

18 May 2016

**Council**

**Council Motions**

**Wards:** All

**Report Authorised by:** Strategic Director Corporate Resources: Jackie Belton

**Contact for enquiries:**

[wchandai@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:wchandai@lambeth.gov.uk)

Wayne Chandai, Democratic Services Manager, 020 7926 0029

**Report summary**

Motions and amendments submitted by Councillors, in accordance with Standing Order 13, are set out below.

**Key to shading:**

**Bold – additions**

~~Strikethrough~~ – deletions

### **Motion 1: Councillor Jane Edbrooke**

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

Council is very concerned, however, that these achievements will be undermined by the Conservative Government's plans to force all schools to become academies - regardless of the wishes of teachers, pupils and parents – and ill-thought through changes to funding mechanisms, which will see a 20% cut in Lambeth's education budget.

Council further notes that:

- The proposals in the Government's White Paper amount to an ideological attack on teachers and on local and parental accountability and demonstrates that the Government has the wrong priorities for education.
- The NUT estimates the cost of the process of academisation will be in the region of £1.3bn and that this money could be better spent on funding schools places at a time when there is a shortage of school places in London.

- There is widespread opposition to forced academisation from the Local Government Association, Conservative councils across the country and MPs of all parties
- The current national schools funding formula has helped Lambeth's pupils achieve remarkable year-on-year improvements, despite the high levels of deprivation that many face, and any move to level down, rather than level up schools funding will jeopardise further improvements.

Council calls on the Government to:

- Halt its plans to force academy status and re-think its policy, which is undemocratic, expensive, fails to meet the needs of local pupils, excludes parental involvement and removes local accountability
- Give the council the ability to ensure all schools support the needs of local children including providing places regardless of ability and enough places to meet future demand.
- Look again at its planned new funding formula and ensure that London schools do not see their budget needlessly slashed at a time when it is critical that we maintain and increase levels of investment in their future.

### **Amendment 1: Councillor Scott Ainslie**

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

**Council also notes the limitations of the Ofsted inspection regime, particularly when taking into account the needs of the most vulnerable children. It further notes that Lambeth has the highest rate of exclusions in London from its primary schools, and the fourth highest rate from its secondary schools.**

**Council also notes that the report last month from the Runnymede Trust entitled 'Ethnic Inequalities in London' ranked Lambeth as being the worst borough in London by a very long way, for ethnic inequalities in education.**

Council is very concerned, however, that ~~these~~ **any** achievements will be undermined by the Conservative Government's plans to force all schools to become academies - regardless of the wishes of teachers, pupils and parents – and ill-thought through changes to funding mechanisms, which will see a 20% cut in Lambeth's education budget.

Council further notes that:

- The proposals in the Government's White Paper amount to an ideological attack on teachers and on local and parental accountability and demonstrates that the Government has the wrong priorities for education.
- The NUT estimates the cost of the process of academisation will be in the region of £1.3bn and that this money could be better spent on funding schools places at a time when there is a shortage of school places in London.

- There is widespread opposition to forced academisation from the Local Government Association, Conservative councils across the country and MPs of all parties
- The current national schools funding formula has helped Lambeth's pupils achieve remarkable year-on-year improvements, despite the high levels of deprivation that many face, and any move to level down, rather than level up schools funding will jeopardise further improvements.
- **The Council's support for the establishment of academies in Lambeth makes it much harder to resist the Government's plans.**
- **The Council needs to take action to reduce the high exclusion rate from Lambeth's schools.**
- **The Council needs to take urgent action to address the huge ethnic inequality in education in Lambeth.**

Council calls on the Government to:

- Halt its plans to force academy status and re-think its policy, which is undemocratic, expensive, fails to meet the needs of local pupils, excludes parental involvement and removes local accountability
- Give the council the ability to ensure all schools support the needs of local children including providing places regardless of ability and enough places to meet future demand.
- Look again at its planned new funding formula and ensure that London schools do not see their budget needlessly slashed at a time when it is critical that we maintain and increase levels of investment in their future.

### **Motion 2: Councillor Tim Briggs**

This council agrees that there should be no increase in the volume, frequency or length of music events on parks and green spaces in the borough. Any increase would accelerate the profoundly negative impact of such events felt by the huge number of residents living nearby.

### **Amendment 1: Councillor Jack Hopkins**

This council agrees **that the revised events strategy should build on Lambeth's record as the only borough in London that gives back to local parks. Notes that proposals will include a new formula to ensure income from events is fairly distributed and will reflect the council's need to use its resources to plug gaps in funding. Notes that guidance on the appropriate volume, frequency and length of music events on parks and green spaces in the borough has been developed with input from local residents and businesses, as well as event organisers over five years and will be set out in the report.** ~~Any increase would accelerate the profoundly negative impact of such events felt by the huge number of residents living nearby.~~

### **Motion 3: Councillor Scott Ainslie**

Council notes that:

- corporate tax evasion and avoidance are having a damaging impact on the world's poorest countries, to such a level that it is costing them far more than they receive in aid
- this is costing the UK as much as £30bn a year
- this practice also has a negative effect on small and medium-sized companies who pay more tax proportionately.

Council further notes that the UK Government has issued Procurement Policy Note 03/14 (PPN 03/14) regarding tax avoidance and evasion. This applies to all central government contracts worth more than £5m.

Council also notes the existence of voluntary schemes promoting tax compliance such as the Fair Tax Mark, which can serve as an independent means of verification.

It further notes that in early 2015 new regulations required public bodies, including councils, to ask procurement qualification questions of all companies for tenders over £173,000 for service contracts and £4m for works contracts. However, these questions are not as detailed as the PPN 03/14.

Council believes that bidders for council contracts should be asked to account for their past tax record, using the standards in PPN 03/14, rather than the lower standards in the recent regulations.

Council therefore calls for procurement procedures to be amended to require all companies bidding for service contracts worth more than £25,000 and for works contracts worth more than £50,000 to self-certify that they are fully tax-compliant in line with central government practice using the standards in PPN 03/14, applying to contracts of the size specified above.

Council asks the cabinet to publicise this policy and to report on its implementation annually.

#### **Amendment 1: Councillor Paul McGlone**

Council notes that:

- corporate tax evasion and avoidance are having a damaging impact on the world's poorest countries, to such a level that it is costing them far more than they receive in aid
- this is costing the UK as much as £30bn a year
- this practice also has a negative effect on small and medium-sized companies who pay more tax proportionately.

Council further notes that the UK Government has issued Procurement Policy Note 03/14 (PPN 03/14) regarding tax avoidance and evasion. This applies to all central government contracts worth more than £5m.

Council also notes the existence of voluntary schemes promoting tax compliance such as the Fair Tax Mark, which can serve as an independent means of verification.

It further notes that in early 2015 new regulations **were published. These** required public bodies, including councils, to ask procurement qualification questions of all companies for tenders over ~~£173,000~~ **£164,000** for service contracts and £4m for works contracts. ~~However,~~ these questions are not as detailed as the ~~PPN 03/14.~~

~~Council believes that bidders for council contracts should be asked to account for their past tax record, using the standards in PPN 03/14, rather than the lower standards in the recent regulations.~~

~~Council therefore calls for procurement procedures to be amended to require all companies bidding for service contracts worth more than £25,000 and for works contracts worth more than £50,000 to self-certify that they are fully tax-compliant in line with central government practice using the standards in PPN 03/14, applying to contracts of the size specified above.~~

~~Council asks the cabinet to publicise this policy and to report on its implementation annually.~~

**Council further notes that Lambeth, like all public bodies, is bound by the 2015 Public Contract Regulations relating to procurement, which includes a raft of provisions relating to non compliance with UK tax law and requires contracting authorities to exclude suppliers from procurement if they fail to meet criteria that includes tax avoidance.**

**Notes that Lambeth uses the Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) from the Crown Commercial Service for procurement above the EU threshold of £164k. This ensures we keep up to date with changes in legislation and best practice and also assists contractors who see a standard questionnaire rather than something different everywhere they tender.**

**Further notes that Regulation 111 prevents a contracting authority from including a pre-qualification stage on any procurement where the value is below £164,000.**

**Further notes that the Council takes a proportionate approach to procurement, focusing governance, controls and resources on high value/high risk procurement. Over the past few years it has sought to remove the burden of bureaucracy including raising the threshold for formal tender processes and documentation and standardising where possible.**

#### **Motion 4: Councillor Matthew Bennett**

This council notes the Government's Housing and Planning Bill, currently being debated in the House of Lords, which would threaten the provision of affordable housing in Lambeth and deepen the housing crisis in the borough and across London.

Further notes:

- That the Bill would force councils to sell off hundreds of council homes without adequate replacement, undermine secure tenancies for council tenants, remove the ability of councils to deliver affordable homes from developments in favour of starter homes worth up to £450,000 and force some council tenants in Lambeth to pay thousands of pounds more in rent due to the "pay to stay" policy.
- That the Bill undermines the Government's claim to support localism and devolution, by giving new wide and open-ended powers for the Secretary of State over councils and local communities.
- That the Bill has faced significant opposition from politicians and councils of all parties from across the country.
- That hundreds of residents from across Lambeth have expressed their concern about the impact of the Bill and signed the petition by Lambeth Labour Group against this Bill.
- That the House of Lords has defeated the Government on key aspects of the Bill, including "pay to stay", starter homes and the replacement of council homes under Right-To-Buy.

Council calls on the Government:

- To recognise the scale of opposition to these plans and their potentially devastating impact on London by scrapping the Housing and Planning Bill.

### **Amendment 1: Councillor Scott Ainslie**

This council notes the Government's Housing and Planning Bill, ~~currently being debated in the House of Lords~~, **which completed its House of Lords stages on 27<sup>th</sup> April, and amendments to which are now being debated by both Houses of Parliament**, which would threaten the provision of affordable housing in Lambeth and deepen the housing crisis in the borough and across London.

Further notes:

- That the Bill would force councils to sell off hundreds of council homes without adequate replacement, undermine secure tenancies for council tenants, remove the ability of councils to deliver affordable homes from developments in favour of starter homes worth up to £450,000 and force some council tenants in Lambeth to pay thousands of pounds more in rent due to the "pay to stay" policy.
- **That Lambeth Council has itself sold off dozens of shortlife properties while the £78 million it says it has raised from these sales has not been used to build new council homes, meaning the Council is in a weaker position to oppose the Bill.**
- **That the Council's plans to demolish council housing, and replace it with housing controlled by a Special Purpose Vehicle would also remove important securities from tenants, including the Right to Repair, undermining its opposition to the Bill.**
- That the Bill undermines the Government's claim to support localism and devolution, by giving new wide and open-ended powers for the Secretary of State over councils and local communities.
- That the Bill has faced significant opposition from politicians and councils of all parties from across the country.
- That hundreds of residents from across Lambeth have expressed their concern about the impact of the Bill and signed the petition by Lambeth Labour Group against this Bill.
- That the House of Lords has defeated the Government on key aspects of the Bill, including "pay to stay", starter homes and the replacement of council homes under Right-To-Buy.

Council calls on the Government:

- To recognise the scale of opposition to these plans and their potentially devastating impact on London by scrapping the Housing and Planning Bill.

### **Council resolves to:**

- **Sell no more shortlife properties and scrap its plans to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle, which undermine its opposition to the Government's Housing and**

## **Planning Bill**

- **Implement the proposals of residents, such as those at Cressingham Gardens, who want new, truly affordable council housing to be built as an alternative to the plans of both the Government and Lambeth Council.**

### **Motion 5: Councillor Paul McGlone**

Council notes that conflicts in the Middle East have created the largest refugee crisis in generations and thousands of people, including many children, have died while seeking sanctuary from the violence by trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea.

The UK, and particularly Lambeth, has a long and important tradition of offering sanctuary to those who need protection, as Council heard movingly during its meeting in November. This is why it is shameful that the Tory Government recently blocked the 'Dubs amendment' to the Immigration Bill that would have offered refuge to 3,000 unaccompanied children currently stranded across Europe.

Council also notes that this administration, working with London Councils, has led the way in calling for the Government to accept more refugees and we stand ready to play our part in helping to accommodate more Syrian refugees here in Lambeth after welcoming the first family in April this year.

This Council resolves to:

- Call on the Government to simplify the processes and clarify the support and funding that will be available over the long-term to accommodate and support refugees fleeing violence and devastation in Syria, particularly unaccompanied minors;
- Support Lambeth Citizens' campaign to encourage private sector landlords to work with the council to provide accommodation for Syrian refugee families;
- Continue working with local community and voluntary sector partners, to ensure that refugees are welcomed in Lambeth and afforded the help and support they need in accessing local services.

### **Amendment 1: Councillor Scott Ainslie**

Council notes that conflicts in the Middle East have created the largest refugee crisis in generations and thousands of people, including many children, have died while seeking sanctuary from the violence by trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea.

The UK, and particularly Lambeth, has a long and important tradition of offering sanctuary to those who need protection, as Council heard movingly during its meeting in November. This is why it is shameful that the Tory Government recently blocked the 'Dubs amendment' to the Immigration Bill that would have offered refuge to 3,000 unaccompanied children currently stranded across Europe.

~~Council also notes that this administration, working with London Councils, has led the way in calling for the Government to accept more refugees and we stand ready to play our part in helping to accommodate more Syrian refugees here in Lambeth after welcoming the first family in April this year.~~

**Council notes that it has worked with other London Councils to accommodate Syrian refugees, but that the Council could take more. It notes that according to information published by Citizens UK on 26<sup>th</sup> April, out of the 1,337 Syrians who have been resettled through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, only 43 have been relocated to London. It further notes that according to Citizens UK, on 26<sup>th</sup> April, Camden, Barnet, Kingston and Islington Councils had resettled refugees, while Lambeth Council had not.**

**Council further notes that it has invited a Home Office secondee to be based at the Council, with a view to cutting the costs of supporting those with No Resource to Public Funds. Council further notes the concerns raised by the Migrants Rights Network about this, in particular the high triggers imposed to undertake a Child in Need Assessment for families who are presenting as needing support, and the safeguarding concerns this places for vulnerable families.**

This Council resolves to:

- Call on the Government to simplify the processes and clarify the support and funding that will be available over the long-term to accommodate and support refugees fleeing violence and devastation in Syria, particularly unaccompanied minors;
  - Support Lambeth Citizens' campaign to encourage private sector landlords to work with the council to provide accommodation for Syrian refugee families;
  - Continue working with local community and voluntary sector partners, to ensure that refugees are welcomed in Lambeth and afforded the help and support they need in accessing local services.
  - **Work more quickly in the future to welcome refugees and take a stronger lead.**
  - **Call on the new Mayor of London to create a deputy mayor for citizenship and integration, who will be personally charged with making sure at least 10 Syrian families are resettled per borough, per year.**
  - **End its collusion with the Home Office over those with No Recourse to Public Funds, which threatens the welfare of migrants and refugees in Lambeth.**
-