)

This Council welcomes increased recycling facilities in Norwood but is concerned at the closure of Vale Street Civic Amenity site to general waste without consultation with local residents. This Council recognises that there is a problem with illegal use of the site by commercial users and consequent congestion in the area but regrets that other options to deal with these problems were not considered.

Amendment 1 – Councillor Suzanne Poole

Add at end of motion:

Council believes it was a mistake for the administration to make a decision about the future of the Vale Street Depot without consulting other neighbouring boroughs. The administration also erred in making this decision in isolation from the Council's waste strategy, which is still being formulated, and in refusing to analyse where the out of borough waste came from.

Council supports Opposition calls for improved measures against fly tipping particularly in the wards of Gipsy Hill, Thurlow Park, Knights Hill and Streatham Wells and Streatham South, which are likely to be polluted by increased fly tipping following the administration's decisions to cease accepting general waste at Vale Street.

Amendment 2 – Councillor Sally Prentice

This Council welcomes increased recycling facilities in Norwood **which will allow Lambeth residents to recycle a greater number of materials including wood, rigid plastics and cooking oil. It is also hoped that in the future residents will be able to**

buy recycled furniture and recycled compost at Vale Street. but is concerned at the closure of Vale Street Civic Amenity site to general waste without consultation with local residents.

This Council recognises that there is a problem with illegal use of the site by commercial users and consequent congestion in the area. **This is costing local Council-tax payers within the Riverside Waste Partnership, which includes Lambeth, around £300,000 per year. This Council believes that this is an unfair burden on our residents and an inappropriate use of public money.**

This Council believes action must be taken against the dumping of illegal commercial waste and that changing the use of the Vale Street site to a recycling only facility is the best option. but regrets that other options to deal with these problems were not considered.

Council notes that some residents have expressed concerns about the changes, notably about the risk of increased fly tipping. The Council takes the issue of fly tipping very seriously and will be rigorously monitoring the local area, and will have no hesitation in taking unscrupulous builders to court for illegal dumping.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, through senior officers, offered to meet the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Environment Spokespersons and the ward councillors to discuss the proposed changes to the civic amenity site before the report was published.

Residents needing to dispose of residual waste will still be able to use existing WRWA facilities at Cringle Dock, Battersea or Smugglers Way, Wandsworth as well as Lambeth's free bulky waste collection service. Council also notes that rigid plastic, for example toys and guttering, and wood and wood derivatives make up a large amount of the waste currently being taken to landfill through the existing Vale Street facility and this will now all be able to be recycled, sending a clear and positive message about the Council's approach to waste minimisation and recycling.

Motion 10: Temporary Accommodation Overspend (07.01.09)

Councillor Ashley Lumsden

Council is alarmed at the findings of the Scrutiny Commission into the enormous overspend on Temporary Accommodation, noting its conclusion that the Council had been "reckless" and "negligent". Council further instructs officers to pursue vigorously the investigation into evidence of fraudulent activity and to report back to full Council at its next meeting.

Amendment 1 – Councillor Irene Kimm

Add at end:

Council undertakes to ameliorate the effects of the overspend on services to tenants and leaseholders by reducing voids and improving rent collection rates.

Amendment 2 – Councillor Jim Dickson

Additions in Bold

Deletions in Bold and Underlined

Council **is alarmed at** notes the findings of the Scrutiny Commission into the **enormous** overspend on Temporary Accommodation and **also notes** its conclusion that **there is no evidence of fraud in this matter. Council had been "reckless" and "negligent".** Council further instructs officers to **proceed with the recommendations of the Commission's report as outlined in the Chief Executive's report to Cabinet on 19 January 2009. pursue vigorously the investigation into evidence of fraudulent activity and to report back to full Council at its next meeting.**

Amendment 3 – Councillor Jeremy Clyne

Add to end:

Council is appalled that the disastrous overspend in the Temporary Accommodation budget over three years will wipe out most of the windfall coming to the Council through Adjustment A, noting also the failure of the Council to get a grip of Private Sector Leasing void properties which have been forecast to continue at almost 40 per cent, virtually unchanged from the situation when the overspend was uncovered.

Council is alarmed at the dismissive attitude of the Administration towards evidence of fraud and calls that have been made for fraud to be fully investigated. Council is particularly concerned that while the Administration repeatedly claims that no evidence of fraud has been discovered, the previous repairs contractor was replaced following an audit which found evidence of "misrepresenting work specifications through incorrect measurement provided through a number of work orders submitted" including the "overstatement" of areas to be painted and tiled, while the contractor appeared to be "misrepresenting work as complete through submission of invoices.....for work which has not been completed."

Council notes the disastrous failure of the Housing Department to take on board the deteriorating position of the Temporary Accommodation budget and to take adequate action, despite clear warnings from independent consultants JenkinsDuval, and calls on the then Cabinet Member for Housing Cllr John Kazantzis to explain to members exactly what he was told at the time.

Motion 11: Housing mismanagement (07.01.09)

Councillor Jeremy Clyne

Council notes the broad range of serious concerns being raised by tenants and residents of Lambeth Council Housing:

Rent increase

Council deplores this Labour Administration's gross incompetence over the past two and half years which has led it to propose a staggering 18 per cent increase in council rents

combined with cuts in front line services and calls on Councillors Kazantzis, Reed and Peck to issue an apology to tenants.

Void mismanagement

Council condemns the scandalous mismanagement of housing voids which has seen a huge increase in empty properties and culminated in the botched attempt to auction off scores of properties requiring minimal work when thousands of people are on the waiting list.

Arrest of chair of Lambeth Living

Council is deeply concerned that so soon after its launch Lambeth Living has been hit by the forced resignation of its chair following her arrest on suspicion of obtaining property by deception. Council condemns the Administration which failed to act when these allegations were first voiced more than six months before. The Administration further overruled recommendations that the chair should be suspended pending investigation, gave her its full backing and insisted on transferring the management of Lambeth's housing stock to a company headed by a person it knew to be under investigation for fraud.

Neglect of the Valley Road Estate in Streatham

Council notes that:

- a) The external decoration of the Valley Road Estate in Streatham was scheduled to be carried out in 2006/7 but was deferred because of budgetary issues
- b) External redecoration was again scheduled for 2007/8 but was again deferred because of "budgetary problems"
- c) External decoration of the estate was again programmed for 2008/9 but has yet again been put off because of costs

Council further notes that the Valley Road estate was built in the early 1980's and that parts of the estate have never had any external decoration carried out since that time and that windows of properties in South Oak Road, Curtisfield Road, Samuel Johnson Close and James Boswell Close are rotting, with window panes falling out, and that the prefabricated external walls of properties on the estate have large chunks of paint falling off. It also notes that many internal doors of properties on the estate have fallen off as they were constructed using just cardboard, sandwiched between two sheets of thin plywood.

Council resolves that:

1. External redecoration of the Valley Road estate be made a priority for 2009/10 given the fact that external decorations that were programmed for each of the last 3 years have not been carried out.
2. Internal doors are replaced where they are missing or damaged as tenants cannot be held responsible for damage to the originally-installed doors that were not fit for purpose.

Amendment 1 – Councillor Jeremy Clyne

Additions in Bold

Council notes the broad range of serious concerns being raised by tenants and residents of Lambeth Council Housing:

Rent increase

Council deplores this Labour Administration's gross incompetence over the past two and half years which has led it to propose a staggering 18 per cent increase in council rents combined with cuts in front line services and calls on Councillors Kazantzis, Reed and Peck to issue an apology to tenants.

Council notes that at its meeting on January 19 the Labour Cabinet had before it two clear options, neither of which were plainly spelt out to tenants during the rent consultation, namely the proposal to raise rents by £15.01, a staggering increase of 21 per cent, or alternatively if the lower increase of £12.01 were decided a further mid-year increase in rent and/or service charges, or else cuts in services.

Council deplores the constant effort by Cabinet members to pull the wool over the eyes of tenants by referring to relatively low rents in Lambeth but failing to mention the relatively high depooled service charges. Council congratulates tenants who have regularly shown that they have grown wise to the Administration's spin and deplores the slanted reporting of the issue in Lambeth Life which similarly referred solely to the level of rent, omitting any reference to high service charges, and not even mentioning the level of the proposed increase.

Council reminds Councillors Reed, Peck and Dickson that Labour inherited a Housing Revenue Account in balance at the end of 2005-06, as confirmed in the October report to Cabinet which they signed off, and that the HRA plunged into the red the following year as a result of Labour's mismanagement. Council calls on Councillor Peck to explain why well into the current year a balanced HRA was being forecast and to explain how this prediction suddenly turned to a forecast deficit of up to £14 million.

Void mismanagement

Council condemns the scandalous mismanagement of housing voids which has seen a huge increase in empty properties and culminated in the botched attempt to auction off scores of properties requiring minimal work when thousands of people are on the waiting list.

Council is appalled that the number of long-cycle voids at the end of 2008 was 682, a rise of 303 since April. Council calls for an investigation into the criteria employed by officers of Lambeth Housing/Lambeth Living in selecting properties for disposal. Council notes assurances given that properties being put forward for auction were those in worst disrepair, but that investigation by Liberal Democrat members revealed that those properties needed very little work and that the extent of works needed had been exaggerated.

Arrest of chair of Lambeth Living

Council is deeply concerned that so soon after its launch Lambeth Living has been hit by the forced resignation of its chair following her arrest on suspicion of obtaining property by deception. Council condemns the Administration which failed to act when these allegations were first voiced more than six months before. The Administration further overruled recommendations that the chair should be suspended pending investigation, gave her its full backing and insisted on transferring the management of Lambeth's housing stock to a company headed by a person it knew to be under investigation for fraud.

Neglect of the Valley Road Estate in Streatham

Council notes that:

- a) The external decoration of the Valley Road Estate in Streatham was scheduled to be carried out in 2006/7 but was deferred because of budgetary issues
- b) External redecoration was again scheduled for 2007/8 but was again deferred because of "budgetary problems"
- c) External decoration of the estate was again programmed for 2008/9 but has yet again been put off because of costs

Council further notes that the Valley Road estate was built in the early 1980's and that parts of the estate have never had any external decoration carried out since that time and that windows of properties in South Oak Road, Curtisfield Road, Samuel Johnson Close and James Boswell Close are rotting, with window panes falling out, and that the prefabricated external walls of properties on the estate have large chunks of paint falling off. It also notes that many internal doors of properties on the estate have fallen off as they were constructed using just cardboard, sandwiched between two sheets of thin plywood.

Council resolves that:

1. External redecoration of the Valley Road estate be made a priority for 2009/10 given the fact that external decorations that were programmed for each of the last 3 years have not been carried out.
2. Internal doors are replaced where they are missing or damaged as tenants cannot be held responsible for damage to the originally-installed doors that were not fit for purpose.

Motion 12: Cyclist awareness training (07.01.09)

Councillor Robert Banks

Council notes the recent initiative to give cyclist awareness training to drivers of dustcarts, minibuses and other HGVs used by Lambeth Council.

Council calls for this scheme to be expanded to any other contractors undertaking work for the council and using such vehicles.

Council also calls for planning officers to recommend that contractors or developers given planning permission and using HGVs ensure their drivers undertake cyclist awareness training.

Amendment 1 – Councillor Nigel Haselden

Add to end:

This would add to the excellent ongoing work by the Borough to encourage Lambeth residents to take up cycling in as safe an environment as possible. Lambeth made its commitment clear with the recent appointment of our new Road Danger Reduction Manager to lead on addressing road danger at source and enhancing conditions for the benign transport modes of cycling and walking. Council believes this is the first such appointment by a local authority.

Council notes how this forward thinking contrasts with a recent decision by the Mayor of London to pilot motorcycles' use of TfL bus lanes, adding to the confusion on London's roads and making cyclists feel less safe. Further to this, the planned 900km London Cycle Network (LCN+) has been abandoned as the Mayor of London has halved the expenditure for delivering the LCN+ from £19.7m this year to just £10m next. Council is dismayed by the Mayor's 'strategy' and the negative impact an incomplete network may have on attracting people to take up cycling. Council calls on the Mayor to re-consider both these decisions.

Motion 13: Call for Local Listing (07.01.09)

Councillor Brian Palmer

Following accelerated losses to the historic local built heritage in Lambeth, Council is urged to develop a Local List to protect characterful buildings not deemed of national importance to warrant statutory listing by English Heritage (Listings Grade 1 & 11) but which nonetheless are highly valued by local people and contribute to the quality of the built environment within neighbourhoods. Council urges officers to work with the Borough's knowledgeable amenity societies to draw up a provisional Local List of suitable buildings and structures and to develop policies which dovetail into existing planning policies by recognising the value of older buildings in the local streetscape.

Council notes that many neighbouring boroughs such as Merton and Croydon have had Local Lists for some time, adopt a very proactive policy towards the protection of their built heritage and publish excellently illustrated publications to signal widely and clearly those buildings afforded local protection. In its own publication Merton explains why they have a Local List:

" The main benefit of including a building on the Local List is that the Council has architectural and historical background information to ensure that any development proposals are sympathetic to the building."

The presumption, therefore, is that a building included on this Local List is retained rather than demolished and that a useful purpose is subsequently found for it. Council regrets that within the past year the Pump Masters House next to the Grade 11 Listed Conyer's Road Pumping Station in Streatham was demolished because it had somehow not been

Listed by English Heritage (and its perimeter walls and iron fences were only lately added to statutory listing thanks to an eagle-eyed local resident) and that a fine early Victorian detached villa in Palace Road Streatham Hill has since been replaced by a singularly dreary block of apartments, while a nearby Arts & Crafts-style villa with significant historic local associations currently lies derelict and under threat of demolition.

Council calls upon Conservation Officers to prioritise a Local List before other important local buildings disappear simply because the Council lacks the necessary tools and will to afford them the protection they deserve.

Council resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to bring a report to Cabinet within the next three months to formalise the creation of the Lambeth Local List.

Amendment 1 – Councillor Lib Peck

Additions in Bold

Deletions in Bold and Underlined

Following accelerated losses to the historic local built heritage in Lambeth, Council **is urged to develop had within its Unitary Development Plan powers to develop** a Local List to protect characterful buildings not deemed of national importance to warrant statutory listing by English Heritage (Listings Grade 1 & 11) but which nonetheless are highly valued by local people and contribute to the quality of the built environment within neighbourhoods.

Council **urges requests** officers to **report back to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration on progress around the development of the Local List, and in drawing up a List to involve the work with the** Borough's knowledgeable amenity societies. Council also notes the **comparison with Merton and Croydon and requests that Lambeth officers discuss with them the benefits/constraints of operating such a List. to draw up a provisional Local List of suitable buildings and structures and to develop policies which dovetail into existing planning policies by recognising the value of older buildings in the local streetscape.**

Council notes that many neighbouring boroughs such as Merton and Croydon have had Local Lists for some time, adopt a very proactive policy towards the protection of their built heritage and publish excellently illustrated publications to signal widely and clearly those buildings afforded local protection. In its own publication Merton explains why they have a Local List:

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Arts & Crafts-style villa with significant historic local associations currently lies derelict and under threat of demolition.

Council calls upon Conservation Officers to prioritise a Local List before other important local buildings disappear simply because the Council lacks the necessary tools and will to afford them the protection they deserve.

Council resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to bring a report to Cabinet within the next three months to formalise the creation of the Lambeth Local List.

Council further notes the comparison drawn in this month's Planning Gazette between Lambeth and other London boroughs. Under the heading *Bad Boy Turned Good*, the article praises Lambeth's improvements in planning over the last two years, cites the fact that Lambeth was in the top quartile for planning performance in the first six months of 2008, and draws attention to the fact that we reached all our planning decisions within the 13 week-deadline.

Council would like to congratulate the planning officers whose hard work has led to this very notable achievement.

Motion 14: Streatham High Road and Streatham Hill (07.01.09)

Councillor Roger Giess

This Council notes with concern the serious neglect of Streatham High Road and Streatham Hill by the Labour Administration over the last two and a half years.

It notes in particular:

- The failure of the Council to progress any of the JVA Grimley retail consultancy work which had been commissioned by the Streatham Area Committee and which was reported to the Streatham Area Committee prior to May 2006, giving valuable market information on retail chain interest in Streatham
- The failure of the Council to ensure that the work to improve the A23 through Streatham that was promised by TfL for implementation in Spring 2006 was progressed
- The failure of the Council to follow up on the £200k shopfront improvement scheme which delivered nearly 100 shopfront improvements prior to May 2006
- The failure to provide any proper scrutiny of the expenditure of the £500,000 capital expenditure set aside for Streatham High Road improvements in the 2005/6 budget, half of which has disappeared without any demonstrable outcomes
- The abolition by the Labour Administration of all the democratic structures in Streatham including the Streatham Area Committee
- The abolition by the Labour Administration of the Streatham Town Centre Team

It further notes that since May 2006 there has been a tripling of the number of empty shops on Streatham High Road/Streatham Hill and the further threat posed to the vitality of the High Road by the current economic recession which has already seen the closure of Woolworths and further shops at risk of closure.

Council notes the recent "Future Streatham" Masterplan consultation which has been carried using consultants at a cost of £120,000 with airy fairy ideas that are meant to be visionary long term plans to be delivered over a 15 year timescale and which include proposals to build on Streatham's only public car park.

It believes instead that urgent action is required to save the High Road. Council therefore requests officers urgently to:

- progress the plans for environmental improvements on the High Road and removal of the central barriers - proposals which were supposed to have been carried out starting in Spring 2006 but have yet to be implemented
- work with and provide advice to independent retailers on the High Rd/Streatham Hill to help them cope with the current difficult economic circumstances
- pursue the plans for the Streatham Hub development for which there has been little discernible progress over the past few years
- lobby Marks and Spencers and Waitrose to persuade them to take on the empty Woolworths premises in order to provide a new anchor store for Streatham
- consider other urgent measures to help retailers and small businesses in the area.

Amendment 1 – Councillor Julian Heather

Add to end:

- Work on attracting new chains / brand name retailers, using specialist retail consultants (cf the 2005 JVA Grimley report)
- Talk to, and work with, the existing brand name retailers (eg WH Smith) to ensure they remain in Streatham in order to protect the core shopping area
- Consult with local Streatham residents who do not currently use the High Road to find out what is needed to make them shop in/use Streatham High Road and Streatham Hill and act on the findings
- Abandon Council plans to build on the Leigham Court Road car park as proposed in the Streatham Masterplan documents as it is Streatham's only public car park
- Abandon Council plans for a 24 hour economy in Streatham as proposed in the recent briefing for Councillors

Amendment 2 – Councillor Lib Peck

Additions in Bold

Deletions in Bold and Underlined

This Council notes with concern the **problems experienced by many High Streets across the country including serious neglect of Streatham High Road and Streatham Hill by the Labour Administration over the last two and a half years.**

However, Council welcomes this administration's focus on business, regeneration and growth – highlighted by Lambeth's first ever Cabinet Member for Employment and Enterprise – and notes the sharp contrast with the previous Lib Dem administration who gave little attention to these areas.

It notes in particular:

- **Retail studies, which have been done across the Borough, including Streatham, that have fed directly into the Local Development Framework**
- **The Streatham Masterplan which offers a significant opportunity to regenerate Streatham with real input from the community and local businesses.**
- **The commitment shown to local shops as soon as this administration took office, for example, the Streatham Hill shops, which were taken off the council's disposal list and sold to the existing shopkeepers instead.**
- **The appointment of the town centre management services in Streatham to explore and deliver key regeneration activities in Streatham**
- **The planned Streatham Expo, revitalisation of the Streatham Forum and support offered to Streatham festival and other community initiatives.**
- **The failure of the Council to progress any of the JVA Grimley retail consultancy work which had been commissioned by the Streatham Area Committee and which was reported to the Streatham Area Committee prior to May 2006, giving valuable market information on retail chain interest in Streatham**
- **The failure of the Council to ensure that the work to improve the A23 through Streatham that was promised by TfL for implementation in Spring 2006 was progressed**
- **The failure of the Council to follow up on the £200k shopfront improvement scheme which delivered nearly 100 shopfront improvements prior to May 2006**
- **The failure to provide any proper scrutiny of the expenditure of the £500,000 capital expenditure set aside for Streatham High Road improvements in the 2005/6 budget, half of which has disappeared without any demonstrable outcomes**
- **The abolition by the Labour Administration of all the democratic structures in Streatham including the Streatham Area Committee**
- **The abolition by the Labour Administration of the Streatham Town Centre Team**

It further notes that since May 2006 there has been a tripling of the number of empty shops on Streatham High Road/Streatham Hill and the further threat posed to the vitality of the High Road by the current economic recession which has already seen the closure of Woolworths and further shops at risk of closure.

Council notes the recent "Future Streatham" Masterplan consultation which has been carried using consultants at a cost of £120,000 with airy fairy ideas that are meant to be visionary long term plans to be delivered over a 15 year timescale and which include proposals to build on Streatham's only public car park.

It believes instead that urgent action is required to save the High Road. Council therefore requests officers urgently to:

This administration continues to prioritise Streatham as an important and vibrant town centre and will continue to press officers to:

- **Work with TfL to resolve the delays in TfL plans to improve the A23 through Streatham.**

- **Progress the plans for environmental improvements on the High Road and removal of the central barriers - proposals which were supposed to have been carried out starting in Spring 2006 but have yet to be implemented**
- **Continue to work with and provide advice to independent retailers on the High Rd/Streatham Hill to help them cope with the current difficult economic circumstances**
- **Pursue the plans for the Streatham Hub development for which there has been little discernible progress over the past few years**
- **Build on the work already done for the Streatham Hub development, which will rejuvenate the area and bring new leisure facilities to Streatham at a time when councils such as Southwark are cutting these services.**
- **Create an Action Plan to complement the Streatham Masterplan**
- **Work with developers to bring more retail to Streatham High Road/ Streatham Hill**
- **Lobby Marks and Spencers and Waitrose to persuade them to take on the empty Woolworths premises in order to provide a new anchor store for Streatham**
- **Consider other urgent measures to help retailers and small businesses in the area and build on the recommendations of the Credit Crunch Taskforce report.**

Motion 15: Making best use of resources (07.01.09)

Councillor Faye Gray

Council notes:

1. That residents of the Ashmole Estate were left without heating and hot water for two days over the Christmas and New Year break following the failure of the Sirinham Point boiler, and that the boiler had broken down earlier in December, again depriving many residents of heat and hot water.
2. That the South Lambeth Library also had to close its doors to library users on several occasions in December owing to the boiler there breaking down
3. That users of Vauxhall Park have seen their fountain switched off this autumn as a desperate cost saving measure
4. That at the same time a series of glossy ward newsletters are planned by the council

Council believes that it is a far better use of resources if the money spent in distributing and printing the leaflets in Oval ward are put towards these three very important local projects instead, which will help the residents of the Ashmole Estate to get heat and hot water, the users of the South Lambeth library to get heating, and get the fountain switched back on, and that it would be a far better way of promoting the council's reputation and image to local people if this happens.

Amendment 1 – Councillor Steve Reed

Additions in Bold

Deletions in Bold and Underlined

Council notes:

1. That residents of the Ashmole Estate were left without heating and hot water for two days over the Christmas and New Year break following the failure of the Sirinham Point boiler, and that the boiler had broken down earlier in December, again depriving many residents of heat and hot water.
 2. That the South Lambeth Library also had to close its doors to library users on several occasions in December owing to the boiler there breaking down
 3. That users of Vauxhall Park have seen their fountain switched off this autumn as a desperate cost saving measure
1. That at the same time a series of glossy ward newsletters are planned by the council
 2. That these are being produced in partnership with the Safer Neighbourhoods Panels as part of their work to reduce the fear of crime.
 3. That the DCLG's recently published draft Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity states "it is important for the health of local democracy that citizens are aware of how decisions are made at the local level, and who is making them. To aid this, we consider that councils should be able to help publicise the role of the activities of the authority and the activities of individual councillors to help promote democracy in the community."

Council believes that it is a far better use of resources if the money spent in distributing and printing the leaflets in Oval ward are put towards these three very important local projects instead, which will help the residents of the Ashmole Estate to get heat and hot water, the users of the South Lambeth library to get heating, and get the fountain switched back on, and that it would be a far better way of ward newsletters are just one way of promoting the council's reputation and work image to local people and helping residents get the information and services they need from the council when they need it. Council regrets that Lib Dem councillors in Lambeth do not want to help residents contact their councillors and notes that in neighbouring Lib Dem-run Southwark the council spends 300% more on communications than Labour-led Lambeth. if this happens.

Motion 16: Outcome of serious case review (07.01.09)

Councillor Clive Bennett

Following the dreadful reports of child abuse in the London Borough of Haringey, Council is now deeply concerned with the news that Lambeth have been given a rating of inadequate following the recent review of a serious case review carried out in Lambeth. This makes for disturbing reading and is particularly alarming since members were given firm assurances at Cabinet on November 17th that Lambeth Council had received only good reports with no need for concern.

Amendment 1 – Councillor Paul McGlone

Additions in Bold

Deletions in Bold and Underlined

Following the dreadful reports of the abuse **and death** of a child in the London Borough of Haringey, **Council is now deeply concerned with the news that Lambeth have been given a rating of inadequate following the recent review of a serious case review**

carried out in Lambeth. This makes for disturbing reading and is particularly alarming since members were given firm assurances at Cabinet on November 17th that Lambeth Council had received only good reports with no need for concern. Council is concerned that within Ofsted's 'Learning lessons, taking action' report, published on 1st December, evaluating serious case reviews (SCRs) in the year to 31 March 2008 that one such case in Lambeth was given a rating of inadequate.

Council notes the Secretary of State has asked each Local Safeguarding Children's Board responsible for a SCR which was judged inadequate to convene a panel, to be chaired by an independent person, to reconsider that review.

Council re-emphasises that Lambeth's case relates to a 16 year old child in care who tragically committed suicide in March 2006. The report of this review was published on 23.8.07 and the 'inadequacy' refers only to a professional summary of that detailed review and not its content, done some 16 months after the sad death. This will be independently reviewed and a report must be sent to the Secretary of State by the end of February 2009.

Council recognises the concern of members from all and agrees that all parties should work together to make children safe in Lambeth, reaffirming the convention of putting safeguarding of children beyond party politics and further agrees that responses to the death in Haringey of 'Baby P' should be measured and based on facts.

Motion 17: Brixton Recreation Centre - sauna (07.01.09)

Councillor Dianna Braithwaite

Council expresses its concern that there has been no progress in reopening the sauna at Brixton Recreation Centre, which has been closed for over 7 months since 1st June 2008, despite the promises that were given at the Environment Scrutiny Meeting held at the Brixton Rec on 13th November 2008.

It notes the written response given to the Public Notice Question at the Environment Scrutiny Meeting, which stated that what was supposed to happen was the "production of a full feasibility report and risk assessment and that part of that assessment to be completed by the operator, would involve consultation with users, and again this would be undertaken by GLL. Subsequent to correspondence we have clarified our expectation to the contactor to undertake a consultation with Brixton Recreation Centre (BRC) users including the BRC user group as a matter of urgency, providing a report to the Council of the results and proposals to reopen the health suite by no later than 11th November 2008. An equalities impact assessment will be undertaken by the council in line with council policies once the proposals from GLL are received".

Despite this assurance, Council further notes that:

1. The sauna closed on 1st June.
2. GLL was thereafter supposed to reopen the sauna no later than 11th November.
3. As at 7th January 2009 the sauna has still not reopened.

Council expresses its serious concern over the ability of Lambeth to both monitor the GLL contract and to ensure that leisure services are maintained and delivered to users as per that contract and as per the expectations of residents and Councillors.

It therefore calls on the Chief Executive to intervene to ensure that the sauna at Brixton Rec reopens without any further delays.

Amendment 1 – Councillor Mark Bennett

Additions in Bold

Deletions in Bold and Underlined

Council expresses its concern **that there has been no progress the slow progress** in reopening the sauna at Brixton Recreation Centre, **which has been closed for over 7 months since 1st June 2008 since its closure for safety reasons since July 2008, despite the promises that were given at the Environment Scrutiny Meeting held at the Brixton Rec on 13th November 2008.** Council notes that following the saunas closure, on the advice of the police, leisure contractor, GLL was instructed to carry out a full consultation and appropriate risk assessments.

It Council further notes the written response given to the Public Notice Question at the Environment Scrutiny Meeting **on 13th November 2008**, which stated that what was supposed to happen was the “production of a full feasibility report and risk assessment and that part of that assessment to be completed by the operator, would involve consultation with users, and again this would be undertaken by GLL. Subsequent to correspondence we have clarified our expectation to the contractor to undertake a consultation with Brixton Recreation Centre (BRC) users including the BRC user group as a matter of urgency, providing a report to the Council of the results and proposals to reopen the health suite by no later than 11th November 2008. An equalities impact assessment will be undertaken by the council in line with council policies once the proposals from GLL are received”.

Despite this assurance, Council further notes that:

1. **The sauna closed on 1st June** **The sauna continues to be closed.**
2. GLL was **thereafter supposed** instructed to reopen the sauna no later than 11th November.
3. As at 7th January 2009 the sauna has still not reopened **despite intervention and offers of assistance from Lambeth officers to carry out the necessary consultation.**

Council **expresses its serious concern over the ability of Lambeth to both monitor the GLL contract** calls upon the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport and the Divisional Director of Cultural Services to meet urgently with GLL to resolve all contractual and other issues around the sauna so that it may reopen as soon as possible and to ensure that leisure services are maintained and delivered to users as per **that the terms of the** contract and as per the expectations of residents and Councillors.

It therefore calls on the Chief Executive to intervene Council expects all commercial contracts to be monitored rigorously and in the case of the leisure contract, effective action to be taken by Lambeth officers and GLL to ensure that the sauna at Brixton Rec reopens without any further delays.

Motion 18: Lambeth Police South Sub Command: Crime Prevention personnel (07.01.09)

Councillor Peter Truesdale

Council expresses its concern that since the retirement of the previous postholders there are currently no Crime Prevention Officers or Crime Prevention Reduction Advisers in the Lambeth Police South Sub Command covering Brixton, Streatham and Norwood.

It also notes the recent steep rise in burglaries in the South Sub Command area

It further notes that £50,000 of Council funding that was destined for “target hardening” in relation to burglary prevention work has gone unspent because of the lack of specialist Crime Prevention Officers and Crime Prevention Reduction Advisers.

Council resolves that Lambeth Council officers raise this issue at the next Safer Lambeth Partnership meeting to ensure that Lambeth Police fill the vacant Crime Prevention posts as a matter of urgency to ensure that the vital work of crime prevention reduction is properly delivered in Lambeth and to ensure that no further funding opportunities are missed.

Amendment 1 – Councillor Donatus Anyanwu

Additions in Bold

Council acknowledges that since 2003/04 Lambeth have seen a 30% reduction in overall crime within the borough. Council also acknowledges that Residential Burglary rates for Lambeth continue to show a reduction that is greater than the London average. Council congratulates the Metropolitan Police Service, Safer Lambeth for delivering year on year reductions in crime rates and further congratulates the Labour Administration for their continuing strong leadership and tough message on crime. However, council expresses its concern that since the retirement of the previous postholders there are currently no Crime Prevention Officers or Crime Prevention Reduction Advisers in the Lambeth Police South Sub Command covering Brixton, Streatham and Norwood.

It also notes the recent steep rise in burglaries in the South Sub Command area

It further notes that £50,000 of Council funding that was destined for “target hardening” in relation to burglary prevention work has gone unspent because of the lack of specialist Crime Prevention Officers and Crime Prevention Reduction Advisers.

Council resolves that Lambeth Council officers raise this issue at the next Safer Lambeth Partnership meeting to ensure that Lambeth Police fill the vacant Crime Prevention posts as a matter of urgency to ensure that the vital work of crime prevention reduction is properly delivered in Lambeth and to ensure that no further funding opportunities are missed.

Council further instructs officers to investigate the possibility of training officers in Community Safety to CPDA standard to improve Lambeth's ability to combat burglary.

Motion 19: Help for Lambeth businesses (07.01.09)

Councillor Darren Sanders

Council believes Lambeth businesses need to be helped during a recession.

Therefore, Council supports these practical measures to help them out:

- Allocate £250,000 of the 'invest to save' package deriving from Adjustment A to provide match-funding loans of up to £10,000 to Lambeth businesses who are running into trouble with their banks.
- Ensure that interest on these loans is lower than the market rate and allow a repayment holiday of six months.
- Make sure Lambeth settles its bills with all small businesses in 10 days
- Reduce the business parking permit.
- Work with partners in Lambeth First to agree to deliver a plan to protect jobs in Lambeth from the threat of redundancy.

Amendment 1 – Councillor John Kazantzis

Additions in Bold

Deletions in Bold and Underlined

Council believes Lambeth businesses need to be helped during a recession.

Lambeth will have a dedicated Business Desk from February which will provide a support and information hotline for local businesses and since December 2008 Lambeth council has had a commitment to pay small businesses more promptly than standard suppliers.

Council also welcomes the publication of the Credit Crunch Taskforce report and the recommendations to help Lambeth businesses, which include:

- **A commitment to work towards reducing the payment time for council suppliers from 30 days to a target of 10 days**
- **Examining ways of maximising awareness of the employment hubs initiative so that benefit to the community and individuals is increased.**
- **Promoting Small Business Rates Relief potentially through Council's internet business page**
- **Providing a focal point for businesses in Lambeth to share ideas for the challenges of the current economic downturn.**
- **Implementing an additional business financial advice service to work alongside the current business team.**

- **Developing an anti-poverty strategy to support the council in achieving the vision and objectives set out in the SCS.**

Therefore, Council supports these practical measures to help them out:

- **Allocate £250,000 of the 'invest to save' package deriving from Adjustment A to provide match-funding loans of up to £10,000 to Lambeth businesses who are running into trouble with their banks.**
- **Ensure that interest on these loans is lower than the market rate and allow a repayment holiday of six months.**
- **Make sure Lambeth settles its bills with all small businesses in 10 days**
- **Reduce the business parking permit.**
- **Work with partners in Lambeth First to agree to deliver a plan to protect jobs in Lambeth from the threat of redundancy.**

Motion 20: Electoral register (07.01.09)

Councillor Gavin Dodsworth

Council condemns the Labour Administration for falsifying figures which show an increase of 14.1% in the number of extra voters added to the electoral register. It notes that a Lambeth press release PR 678 was issued on 11th December 2008, entitled: "Successful registration drive brings thousands more voters" which claimed that:

"An army of canvassers and a sustained campaign by Lambeth Council has resulted in an increase of 14.1% in the number of voters of the electoral register."

However the press release then goes on to point out that "The voter registration drive, mounted by the council's electoral services department, has extended the franchise to an extra 4651 voters." The press release goes on to quote, at length, Councillor Jim Dickson as the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.

Council notes that an increase of 4651 extra voters amounts to only a 2% increase in the number of extra voters added to the electoral register and is nowhere near the 14.1% figure claimed in the press release endorsed by Councillor Dickson on behalf of the Administration.

Council calls on the Chief Executive to carry out an enquiry into what appears to be a deliberate attempt to mislead the press and Lambeth residents by producing false figures in relation to the claim that there had been a 14.1% increase in the number of voters added to the new electoral register.

Council also calls on the Head of Campaigns and Communications in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources to issue a new press release apologising to the press and Lambeth residents for falsifying the figure supplied by the Council for the percentage increase in registered electors.

Council finally questions whether any figures produced by Labour-controlled Lambeth can ever be trusted after it first deliberately connived to falsify figures supplied to the Government for Lambeth's Library Opening Hours, and after it has now been exposed for falsifying the figures for its voter registration drive.

Amendment 1 – Councillor John Whelan

Add at end:

Council notes that closer examination of the printed electoral register in at least one of the 21 wards (Thurlow Park) shows a significant number of duplicated entries, which theoretically if replicated across the borough could result in over 400 incorrect entries being removed from the total. Council welcomes the readiness of Electoral Services to follow up quickly on Member Enquiries about specific entries on the electoral register.

Amendment 2 – Councillor Jim Dickson

Additions in Bold

Deletions in Bold and Underlined

Council **congratulates condemns the Labour Administration for its success in very significantly increasing voter registration in Lambeth. Council condemns the hysterical reaction of the Liberal Democrats who have over-reacted to an error in Lambeth Press release PR 678 falsifying figures which show an increase of 14.1% in the number of extra voters added to the electoral register. It notes that a Lambeth press release PR 678 was** issued on 11th December 2008, entitled: “Successful registration drive brings thousands more voters”. **which claimed that:**

“An army of canvassers and a sustained campaign by Lambeth Council has resulted in an increase of 14.1% in the number of voters of the electoral register.”

However, The press release **then goes on to** points out that “The voter registration drive, mounted by the council's electoral services department, has extended the franchise to an extra 4651 voters.” The press release goes on to quote, at length, Councillor Jim Dickson as the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.

Council notes **that** an increase of 4651 extra voters amounts to **only a 2% a very welcome** increase in the numbers on **of extra voters added to** the electoral register. **and is but is not nowhere near the 14.1% figure claimed in the press release endorsed by Councillor Dickson on behalf of the Administration.**

Council calls on the Chief Executive **to join in congratulating the team of staff that successfully increased the numbers on the electoral register and ignore the hysterical demands of the Liberal Democrats who seem to be selectively ignoring their own neglect of the electoral register which disenfranchised so many Lambeth residents. To carry out an enquiry into what appears to be a deliberate attempt to mislead the press and Lambeth residents by producing false figures in relation to the claim that there had been a 14.1% increase in the number of voters added to the new electoral register.**

Council also calls on the Head of Campaigns and Communications in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources to issue a new press release apologising to the press and Lambeth residents for falsifying the figure supplied by the Council for the percentage increase in registered electors.

Council finally questions whether **the Liberal Democrats can ever be trusted on this issue given that they show no sign of accepting or understanding their abject failure**

to increase numbers on the electoral register during their term in office. any figures produced by Labour-controlled Lambeth can ever be trusted after it first deliberately connived to falsify figures supplied to the Government for Lambeth's Library Opening Hours, and after it has now been exposed for falsifying the figures for its voter registration drive.

Motion 21: Council budgets at Southwark and Lambeth: (07.01.09)

Councillor Mark Bennett

Council notes the £35m cuts that Lib Dem run Southwark council is making to stabilise its budget position. Council further notes that when during the 2002-2006 Lib Dem / Tory administration council tax was put by nearly 40% the highest rise in Lambeth's history. Despite the tax hikes the previous administration acted like Imelda Marcos in a shoe shop and recklessly brought the Council to the brink of bankruptcy.

In contrast, the Labour Administration has worked hard to make savings without cutting front line services and has successfully resuscitated Lambeth's books to the point where the General Fund lies in the healthiest position, with reserves over £25m, for a generation. Council believes that this excellent financial management may prove to be even more important as we face economic challenges over the coming months. Council congratulates the Labour Administration for their success with the Council budget, which has allowed investment in services and sends a message of empathy to residents of Southwark who are being led into recession by another band of Liberal financial 'out-of-controllers.

Amendment 1 – Councillor Graham Pycock

Delete all after the first sentence and replace with:

Council notes that in December 2007, the government announced its three-year funding settlement for local government, which imposed a real term funding cut of £35 million on Southwark which forced the council to cut its expenditure by more than 10 per cent between 2008 and 2011. Despite the credit crunch, growing unemployment, and the recession the government capped the council's expenditure increase at 1.75 per cent in November 2008 and refused to revise the funding formula.

Council notes that the current state of the temporary accommodation budget in housing which has led to proposals for large rent increases in April is hardly a recommendation for "prudence" in financial management and expects shortly to see proposals from Labour on borrowing their way out of trouble.

Amendment 2 – Councillor Jeremy Clyne

Add to end:

Council is amazed at Councillor Mark Bennett's distorted account of Labour's record and wonders if he includes in the "excellent financial management" under Labour the scandalous £20 million plus overspend on Temporary Accommodation resulting from reckless and negligent conduct, the disastrous shortfall of up to £14 million on the Housing Revenue Account leading to massive and unprecedented 21 per cent rent rises for

struggling tenants, and other emerging disasters such as the multi-million pound write-offs of leaseholder charges. Council questions whether Lambeth can survive another 15 months of Labour incompetence and an Administration whose members have clearly lost touch with reality.
