

**Council, 21 July 2021**

**Council Motions**

**Wards:** All

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**Report summary**

Motions and amendments submitted by Councillors, in accordance with Council Committee Rules and Procedures, are set out below. Motion 1 and 2 will be debated as per council and committee rules and procedures.

**Key to shading:**

**Bold – additions**

~~Strikethrough~~ – deletions

**Motion 1: Green**

**Improving Temporary Accommodation for Lambeth Residents**

Council notes:

- At the end of March 2021, Lambeth Council was housing 2,837 families in Temporary Accommodation (TA). This figure includes 4,183 children. This is more than 2% of the population of Lambeth and there has been a steep rise over recent years. Yet, there is no published housing strategy that lays out a plan to address this, or to reduce this figure.
- Only around 9% of those families currently in Lambeth's TA describe themselves as White British, compared to 40% at the 2011 Census. 73% of the households in TA are Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic households, compared to 43% in Lambeth at the 2011 Census.
- By nature, Temporary Accommodation is an insecure and transitory form of accommodating our families. Studies show that children and adults experience mental health issues and trauma as a result, particularly when a family has been placed in substandard housing, frequently moved and/or if placed outside the borough, away from school and support networks.

- Some families have spent as long as 14 years moving around Lambeth's 'Temporary' Accommodation, much of which is of very poor standard and often outside the borough.
- During the financial year 2019/2020, Lambeth's Temporary Accommodation cost £36.7m. This does not include secondary costs in managing wider issues resulting from families living in poor quality and insecure housing.
- The lifting of the eviction ban is very likely to result in an increase in the number of residents being made homeless.
- Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which states:

*"1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right,"*

Council further notes that:

- Families in TA are often vulnerable and frequently have other issues to overcome in addition to being homeless. Despite this, many of them have reported negative and aggressive treatment at the hands of the council, along with huge pressure put on them when they are required to move.
- Secure council tenants are entitled to a Statutory Home Loss Payment of £6,500 when required to move to assist with costs. There is no automatic equivalent given to residents in Temporary Accommodation when a landlord or council requires them to move on, so any move or additional purchases are at the resident's expense, further penalising and discriminating against them.
- Whilst some recent improvements have been noted in this area; residents in Temporary Accommodation report that they experience a lot of pressure to accept properties and feel threatened with the withdrawal of support if they don't accept what they are given, no matter how inappropriate the accommodation may be, due to location, disrepair, or infestations.
- For the children caught up in TA, often the only stability they have is their school. Distance from school needs to be considered as a priority. The catchment area in Lambeth's Housing Placements Policy (Revised November 2016), highlights a 30 minute travel distance. In many cases this is unachievable due to traffic conditions at peak times and should not be used to determine suitable allocation of accommodation, especially in relation to school or work.
- Some families have been housed outside the borough and this is putting additional pressure on parents and children, as it can be impossible to get children to school in Lambeth on time.
- On the three largest council estates earmarked for demolition, Fenwick, Cressingham and Central Hill, residents have been moved in on a temporary basis. Yet, the master

planning has not started, and the possible resulting demolitions will not start for a further 5 years. This is also the time that housing teams are planning on making repairs last.

- The council has bought back over 155 former council homes on estates earmarked for demolition, most of which are now being rented out privately.
- Homes that are being rented on a private rental basis, or via a private rental agent, are charged at a price that is unaffordable to homeless households. Thus, limiting their chances of entering employment, not needing welfare subsidies and increasing their chances of eviction. So, putting more pressure on the council to provide temporary accommodation for homeless households and more costs to the taxpayer for welfare subsidies.

Council resolves to:

- Understand the problem, by establishing the full nature of Temporary Accommodation inequalities and issues faced in the borough, by carrying out a comprehensive and independent equalities impact assessment of Lambeth's TA regime to:
  - Investigate the prima facie evidence of racial inequality underlying the TA problem.
  - Understand how those with protected characteristics are treated and affected by the current system.
  - Identify inconsistencies between the treatment of TA tenants and other council tenants; and
  - To formulate solutions to redress any inequalities identified.
- State the problem, by commissioning a report on the impact that living in Lambeth's TA has on children, young people & families, to establish any:
  - Links between TA and issues such as autism, ADHD, slower development, learning and trauma related issues, and the impact that TA has on managing and addressing these conditions.
  - Longer-term outcomes for young adults who have spent time living in Lambeth's TA.
- Give residents in TA equal rights, and treat those in TA the same way as other council tenants by:
  - Giving them financial support as compensation for moving costs, storage costs and disruption to family life when the council requires them to move.
  - Giving them equal access to council support and services, including Democratic Services. Where a resident has been housed outside Lambeth by the council in Temporary Accommodation, they should be able to stand in local elections as they were a resident of Lambeth.
  - Instituting cultural change within the council's housing allocations and temporary accommodation team, so that their approach is collaborative and supportive. Officers will listen to the individual housing needs of families, especially children, and provide

assistance to help formulate and agree an individual plan that identifies and addresses their individual housing, health, employment and education needs, rather than by default pushing them to the private sector where tenancies are often equally insecure and even more expensive.

- Establish a routine inspection and compensation regime across all Temporary Accommodation. Where standards fall short, robust action is to be taken against landlords using all existing legislation and powers, to ensure necessary standards are met. This should include court action where appropriate and compensation for residents.
- Eliminate the need for long term Temporary Accommodation, by halving TA in its current form within 3 years and eliminating it completely in its current form within 6 years by:
  - Setting new key performance indicators that are written into the Director of Housing's job description.
  - Working with local groups, and cross-party, to urgently introduce a housing strategy that will deliver truly affordable and secure social housing that will eliminate the need for Temporary Accommodation in its current form.
  - Recognising that emergencies will occur, and some emergency accommodation will be required, but this should be managed very differently, and the target should be that this is used only in genuine emergency situations and for the shortest time possible.
  - Giving higher priority in housing allocations to those residents in TA. TA households should have their priority increased to Band B as a minimum and where they are already a B then their priority should be increased to Band A.
  - Immediately giving secure tenancies to those in Temporary Accommodation on estates earmarked for demolition, where their home is not scheduled for demolition within the next 24 months. This should include all residents in TA on Central Hill, Cressingham and Fenwick Estates.
  - Giving residents in TA whose homes are scheduled for demolition within 24 months, including Denby Court, Band A priority to give them equity with council tenants who are being moved out of the estates earmarked for demolition. If only Temporary Accommodation is available, then this should be in an area that is suitable, recognising the family's needs of schooling, health and employment.
  - Using its influence via the LGA to lobby parliament and the Mayor of London, for changes to legislation and further financial assistance to achieve the objectives of this motion.

### **Amendment 1: Conservative**

#### **Improving Temporary Accommodation for Lambeth Residents**

Council notes:

- At the end of March 2021, Lambeth Council was housing 2,837 families in Temporary Accommodation (TA). This figure includes 4,183 children. This is more than 2% of the population of Lambeth and there has been a steep rise over recent years. Yet, there is

no published housing strategy that lays out a plan to address this, or to reduce this figure.

- Only around 9% of those families currently in Lambeth's TA describe themselves as White British, compared to 40% at the 2011 Census. 73% of the households in TA are Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic households, compared to 43% in Lambeth at the 2011 Census.
- By nature, Temporary Accommodation is an insecure and transitory form of accommodating our families. Studies show that children and adults experience mental health issues and trauma ~~as a result~~, particularly when a family has been placed in substandard housing, frequently moved and/or if placed outside the borough, away from school and support networks.
- Some families have spent as long as 14 years moving around Lambeth's 'Temporary' Accommodation, much of which is of very poor standard and often outside the borough.
- During the financial year 2019/2020, Lambeth's Temporary Accommodation cost a **gross figure of £36.7m before any set-off of housing benefit payments, so a net cost of £10.1m**. This does not include secondary costs in managing wider issues resulting from families living in poor quality and insecure housing.
- The lifting of the eviction ban is very likely to result in an **temporary** increase in the number of residents being made homeless, **but as usual Labour and Green councillors are seeking to protect us from their last bad decision, in this instance their decision to reduce the supply of decent rented accommodation for homeless people to move into, by voting to ban Section 21 Notices, whilst the broader issue remains a lack of supply of quality private rented properties in the Borough.**
- Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which states:

*"1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right,"*

Council further notes that:

- Families in TA are often vulnerable and frequently have other issues to overcome in addition to being homeless. Despite this, many of them have reported negative and aggressive treatment at the hands of the council, along with huge pressure put on them when they are required to move, **exacerbated by the lack of housing to move into, made worse by the policies of Labour and Green councillors.**
- Secure council tenants are entitled to a Statutory Home Loss Payment of £6,500 when required to move to assist with costs. There is no automatic equivalent given to residents in Temporary Accommodation when a landlord or council requires them to move on, so any move or additional purchases are at the resident's expense, further penalising and discriminating against them.

- Whilst some recent improvements have been noted in this area; residents in Temporary Accommodation report that they experience a lot of pressure to accept properties and feel threatened with the withdrawal of support if they don't accept what they are given, no matter how inappropriate the accommodation may be, due to location, disrepair, or infestations. **The Labour councillors' failure to manage housing stock is perhaps the greatest barrier to improving entrenched low social mobility in Lambeth, and to reaching the higher standards of social mobility for children from lower income families that has been achieved in Conservative Wandsworth.**
- For the children caught up in TA, often the only stability they have is their school. Distance from school needs to be considered as a priority. The catchment area in Lambeth's Housing Placements Policy (Revised November 2016), highlights a 30 minute travel distance. In many cases this is unachievable due to traffic conditions at peak times **made far worse for longer by the imposition of road closures ('Low Traffic Neighbourhoods') introduced by Labour councillors and supported by Green councillors,** and should not be used to determine suitable allocation of accommodation, especially in relation to school or work.
- Some families have been housed outside the borough and this is putting additional pressure on parents and children, as it can be impossible to get children to school in Lambeth on time.
- On the three largest council estates earmarked for demolition, Fenwick, Cressingham and Central Hill, residents have been moved in on a temporary basis. Yet, the master planning has not started, and the possible resulting demolitions will not start for a further 5 years. This is also the time that housing teams are planning on making repairs last.
- The council has bought back over 155 former council homes on estates earmarked for demolition, most of which are now being rented out privately. **Council notes that the Labour and Green councillors' vote to ban Section 21 Notices would deny the Council the means by which it can get back possession of those privately rented properties let on a temporary basis.** Homes that are being rented on a private rental basis, or via a private rental agent, are charged at a price that is unaffordable to homeless households. Thus, limiting their chances of entering employment, not needing welfare subsidies and increasing their chances of eviction. So, putting more pressure on the council to provide temporary accommodation for homeless households and more costs to the taxpayer for welfare subsidies.
- **Council welcomes the possibility of more people working from home freeing up office space, and the potential to convert offices into homes subject to law, in order to help fulfil our housing needs, and to reduce the cost of renting which has fallen in London since the start of the pandemic.**

Council resolves to:

- Understand the problem, by establishing the full nature of Temporary Accommodation inequalities and issues faced in the borough, by carrying out a comprehensive and independent equalities impact assessment of Lambeth's TA regime to:

- Investigate the prima facie evidence of racial inequality underlying the TA problem.
- Understand how those with protected characteristics are treated and affected by the current system.
- Identify inconsistencies between the treatment of TA tenants and other council tenants; and
- To formulate solutions to redress any inequalities identified.
- State the problem, by commissioning a report on the impact that living in Lambeth's TA has on children, young people & families, to establish any:
  - Links between TA and issues such as autism, ADHD, slower development, learning and trauma related issues, and the impact that TA has on managing and addressing these conditions.
  - Longer-term outcomes for young adults who have spent time living in Lambeth's TA.
- Give residents in TA equal rights **whenever the law and the allocations banding allows**, and treat those in TA the same way as other council tenants by:
  - Giving them financial support as compensation for moving costs, storage costs and disruption to family life when the council requires them to move.
  - Giving them equal access to council support and services, including Democratic Services. Where a resident has been housed outside Lambeth by the council in Temporary Accommodation, they should be able to stand in local elections as they were a resident of Lambeth, **where the law allows**;
  - ~~Instituting cultural change within~~ **Providing more funding for** the council's housing allocations and temporary accommodation team, ~~so that their~~ **and promoting council officers whose** approach is **effective, a part of which will include their commitment to being** collaborative and supportive. Officers will listen to the individual housing needs of families, especially children, and provide assistance to help formulate and agree an individual plan that identifies and addresses their individual housing, health, employment and education needs, rather than by default pushing them to the private sector where tenancies are often equally insecure and even more expensive.
  - Establish a routine inspection ~~and compensation regime~~ **team, inspecting** across all Temporary Accommodation. Where standards fall short, robust action is to be taken against landlords using all existing legislation and powers, to ensure necessary standards are met. This should include court action where appropriate and compensation for residents.
- Eliminate the need for long term Temporary Accommodation, by halving TA in its current form within 3 years and eliminating it completely in its current form within 6 years by:
  - Setting new key performance indicators that are written into the Director of Housing's job description.
  - Working with local groups, and cross-party, to urgently introduce a housing strategy that will deliver truly affordable and secure social housing that will eliminate the need for Temporary Accommodation in its current form.

- Recognising that emergencies will occur, and some emergency accommodation will be required, but this should be managed very differently, and the target should be that this is used only in genuine emergency situations and for the shortest time possible.
- **Carefully consider** Giving higher priority in housing allocations to those residents in TA. TA households should have their priority increased to Band B as a minimum and where they are already a B then their priority should be increased to Band A.
- Immediately giving secure tenancies to those in Temporary Accommodation on estates earmarked for demolition, where their home is not scheduled for demolition within the next 24 months. This should include all residents in TA on Central Hill, Cressingham and Fenwick Estates.
- Giving residents in TA whose homes are scheduled for demolition within 24 months, including Denby Court, Band A priority to give them equity with council tenants who are being moved out of the estates earmarked for demolition. If only Temporary Accommodation is available, then this should be in an area that is suitable, recognising the family's needs of schooling, health and employment.
- Using its influence via the LGA to lobby parliament and the Mayor of London, for changes to legislation and further financial assistance to achieve the objectives of this motion.

## **Motion 2: Labour**

### **Supporting refugees to make Lambeth their home**

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

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

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

Council condemns the 'Hostile Environment' put in place by the Conservative-Liberal Democrat government and enthusiastically embraced by the current Conservative administration, that has

seen refugees and migrants stigmatised and racial profiling increase for all Lambeth residents. We will continue to seek justice for the Windrush generation and support Lambeth's EU Citizens whose life in this country has been put at risk by this Brexit-backing government's mismanagement of the Settled Status process.

Council will:

- Work with all in our borough to enact the principles of the Cities of Sanctuary movement, working to create a welcoming and collaborative borough and celebrating the contribution of people seeking sanctuary.
- Engage people seeking sanctuary in decision making processes at all levels and in all activities promote understanding of asylum and refugee issues, especially by enabling refugee voices to be heard directly.
- Continue to support vulnerable refugee families from Syria and other areas of conflict to settle in Lambeth.
- Continue to support unaccompanied child asylum seekers and live up to the Safe Passage pledge we made to resettle 20 child refugees.
- Refuse to collaborate with the Home Office on the new immigration rules on rough sleeping and back the #SupportdontDeport campaign.
- Refuse a Home Office embedded officer in our No Recourse to Public Funds service.
- Ensure no child in Lambeth is denied free school meals because of their immigration status if they would be otherwise eligible.
- Work with Lambeth's NHS services to ensure undocumented migrants can safely use GPs locally to obtain medical advice and receive Covid vaccines.
- Continue to provide health and other information in various languages to ensure migrants are aware how to access services.

Council calls on the Government to:

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

### **Amendment 1: Conservative**

Supporting refugees to make Lambeth their home

Council notes that Refugee Week, World Refugee Day and Windrush Day took place in June **(although the Windrush generation were not refugees, but freely chose to come to the UK and make their lives here, and are celebrated for doing so)**. We celebrate the role that refugees and migrants have played in making Lambeth the successful, tolerant and exciting place it is, **and now need to move onto actually helping people rather than just celebrating them**. But we also recognise there is much more to be done, and that the issues of COVID-19, climate change, conflict, extreme economic inequality, political persecution and discrimination against LGBTQ+ people will continue to drive people to seek sanctuary in the UK.

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

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

Council condemns the 'Hostile Environment' put in place by the ~~Labour Conservative-Liberal Democrat~~ government **in its Home Office in 2010, for which to their great shame Labour councillors have never apologised to our Windrush generation residents**, and ~~enthusiastically embraced~~ **continued by the Home Office until recently, for which the current Conservative administration (and Cllr Tim Briggs on its behalf) have sincerely apologised**, that has seen **Caribbean** refugees and migrants stigmatised ~~and racial profiling increase for all Lambeth residents~~. We continue to seek justice for the Windrush generation, and support Lambeth's EU Citizens **who are required to fill out a form to get whose life in this country has been put at risk by this Brexit-backing government's mismanagement of the Settled Status process, and condemn the past failure of Lambeth Labour councillors to provide free help and advice for EU citizens until shamed into doing so by Conservative-run Wandsworth, and for having had the most expensive European Passport Return Service in the whole of London for the EU citizens that Labour councillors claim to want to help.**

Council will:

- Work with all in our borough to enact the principles of the Cities of Sanctuary movement, working to create a welcoming and collaborative borough and celebrating the contribution of people seeking sanctuary.
- ~~Engage people seeking sanctuary in decision-making processes at all levels and in all activities promote understanding of asylum and refugee issues, especially by enabling refugee voices to be heard directly.~~ **Help highlight and explain options and opportunities for people seeking sanctuary, and to resolve not to make promises that are vague and meaningless and will not be kept, but that sound empowering;**

- Continue to support vulnerable refugee families from Syria and other areas of conflict ~~to~~ **that settle in Lambeth.**
- Continue to support unaccompanied child asylum seekers and live up to the Safe Passage pledge we made to resettle 20 child refugees.
- ~~Refuse to~~ collaborate with the Home Office on the new immigration rules on rough sleeping and back the #SupportdontDeport campaign; **as it is not for local authorities to pick and choose which laws to follow based on political preferences;**
- ~~Refuse~~ **Accept** a Home Office embedded officer in our No Recourse to Public Funds service.
- Ensure no child in Lambeth is denied free school meals because of their immigration status if they would be otherwise eligible, **and pay for them;**
- Work with Lambeth's NHS services to ensure undocumented migrants can safely use GPs locally to obtain medical advice and receive Covid vaccines,
- Continue to ~~provide health and other information in various languages to~~ ensure migrants are aware how to access services, **for example by providing health and other information in various languages.**

Council calls on the Government to:

- ~~Extend the deadline~~ **Continue its public information campaign** for the EU Settlement Scheme **to ensure that all EU Citizens get a chance to apply;**
- **Ensure Lambeth Council looks after residents more effectively, especially those already waiting to be housed or rehoused, and continues its proud history of helping those genuinely seeking political asylum and** ~~Extend the settled status model to~~ undocumented migrants from other parts of the world, ~~as called for by Citizens UK.~~
- **Ask wealthy Labour supporters that are not waiting on the housing list to** End the **accusations of a** 'Hostile Environment and the discriminatory practices and racial profiling' that have seen immigration services work with the Police and other bodies to target particular professions such as delivery drivers and retail workers, but **instead accept that immigration services sometimes have an unpleasant but necessary job to do;**
- ~~Resume and set annual targets for~~ **Continue** the resettlement schemes to ensure that the UK plays its part alongside other European and G7 nations in giving sanctuary to those fleeing conflict in Syria and elsewhere, especially the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, so that Lambeth can resettle the additional 38 families we have committed to receiving before 2025.
- Allow those seeking asylum who have waited for more than 6 months for a decision to work, as called for in the 'Lift the Ban' campaign.
- ~~Rethink its New Plan for Immigration and~~ **Continue to** build a better, fairer immigration system **that does not make hard-working Lambeth residents from all backgrounds and ethnicities have to wait longer to be housed by the Council;**
- Implement the recommendations of the Joint Inquiry by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees & the All Party Parliamentary Group on Migration into the Use of Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom.

## **Amendment 2: Green**

### **Supporting refugees to make Lambeth their home**

Council notes that Refugee Week, World Refugee Day and Windrush Day took place in June. We celebrate the role that refugees and migrants have played in making Lambeth the

successful, tolerant and exciting place it is. But we also recognise there is much more to be done, and that the issues of COVID-19, climate change and **ecological breakdown**, conflict, extreme economic inequality, political persecution and discrimination against LGBTQ+ people will continue to drive people to seek sanctuary in the UK.

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

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

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

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

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

Council will:

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

- Work with Lambeth's NHS services to ensure undocumented migrants can safely use GPs locally to obtain medical advice and receive Covid vaccines.
- Continue to provide health and other information in various languages to ensure migrants are aware how to access services.

Council ~~calls on the Government to~~ **resolves to write to the Home Secretary:**

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

### **Motion 3: Conservative**

#### **Establishing an independent committee to reduce youth knife crime in Lambeth**

Our children are being killed in an epidemic of youth knife crime. The Lambeth Made Safer Strategy presented in November 2020 has not yet made Lambeth any safer. The previous strategy, announced by Labour councillors months before the local elections in 2018, did not make Lambeth safer either. The Lambeth Made Safer Strategy is aspirational but vague, full of confused and racist identity politics, instead of focusing on practical measures to improve the Council's corporate parenting role and to fulfil its duty of care by doing everything possible to end the epidemic of youth knife crime.

Labour councillors need to stop failing to take responsibility for their strategy, pretending that criticism is political, and blaming everyone and anyone but themselves. Their failure to raise living standards, prompting them to argue for exceptions to be made for knife crime rates in Lambeth, creates a circle of low expectations and failure. Labour councillors that pretend that the Council does not have enough money to effect change should resign in favour of those who can effect change with the financial resources available, as happens in other more progressive boroughs.

Council therefore proposes to set up an independent Committee chaired by an opposition Conservative councillor, or former Conservative councillor, to hear evidence on measures to reduce youth knife crime, and to produce a report to go to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, for her to implement as she sees fit.

The Committee will address the issue of reducing youth knife crime in an evidence-based, non-political, practical way, looking at strategies that have worked wholly or partially elsewhere, free of assumptions and biases, in order to consider how best to implement some or all of those measures in Lambeth.

It will hear from any residents that wish to be give evidence or that have suggestions to make, as well as professional, government or community groups, and from experts working or volunteering across a range of disciplines and organisations in the field of youth knife crime prevention.

Council believes that an extensive and non-political report from an independent committee can supplement and improve the Lambeth Made Safer Strategy to bring real and immediate improvements on our streets, and help the current Cabinet Member for Community Safety in her sincere objective to reduce youth knife crime.

The Committee will work quickly: be set up in September this year, hear evidence in October, and report to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety at the end of November 2021.

#### **Motion 4: Labour**

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

Council:

- Welcomes Lambeth council's successful application to become a UNICEF Child Friendly Community.
- Notes that this begins at least three-year's work to gain accreditation by putting the rights of children and young people at the centre of decision-making; amplifying the voice of children and young people to have more say in decisions that affect them; and supporting more children and young people to access more opportunities.
- Recognises the historic failures in Lambeth to provide adequate support and care for children and young people. We welcome the positive steps taken by the council in recent years to recognise and rectify the challenges faced by children and young people by improving and integrating services, adopting poverty reduction measures, and tackling discrimination.

Council further notes:

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

Council commits:

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

### **Amendment 1: Conservative**

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

Council:

- Welcomes Lambeth council's successful application to become a UNICEF Child Friendly Community.
- Notes that this begins at least three-year's work to gain accreditation by putting the rights of children and young people at the centre of decision-making; amplifying the voice of children and young people to have more say in decisions that affect them; and supporting more children and young people to access more opportunities.
- Recognises the historic failures in Lambeth to provide adequate support and care for children and young people. We welcome the positive steps taken by the council in recent years to recognise and rectify the challenges faced by children and young people by improving and integrating services, adopting poverty reduction measures, and tackling discrimination.

Council further notes:

- The council now must build on that and other work and accelerate wider progress by putting the rights and voices of our children at the centre of what we do, and better harness the borough's very considerable assets to make Lambeth the best place in London to grow up.
- Many of Lambeth's children and young people are growing up in poverty **as a result of high council tax, poor housing and lower social mobility during many years of Labour running Lambeth**, are living in fear or victims of violent crime **after years of failure by the Labour Police and Crime Commissioner Sadiq Khan and ineffective community safety strategies devised by Labour councillors**, and are exposed to higher levels of air pollution **after the introduction of LTNs by Labour councillors**.
- That ~~structural~~ **environmental racism by Labour and Green councillors keeping residents poor, divided from the mainstream and voting Labour** results in Black children and young people being disproportionately affected by these disadvantages and that Covid-19 and its effects have also worsened many existing problems and inequalities.

#### Council commits:

- To using the Child Friendly Community process to improve the conditions in which children and young people develop in Lambeth so that they are safer, healthier, and happier with better access to decent housing, education, cultural and sporting activities, green space, play areas, and active travel.
- To harness Lambeth's positive strengths, including our young, diverse, and engaged population, our location in the centre of a great world city and in hosting many important cultural, health and educational bodies of all sizes, to create more opportunities for our children and young people whilst elevating their voices and rights.
- To deliver these ambitions in partnership with our young people, community groups, residents, businesses, schools and partners through: Ensuring children and young people's voices and opinions are heard and their rights respected when making decisions that affect them; Offering jobs, apprenticeships and training to children looked after, care leavers and other Lambeth children and young people, especially those living in deprived circumstances; Offering sporting, cultural, work, and other experiences to children and young people especially those who would find it harder to access them by other means; Ensuring excellent education, play, health, social care, advice and policing services for children and young people; and creating genuinely affordable, quality housing, well-lit, accessible green, play and community space well served by active travel routes.
- **After the historic child sex abuse scandal, to introduce far-reaching reform of the Council's processes and how it functions to ensure that children and residents can never suffer at the hands of the Council or its contractors again, based on the Nolan Principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.**

- Council commits to working with partners to find sufficient investment to fund posts and activities to deliver these objectives.

## **Motion 5: Labour**

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

#### Council notes:

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

## **Amendment 1: Green**

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

#### Council notes:

- That families and volunteers who have lost loved ones to the Covid-19 pandemic created the National Covid Memorial Wall on the bank of the Thames in the north of the borough, with each of the 150,000 hearts representing someone in the UK who we have lost.
- That the memorial has been created by Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice, made up of 3400 families of those who have tragically died from Covid-19 and who are calling for a Covid inquiry now.
- Council welcomes:
- The creation of the memorial as a fitting and moving tribute to all those who have been lost to the pandemic, particularly in such a visible location in Waterloo and next to St Thomas' Hospital where so many have worked relentlessly for the last 18 months to protect people from the pandemic.

- The work the council has already done with the organisers of the National Covid Memorial Wall, Guys' and St Thomas' Hospital Trust, Transport for London, and local stakeholders to find a way to make sure the memorial can remain in place.
- The letter organised by Afzal Khan MP and signed by **200 MPs from across the parties including** Florence Eshalomi MP, Helen Hayes MP, ~~and~~ Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP **and Caroline Lucas MP**, calling on the government to make the National Covid Memorial Wall a permanent memorial to the victims of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The government's commitment to launching an independent public Covid inquiry, following the campaign from Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice, which was supported by Lambeth councillors, but believes that inquiry must begin immediately as families have also called for.
- Council resolves:
- To work to protect the National Covid Memorial Wall and work with the organisers of the memorial, the owners of the wall, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital Trust, and the government to make it a permanent and lasting memorial to all those lost during the pandemic.