

COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 7.00 pm
Held via Microsoft Teams

The Worshipful the Mayor in the Chair

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Councillors Councillor Danial Adilypour, Councillor Scott Ainslie, Councillor David Amos, Councillor Donatus Anyanwu, Councillor Liz Atkins, Councillor Mary Atkins, Councillor Jonathan Bartley, Councillor Matthew Bennett, Councillor Anna Birley, Councillor Scarlett O'Hara, Councillor Linda Bray, Councillor Tim Briggs, Councillor Marcia Cameron, Councillor Rezina Chowdhury, Councillor Malcolm Clark, Councillor Joe Corry-Roake, Councillor Kevin Craig, Councillor Edward Davie, Councillor Jon Davies, Councillor Jim Dickson, Councillor Stephen Donnelly, Councillor Pete Elliott, Councillor Peter Ely, Councillor Paul Gadsby, Councillor Annie Gallop, Councillor Adrian Garden, Councillor Pauline George, Councillor Nicole Griffiths, Councillor Dr. Mahamed Hashi, Councillor Claire Holland, Councillor Jack Hopkins, Councillor Maria Kay, Councillor John Kazantzis, Councillor Ben Kind, Councillor Jessica Leigh, Councillor Joshua Lindsey, Councillor Nanda Manley-Browne, Councillor Marianna Masters, Councillor Jackie Meldrum, Councillor Irfan Mohammed, Councillor Jennie Mosley, Mayor Philip Normal, Councillor Emma Nye, Councillor Jane Pickard, Councillor Joanna Reynolds, Councillor Mohammed Seedat, Councillor Iain Simpson, Councillor Joanne Simpson, Councillor Becca Thackray, Councillor Martin Tiedemann, Councillor Tina Valcarcel, Councillor Christopher Wellbelove, Councillor Clair Wilcox and Councillor Timothy Windle

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite, Councillor Lucy Caldicott, Councillor Fred Cowell, Councillor Ibrahim Dogus, Councillor Jacqui Dyer, Councillor Nigel Haselden, Councillor Mohamed Jaser, Councillor Andy Wilson and Councillor Sonia Winifred

1. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED unanimously that the minutes of the meeting dated 14 October 2020 be approved as a correct record of proceedings and signed.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor noted that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Jennifer Brathwaite, Lucy Caldicott, Fred Cowell, Ibrahim Dogus, Jacqui Dyer, Nigel Haselden, Mohamed Jaser, Andy Wilson and Sonia Winifred.

The Mayor reported that PC Lancelot Edmondson, a police officer based in Lambeth, had received the British Empire Medal in the 2021 New Year's Honours. The Mayor offered his congratulations to PC Edmondson.

4. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

A deputation was made to Council regarding Collaborative Working with the Community on the Climate Emergency in Lambeth.

- Nick Anim and Magda Devas representing Beyond Politics Group thanked Councillors for the efforts they had made over the last year to tackle climate change, particularly the Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme. Beyond Politics Group represented thousands of Lambeth residents, and had resources, connections, and expertise at their disposal to help the Council to move more quickly towards reaching the goal of being a Carbon Zero Council by 2030. They outlined their requests for the Council in detail, asking for a meeting to plan effective collaboration with the Citizens' Assembly, achieving better representation of Lambeth's diverse community through a steering group, Climate Change to be an overarching goal in the refresh of the Borough Plan, and including specific updates about Climate Action and how the community could get involved on the Council's website. They also asked for clarity on budgets. Beyond Politics Group called upon Lambeth Council to actively involve community groups with the work it was doing to address climate change.
- Cllr Claire Holland, Deputy Leader (Sustainable Transport, Environment and Clean Air) thanked the speakers and Beyond Politics Group for their deputation and hard work. Cllr Holland contributed the successes in achieving climate action to the strong relationships with community and voluntary groups which had been forged over the years. Cllr Holland said these relationships were vital to facilitate and enable a green local recovery from Covid-19 and the climate crisis. She called on every business, community group, and institution to take responsibility for climate action, including engaging with the Citizens' Assembly. Cllr Holland noted that a steering group had been formed the previous year, and that there would be an online assembly by the summer, as they were previously delayed by Covid-19.

A deputation was made to Council regarding Rosendale Primary School Traffic Reduction and Air Quality Improvement Measures.

- Nicola Pastore gave a deputation on behalf of families and staff of Rosendale Primary School. They were dissatisfied that Lambeth Council had rejected their request to implement the School Streets programme at their primary school. They were unconvinced by the Council's reasons for not implementing the scheme, which were that it would be too complicated given the high levels of traffic there. Ms Pastore stated this was exactly why they needed the scheme, Rosendale Primary School being the one of the largest in the Borough. Ms Pastore described the danger presented to children and staff, including dangers crossing the road, and the extremely high levels of pollution created by the through-traffic. The significant challenges in traffic management were not adequate reason for not implementing the scheme – the Council had witnessed success in delivering Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in other areas of high traffic. The Council had suggested a Healthy Routes Scheme instead, but this would not provide sufficient levels of pollution reduction for the school.
- Cllr Claire Holland, Deputy Leader (Sustainable Transport, Environment and Clean Air) thanked Ms Pastore for her commitment to the school and community. Cllr Holland

agreed that tackling air pollution was a top priority. She described the need to take an holistic approach to managing traffic and pollution in the borough to make it safe and accessible to all, such as by introducing new Controlled Parking Zones. Cllr Holland stated she would be keen to do a site visit and was committed to working in collaboration to address the concerns in the area.

A deputation was brought to the Council regarding Objection to Demolition and Proposed Development of Denby Court.

- Davida Zakria-Dawkins gave a deputation from residents of Denby Court which outlined the requests of the tenants who would be displaced as a result of the redevelopment of the site under Homes for Lambeth. Ms Zakria-Dawkins pointed out that the development would not fit in with the area, and would take key facilities and character away from Lambeth Walk. Ms Zakria-Dawkins outlined how tenants had been paying the Council for unsuitable living conditions, and in effect the Council had used their tenants as property guardians until they were ready to sell the land to a private company, thereby changing the demographic of the area simply to generate income. Ms Zakria-Dawkins described how the Council disregarded the contribution of the tenants to the community and economy of the area, causing distress and trauma to now-homeless families. Ms Zakria-Dawkins accused the council of uprooting entire families for financial capitalism, in favour of an unfit for purpose private development and removing much needed housing solutions.
- Cllr Matthew Bennett, Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment and New Homes responded, noting that there were some 2,700 families in a similar situation, experiencing much distress because there were not enough homes available. Cllr Bennett said he would continue to work with the community to find permanent homes so they could put down roots, and would take into account families and their needs, such as children who had already started at local schools. Cllr Bennett promised to respect and give support to the families of Denby Court.

There were petitions from two Councillors:

- Cllr Corey Roake presented 340 petitions from Clapham South Side Residents Association and residents of the Clapham area for the Council to reduce rat-running by local traffic, and;
- Cllr Wellbelove presented 209 petitions from residents calling for the end of the closure of Larkhall Rise Bridge.

5. YOUTH COUNCIL ANNUAL UPDATE

Mel Mcarthur, Commissioning Manager, Youth and Play and Ricardo, Lambeth Youth Councillor, provided the following information:

- The Youth Council was a youth-led forum that held events, ran longer-term projects, worked with schools and other organisations, and supported campaigns, such as the “It Made Me Feel” campaign on street harassment.
- One of the aims of Youth Council was to work in partnership with the Council and to influence policy, and the Youth Council provided a space for young people to interact and collaborate with Councillors and MPs.
- Youth Councillors attended Black Lives Matter protests in summer 2020, and met with other organisations to discuss ways of continuing and enhancing the Black Lives Matter movement, as well as discussing anti-racism and equality.

- The Lambeth Youth Opportunity Fund aimed to raise funds for new opportunities to help young people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Working with other youth councils in London, the Youth Council had campaigned against the removal of the Zip Card, and the success of the campaign showed the value of collaboration.
- In the Minecraft project, the Youth Council had made a model of Brixton, including local landmarks.
- Along with other youth services, the Youth Council moved to virtual meetings and events at the start of the pandemic, and weekly meetings had continued throughout. The election for Youth Mayor had however not been able to take place due to school closures, but the option of holding online elections was being explored. Preparations were underway for work for the next year.

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

- Councillors Briggs, Griffiths and Davie thanked the Youth Council representatives for their update and work for the young people of Lambeth.
- Councillor Tim Briggs expressed his support for the Opportunity Fund and London-wide campaigning on Zip Cards.
- Councillor Nicole Griffiths stated that it was encouraging that the Youth Council had been able to meet and expand its membership during the pandemic, particularly when considering the impact it had had on young people's lives. It was positive that there were Youth Council representatives on the Citizens' Assembly Steering Group, and asked whether a Young Persons' Citizens' Assembly could run in parallel to the main Citizens' Assembly.
- Councillor Ed Davie commented on the longstanding collaboration between the Council and the Youth Council, including on major policies and projects. The Minecraft project had been cited in a Local Government Association handbook on involving young people, and he thanked the Youth Council for their work with Black Lives Matter.

RESOLVED: That the Youth Council Annual update be noted.

6. CABINET STATEMENT

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jack Hopkins, addressed Council, noting the following:

- Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, he had worked with other Council leaders, both across London and nationwide, in lobbying central government on policies including limiting the relaxation of restrictions and calling for a circuit-breaker lockdown. Government action had frequently come too late, resulting in additional cases and deaths.
- Inadequate centralised responses, such as on test and trace and food parcels for vulnerable people, had been imposed on councils, and councils had been threatened with legal action by central government on issues from school closures to enforcement of Covid-19 regulations.
- Lambeth was delivering a local test and trace system, was taking legal action against the government in order to protect teachers, pupils and other school staff, provided additional food parcels, had banned evictions and had worked to ensure care homes had sufficient personal protective equipment.
- Motions to be debated and voted on later in the meeting called for a localised response to Covid-19, and end to the public sector pay freeze to cancel the planned £20 cut to Universal Credit.

- The distribution of the vaccine brought hope for 2021, and he thanked all those working on the delivery of the vaccine.

7. OPPOSITION STATEMENT

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Scott Ainslie, addressed Council and noted the following:

- It was positive that both the Green and Labour groups, as well as the national Green party were calling for an all-party parliamentary enquiry on truth and reparative justice in relation to the Transatlantic slave trade.
- As the UK prepared to host COP26 later in 2021, it was imperative that the government led by example on the climate response and found a sustainable recovery from Covid-19. Where central government failed on the climate emergency, councils and residents needed to act.
- The private sector had failed to deliver a functioning test and trace system, although it was positive that the Council was now operating mass local testing. He hoped that Labour councillors would join the Green group in calling for frontline staff being prioritised for vaccination.
- The Council should be more open, honest and accountable, such as by operating a truly independent citizens' assembly.

8. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

1. Councillor Pete Elliott to Councillor Matthew Bennett, Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment and New Homes

Supplementary Question

Councillor Elliott asked how many homes the council owned on the six regeneration estates, including buy backs, and how many homes at council rent were planned to be built by 2040 on those estates, excluding homes to be funded through Section 106 funding.

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Bennett stated that excluding homes to be funded via Section 106 would distort the figures, and that 200 council homes were currently in development across five of the regeneration estates.

2. Councillor Tim Briggs to Councillor Matthew Bennett, Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment and New Homes

Supplementary Question

Councillor Briggs how much money the Council would spend on Homes for Lambeth before it generated a profit.

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Bennett stated that Homes for Lambeth had been established as a not-for-profit company.

3. Councillor Malcolm Clark to Councillor Claire Holland, Deputy Leader of the Council (Sustainable Transport, Environment and Clean Air)

Supplementary Question

Councillor Clark asked how parking stress in Low Traffic Neighbourhoods would be monitored and remedied if necessary.

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Holland stated that officers were monitoring changes in parking stress as a result of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and new Controlled Parking Zones, and that she would continue to work with Ward Councillors and residents.

4. Councillor Lucy Caldicott to Councillor Ed Davie, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Councillor Caldicott did not ask a supplementary question.

5. Councillor Iain Simpson to Councillor Andy Wilson, Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance

Supplementary Question

Councillor Simpson asked if Lambeth had money to spend on Covid-19 relief as a result of not previously spending reserves.

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Jack Hopkins responded in place of Councillor Wilson, stating that it was important to manage the council's finances prudently in order to be able to support local residents and businesses through the pandemic.

6. Councillor Pauline George to Councillor Jacqui Dyer, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Community Safety

Supplementary Question

Councillor George asked if there were any plans to reopen youth centres that had closed as a result of funding cuts.

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Ed Davie responded in place of Councillor Dyer, stating that there were 31 contracts with various youth and play providers across the borough. A review into youth and play services was underway.

7. Councillor Paul Gadsby to Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite, Deputy Leader (Housing and Homelessness)

Councillor Gadsby did not ask a supplementary question.

8. Councillor Marianna Masters to Councillors Jim Dickson and Danny Adilypour, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care (job-share)

Supplementary Question

Councillor Masters asked if the Council had a strategy to analyse and publish data on vaccine takeup by area, with the possible aim of targeting efforts to increase vaccination rates.

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Dickson stated that data was being collected on people receiving the vaccine, and areas of low takeup would be analysed with the aim of encouraging vaccination.

9. Councillor Becca Thackray to Councillor Matthew Bennett, Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment and New Homes

Councillor Thackray did not ask a supplementary question.

**10. Councillor Ben Kind to Councillor Matthew Bennett, Cabinet Member for Planning, Investment and New Homes
Supplementary Question**

Councillor Kind asked if Community Infrastructure Levy funding would be opened up to ensure that all wards could benefit from additional funding to mitigate the impact of new developments.

Supplementary Answer

Councillor Bennett stated that CIL funding should be spent evenly across the borough to ensure all areas benefitted from developments

9. REPORTS

9.1 CONSTITUTION 2020-21 IN-YEAR CHANGES

Councillors Tim Briggs, Jonathan Bartley and Tim Windle spoke in relation to the report on in-year changes to the Council's constitution.

- Councillor Tim Briggs supported the change to appoint two independent people to the Standards Committee.
- Councillor Jonathan Bartley also welcomed the appointment of an additional independent person.
- Councillor Tim Windle stated that appointing an additional independent person would bring the Council in line with best practice.

RESOLVED: That the changes as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.

9.2 USE OF SPECIAL URGENCY IN RESPECT OF KEY DECISIONS

Councillors Tim Briggs, Jonathan Bartley and Jack Hopkins spoke on the report on the use of special urgency, raising the following points:

- Councillor Tim Briggs stated that the use of special urgency meant that decisions could not be called-in, and it was therefore not possible to analyse whether decisions offered value for money, particularly for large contracts such as the decision on the Estate Cleaning Contract.
- Councillor Jonathan Bartley stated that the Leisure Services Contract should have been brought back in-house.
- Councillor Jack Hopkins stated that special urgency had been used during the pandemic to ensure that decisions could be taken quickly in order to support residents and businesses. All of these decisions had been taken according to the Constitution and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee was consulted throughout.

RESOLVED: That the decisions taken under the Council's Special Urgency procedure be noted.

10. MOTIONS

Councillor Jack Hopkins left the meeting due to technical issues before voting started.

Motion 1: Green

The amendment from the Conservative Member was **NOT CARRIED** by 2 votes for to 47

against. **Clerk's note: 3** unable to vote due to technical reasons.

The amendment from Labour was **CARRIED** by 45 votes for to 6 votes against. **Clerk's note: 1** unable to vote due to technical reasons.

The Substantive Motion (as amended by Labour) was **CARRIED**, and Council **RESOLVED**, with 48 votes for to 1 against and 1 abstention:

A just transition to a more sustainable Lambeth

Two years ago, on 23 January 2019, Lambeth Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency.

We recognise that climate, ecological and social emergencies are inextricably linked, especially evident at a time when we face the challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has been called 'a public health crisis, an economic crisis and a social crisis' (1).

Council notes:

That following being the first London borough to declare a climate and ecological emergency back in 2019, and notwithstanding over a decade of austerity and further budgetary pressures due to the coronavirus pandemic, Lambeth has committed:

- £85k to fund citizens assembly
- £250k to fund a core team of passionate climate experts to develop, oversee and push through our work to decarbonise Lambeth
- Around £90m over the next five years towards measures aimed at tackling the climate crisis

Throughout the pandemic, Lambeth Council, building on its existing strong links with business and third sector organisations created and maintained the Brixton Hub to deliver essential food and supplies to Lambeth's shielding and vulnerable residents in the absence of sufficient government provision. This successful example of working together embodies the best of Lambeth, as set out in the council's Borough plan – a borough that prioritises the good health and wellbeing of all Lambeth residents.

The council is directly responsible for just 3 to 4% of the borough's total emissions and the council has a crucial role in guiding and facilitating the businesses, organisations and residents of Lambeth on how best to decrease the emissions that they produce.

Because the citizens assembly was delayed due to COVID-19, the council set up the Lambeth Climate Action online hub called "Lambeth, working together to tackle climate change", to facilitate the sharing of ideas for reducing carbon emissions and creating a more resilient Lambeth. "Only by joining forces with the amazing Lambeth community can we become carbon neutral as a borough."¹

It is positive news that notwithstanding the pandemic and its challenges for Lambeth, the Citizens Assembly is proposed to go ahead this year, virtually. The citizens assembly steering group, formed last year, which brings together those individuals, groups and institutions with a leadership role in reducing carbon emissions in Lambeth, and who are likely to have a key role in responding to the findings of the assembly, is scheduled to meet again on 21 January 2021.

This council therefore resolves:

¹ <https://lambethclimateaction.commonplace.is/>

- 1) To continue to act as both co-ordinator and facilitator, working with the existing environmental and community groups, Lambeth's anchor institutions and businesses, as well as other local partners, to produce a plan for transitioning Lambeth, the council and the rest of the borough to reach the target of carbon neutrality by 2030, addressing the climate and biodiversity crisis; addressing the inequalities exacerbated by these crises - while also tackling poverty and improving social inclusion, by:
 - a) Supporting access to training for employees and prospective employees in industries which are at risk of shrinking due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Climate Emergency, facilitating access to alternative employment and the chance to retrain for work in sectors needed for a zero-carbon economy;
 - b) Engaging with the evidence to evaluate the impact of chemicals e.g. pesticides used in Lambeth on biodiversity and on local health outcomes and taking steps as needed to reduce or eliminate their environmental impact, such as our commitment to ending the use of glyphosate in Lambeth;
 - c) Working with all local groups, including residents' associations, to continue Lambeth's UK-leading work to improve walking, wheeling, cycling and scooting links across Lambeth, reduce carbon emissions from transport and continue to implement traffic reduction measures such as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods;
 - d) Working with investors, workplace providers, educational institutions, the local financial services industry, such as the London Mutual Credit Union, and our own supply chain to stimulate investment in local high-skilled low-carbon jobs;
 - e) Continuing to pioneer the building of low carbon modular council homes as we did at Hillside Gardens in Streatham, exploring how to build more, and delivering the programme of new council homes being built across the borough with significant reductions in carbon emissions of up to 80%;
 - f) Continue to fund or secure outside funding to retrofit Lambeth's existing housing stock to reduce energy waste and fuel poverty, including working with local education providers, such as with London South Bank University on the Net Zero Innovation challenge to develop a retrofit needs analysis for the borough to inform the council, residents and partners' approach to retrofit, and to help us to develop the local skills needed to carry out these works;
 - g) Continuing work to support local production of renewable energy, including by supporting infrastructure for a decentralised grid and peer-to-peer trading, and continuing our long-term partnership with organisations such as Repowering London;
 - h) Continue to support localised food production, including by working with community groups and developers to increase access to urban-grown local produce, such as our partnership with Incredible Edible Lambeth;
 - i) Continue our work on increasing biodiversity and the reversal of species loss through our Biodiversity Action Plan, which includes by working with developers and property owners to provide space for nature, including through planting shrubs and trees, green roofs and living walls;
 - j) Continuing to encourage businesses to reduce and eliminate material, water and energy waste, and continuing to support the development of a circular economy;
 - k) Support, wherever possible, the rewilding of green spaces on top of our existing plans to improve the borough's resilience to the impacts of the climate crisis;
 - l) To continue to apply for funding at every opportunity to plant thousands more trees over the next nine years and beyond, either in the Borough, or beyond on behalf of Lambeth residents such as the 1,124 trees that will be donated on

behalf of Lambeth to mangrove projects in Madagascar and, with particular attention paid to areas around LTNs.

- 2) Build on the existing strong relationships the council has with the people and communities of Lambeth including by:
 - a) Continuing our strong relationships with trade unions led by Cllr Wilson and the trade union representatives on the Joint Strategic Forum;
 - b) Working with residents, community organisations, the voluntary sector, business and anchor institutions to ensure that community interests continue to be represented at the earliest stage of development for any decarbonisation plans;
 - c) Continuing to resource Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations in recognition of the vital role they play in building community wellbeing and supporting the vulnerable.

- 3) To restate its commitment to an independent citizens' assembly (CA) that is demographically representative of Lambeth to be held online, ensuring that connectivity and access is possible for all the CA members.

Council further resolves to:

- Establish a dynamic communications strategy to engage with all residents and stakeholders.
- To note that the council has embedded fundamental climate thinking into every department of the council by allocating at least one climate representative from each strategic area to lead on work to decarbonise their service.
- To continue to review Lambeth's comprehensive carbon baseline that includes all scope 1 and 2-emissions annually at Cabinet.
- Agree a roadmap to carbon neutrality for the council's operations and estate by 2030 and agree appropriate milestones
- Continue its audit of existing assets, buildings, vehicles, power systems, parks, gardens and roads in the borough, to assess the embodied carbon and operational carbon costs.

(1) <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/mar/18/coronavirus-exposed-extent-uk-social-crisis>

Clerk's note: 2 unable to vote due to technical reasons.

Motion 2: Labour

The amendment from the Conservative Member was **NOT CARRIED** by 1 vote for to 47 against. **Clerk's note:** 4 unable to vote due to technical reasons.

The amendment from the Green Group was **CARRIED** by 49 votes for to 1 abstention. **Clerk's note:** 2 unable to vote due to technical reasons.

The Substantive Motion (as amended by the Green Group) was **CARRIED**, and Council **RESOLVED**, with 49 votes for to 1 against:

No Pay Freeze for Public Sector Workers

Council notes:

- The Covid-19 crisis has been extremely challenging for everyone, and in many cases

has put huge financial pressures on those who live and work in Lambeth, and their families.

- That to guarantee a recovery that leaves nobody behind and stimulate the economy, public sector workers need a pay rise, not a real terms pay cut through a pay freeze.
- That the pay freeze does not apply to those who work for local authorities, and that a pay rise for those workers will be negotiated with the trade unions.

Council further notes:

- That earlier this year the Prime Minister and the Chancellor stood on the steps of 10 Downing Street and clapped for the work of key workers who kept our country going through lockdown but they are now giving a real terms pay cut to those same workers.
- That justifying the freezing of public sector pay by linking it to the fall in private sector pay during the Covid-19 pandemic is a deliberate attempt by the Chancellor to stoke division and distract from the government's failure to support public sector workers.

Council welcomes:

- The work Lambeth has done to support public sector workers during the pandemic including but not limited to: expanding the Emergency Support Scheme, £1 million extra for Discretionary Housing Payments and introducing free parking for all NHS staff and key workers in the borough.
- The government increasing the 'National Living Wage' and extending the rate to 23 and 34 year olds, but is concerned that this is still not The Real Living Wage and does not support workers aged 18-22, whose work is no less valuable than their older counterparts.

Council resolves:

- Call on the Chancellor to reverse his decision to give public sectors not working in the NHS or local government a real terms pay cut by freezing their pay, and instead give them the pay rise they deserve.
- Call on the Chancellor to introduce The Real Living Wage for all those over the age of 16 in line with The Living Wage Foundation to guarantee all workers, including those on zero hour contracts in either the public or private sector, a real living wage.
- To endorse GMB The Union's 'No Pay Freeze' campaign and work with our colleagues in the Unions to fight for the pay public sector workers deserve.
- To call on the Government to vaccinate frontline public sector workers with greater priority as called for by unions and the Independent Sage group.

Clerk's note: 2 unable to vote due to technical reasons.

Motion 3: Conservative

The original motion from the Conservative Member was **NOT CARRIED** by 1 vote for to 44 against. **Clerk's note:** 7 unable to vote due to technical reasons.

Motion 4: Labour

The amendment from the Green Group was **CARRIED** by 46 votes for to 1 against. **Clerk's note:** 5 unable to vote due to technical reasons.

The Substantive Motion (as amended by the Green Group) was **CARRIED**, and Council **RESOLVED**, with 46 votes for to 1 against:

Test and Trace

Council notes:

- With concern that the country still does not have an adequate testing and tracing system. Numerous experts have repeated that to be effective contact tracing needs to be managed and carried out at a local level by people with expertise in public health.
- That instead of funding local bodies the Government has squandered billions of pounds of public money on a privatized and outsourced system that has contributed to failures to contain the virus and ultimately to an increased loss of life and economic damage.
- In late recognition that its tracing performance could not improve without local participation, NHS Test and Trace are now passing to local authorities those cases who have tested positive but who they have been unable to reach. While a welcome step this doesn't go far enough:
 - there are still large numbers of people named as contacts that the national system is failing to reach. The Government's Sage group advised that 80% of contacts need to be reached and asked to isolate if the transmission of the virus is to be suppressed. NHS Test and Trace is still falling short of this target and surveys show that the proportion of people self-isolating can be very low;
 - the centralised system lacks integration both into the normal, local NHS services (which would allow GPs to contact positive cases with crucial and timely medical advice) and into local authorities who can offer the financial, social and practical support needed to enable people to isolate.
- That pressure is building on the Government both to use local authorities more and to cease contracting out "NHS" Test and Trace to private companies.
- That council passed an amendment to a council motion in June 2020 to use the "skills and experience of local authority public and environmental health officers to test, track, trace and isolate citizens of Lambeth, to ensure we can control the virus locally as much as possible".

Council believes:

- That the only way to fully rectify the situation is for full control of contact tracing to be passed to local authorities and their Public Health partners. This must be accompanied by a transfer of the necessary funding and resources, with national input providing any support needed to ensure effective coordination and where necessary to help people to isolate.
- That a local scheme will:
 - Improve contact tracing
 - Enable increased and targeted testing, including asymptomatic testing
 - Be better integrated into existing Council COVID support services
 - Be a more cost-effective solution
 - Achieve greater community engagement and GP involvement
 - Allow for the engagement of local volunteers.

Council resolves:

- Add its voice to those challenging the current, failed system by asking the Leader to:
 - Call on our Director of Public Health and, if appropriate, the London Regional Director for Public Health England, to continue to support further devolvement of responsibility for testing and tracing;
 - Write to our MPs asking them for their support including writing to the Secretary of State asking for provision of the necessary resources to deliver a sustainable and effective local test and trace system;
 - And ask London Regional Government to pressure the government to give full control and sufficient resources to local authorities to achieve this.

Clerk's note: 5 unable to vote due to technical reasons.

Motion 5: Labour

The amendment from the Green Group was **NOT CARRIED** by 6 votes for to 41 against.

Clerk's note: 5 unable to vote due to technical reasons.

The Original Motion from Labour was **CARRIED**, and Council **RESOLVED** unanimously:

No cuts to Universal Credit – let families keep the £20 increase

Council notes:

- Next April the Government plan to cut the benefit level for millions of claimants by ending of the time limited increase to the basic rate of Universal Credit (and the tax credit equivalent) announced by the Chancellor on 20th March as part of his pandemic response package.
- The £20 a week boost reflected the reality that the level of benefits were not adequate to protect the swiftly increasing number of households relying on them as the crisis hit. Exactly because that increase was a very significant and welcome move to bolster low- and middle-income families living standards, its removal will be a huge loss.
- Pressing ahead would see the level of unemployment support fall to its lowest real-terms level since 1990-91, and it's lowest ever relative to average earnings. Indeed, the basic level of out-of-work support prior to the March boost was – at £73 a week (£3,800 a year) – less than half the absolute poverty line.
- The increase in benefits have had a positive effect on the lives of thousands of local claimants who are better able to pay for life's essentials such as food, clothing and utilities.
- The local economy has also benefited from the increase in benefit levels as claimants spend their money locally thereby supporting local businesses and jobs.

Council welcomes:

- The work Lambeth Council has done with residents, local businesses, and our partners in the Voluntary and Community Sector to deliver over 24,000 food parcels for vulnerable residents. Additionally, the commitment of an extra £500,000 funding for the emergency support scheme that supports residents in crisis and providing advice and support to those affected by Covid-19.
- Lambeth Council stepping up to support families experiencing hardship during the October half term to provide food vouchers for more than 10,000 children on Free School Meals after the government had refused to do so.

Council resolves to:

- Write to the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak and to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson demanding that the £20 increase to Universal Credit is made permanent and extended to claimants on legacy benefits.
- Work with other local government organisations to form a coalition to pressure the government to make the £20 increase to Universal Credit permanent.

Clerk's note: 5 unable to vote due to technical reasons.

The meeting ended at 22:10

MAYOR
Wednesday 3 March 2021

Date of Despatch: Thursday 18 February 2021

Contact for Enquiries: Wayne Chandai

Tel: 020 7926 0029

E-mail: wchandai@lambeth.gov.uk

Web: www.lambeth.gov.uk