

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 25 February 2015 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Obajimi Adefiranye (Chair), Chris Barnham, Paul Bell, Peter Bernards, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Andre Bourne, David Britton, Bill Brown, Sir Steve Bullock (Mayor), Suzannah Clarke, John Coughlin, Janet Daby, Brenda Dacres, Amanda De Ryk, Joe Dromey, Damien Egan, Colin Elliott, Alan Hall, Carl Handley, Maja Hilton, Simon Hooks, Ami Ibitson, Mark Ingleby, Stella Jeffrey, Roy Kennedy, Helen Klier, Jim Mallory, Paul Maslin, David Michael, Joan Millbank, Jamie Milne, Hilary Moore, Pauline Morrison, John Muldoon, Olurotimi Ogunbadewa, Rachel Onikosi, Crada Onuegbu, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Pat Raven, Joan Reid, Jonathan Slater, Alan Smith, Luke Sorba, Eva Stamirowski, Alan Till, Paul Upex, James-J Walsh and Susan Wise.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Abdeslam Amrani, Councillor Liam Curran, Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin, Councillor Alicia Kennedy and Councillor Gareth Siddorn. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Roy Kennedy.

62. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Susan Wise declared a personal interest in three of the questions she had asked under Item 6 as a resident of Kilmorie Road.

Councillor Hilary Moore declared a personal interest in Item 13 as an employee of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

63. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on January 21 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

64. Announcements or Communications

The Chair reported the deaths of Anne Fahey and Christopher Price.

Anne Fahey from Sydenham had been a long serving school governor. She had joined Eliot Bank and Sydenham governing bodies in 1973 and was Chair of Governors for many years. She left Sydenham in February 2013 but remained as Chair of Eliot Bank until Eliot Bank federated with Gordonbrock. Ann was instrumental in instituting the Federation in September 2013 and remained as Vice Chair of the Federated governing body. When she became ill, Ann only missed one meeting and remained committed to the school throughout her treatment. Prior to a change in legislation, Ann also served as the Labour Party Coordinator for nominating people to be members of Governing Bodies.

Christopher Price had died suddenly on February 21 and had served as MP for Lewisham West between 1974 and 1983.

The Mayor led tributes to both Anne Fahey and Christopher Price. Councillor

Wise added her warm recollection of Anne Fahey which stretched over several decades. Councillor Michael praised Christopher Price and remembered his work in securing the release of three men falsely imprisoned for the murder of Maxwell Confait.

All present observed a minute silence in memory of Anne Fahey and Christopher Price.

65. Petitions

Victoria Haigh presented a petition supported by 2000 people that called for the lifting of parking restrictions in Deptford in order to stimulate trade and benefit traders and shoppers.

66. Public questions

16 questions were received from the following members of the public which were answered by the Cabinet Member indicated. A copy of the questions and answers will be circulated separately.

1.	John Hamilton	The Mayor
2.	Barbara Janiszewska	Cllr Bonavia
3.	Peter Richardson	Cllr Best
4.	Patricia Richardson	Cllr Best
5.	Imogen Solly	Cllr Smith
6.	John Hamilton	Cllr Egan
7.	Peter Richardson	Cllr Best
8.	Patricia Richardson	Cllr Best
9.	Imogen Solly	Cllr Smith
10.	Peter Richardson	Cllr Smith
11.	Patricia Richardson	Cllr Best
12.	Imogen Solly	Cllr Best
13.	Peter Richardson	Cllr Best
14.	Imogen Solly	Cllr Best
15.	Imogen Solly	Cllr Best
16.	Patricia Richardson	Cllr Best

67. Member questions

16 questions were received from the following Councillors which were answered by the Cabinet Member indicated. A copy of the questions and answers will be circulated separately.

1.	Cllr Wise	Cllr Smith
2.	Cllr John Paschoud	Cllr Smith
3.	Cllr Michael	Cllr Daby
4.	Cllr Curran	Cllr Smith
5.	Cllr Hilton	Cllr Smith

6.	Cllr Hall	Mayor
7.	Cllr Bourne	Cllr Onikosi
8.	Cllr Ibitson	Cllr Smith
9.	Cllr Wise	Cllr Smith
10.	Cllr Curran	Cllr Onikosi
11.	Cllr Ibitson	Cllr Smith
12.	Cllr Wise	Cllr Onikosi
13.	Cllr Curran	Cllr Smith
14.	Cllr Ibitson	Cllr Smith
15.	Cllr Wise	Cllr Smith
16.	Cllr Curran	Cllr Smith

68. 2015 16 Budget Report

The Budget proposals were introduced by the Mayor who outlined the process involved and the hard choices that had to be made in promoting a balanced budget and frozen Council Tax. He cautioned the Council that already announced spending limits would ensure the Council faced another very difficult Budget round in the forthcoming year. The Mayor confirmed that he did not intend to vary the budget proposals he had already fully set out at Mayor and Cabinet on February 11 and 18.

A motion that the proposals be accepted was moved by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Kevin Bonavia and seconded by Councillor Alan Hall. There was then a general debate to which Councillors Coughlin, Mallory, Till, Dromey, Reid and Maslin contributed followed by a reply from Councillor Bonavia. During this general debate on the budget the 5 minute limit on speeches for the Mayor and Councillors Bonavia, Hall and Coughlin was suspended.

Once the debate was concluded, there was, in accordance with statutory provisions, a recorded vote on the Mayor's proposed Budget. The result of the vote was as follows:

48 Votes In favour of the Mayor's Budget Proposals

Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye
Councillor Chris Barnham
Councillor Paul Bell
Councillor Peter Bernards
Councillor Chris Best
Councillor Kevin Bonavia
Councillor Andre Bourne
Councillor David Britton
Councillor Bill Brown
Mayor Steve Bullock
Councillor Suzannah Clarke
Councillor Janet Daby
Councillor Brenda Dacres
Councillor Amanda De Ryk
Councillor Joe Dromey

Councillor Damien Egan
Councillor Colin Elliott
Councillor Alan Hall
Councillor Carl Handley
Councillor Maja Hilton
Councillor Simon Hooks
Councillor Ami Ibitson
Councillor Mark Ingleby
Councillor Stella Jeffrey
Councillor Helen Klier
Councillor Jim Mallory
Councillor Paul Maslin
Councillor David Michael
Councillor Joan Millbank
Councillor Jamie Milne
Councillor Hilary Moore
Councillor Pauline Morrison
Councillor John Muldoon
Councillor Otimi Ogunbadewa
Councillor Rachel Onikosi
Councillor Crada Onuegbu
Councillor Jacq Paschoud
Councillor John Paschoud
Councillor Pat Raven
Councillor Joan Reid
Councillor Jonathan Slater
Councillor Alan Smith
Councillor Luke Sorba
Councillor Eva Stamirowski
Councillor Alan Till
Councillor Paul Upex
Councillor James-J Walsh
Councillor Susan Wise

1 Vote Against the Mayor's Budget Proposals

Councillor John Coughlin

Abstentions nil

RESOLVED that:

i) the recommendations shown below in respect of the 2015/16 budget be agreed;

(ii) no further amendments to the Budget were required following consideration of the Budget update report at Mayor & Cabinet on February 18 2015:

Capital Programme

(iii) the 2014/15 Quarter 3 Capital Programme monitoring position set out be

noted;

(iv) the 2015/16 to 2018/19 Capital Programme of £424.3m be approved, with two new proposed major capital projects for 2015/16 and including an allocation of £90,000 of capital to Phoenix Housing in respect of their proposals for developing the Fellowship Inn, as set out in section 5 of the report and attached at Appendices W1 and W2;

Housing Revenue Account

(v) the consultation report on service charges to tenants' and leaseholders in the Brockley area, presented to area panel members on 11 December 2014 be noted;

(vi) the consultation report on service charges to tenants and leaseholders and the Lewisham Homes budget strategy presented to area panel members on 15 December 2014 be noted;

(vii) an increase in dwelling rents of 2.61% (an average of £2.51 per week) be set – option B as presented in section 6 of the report, in accordance with current Housing Revenue Account financial strategy;

(viii) an increase in the hostels accommodation charge by 2.20% (or £1.50 per week) be set, in accordance with the Rent Restructuring formula;

(ix) the following average weekly increases for dwellings be approved for:

service charges to non-Lewisham Homes managed dwellings (Brockley);

- caretaking 2.20% (£0.07)
- grounds 2.20% (£0.04)
- communal lighting 2.20% (£0.01)
- bulk waste collection 2.20% (£0.02)
- window cleaning 0.00% (£0.00)
- tenants levy No increase

service charges to Lewisham Homes managed dwellings:

- caretaking No increase
- grounds No increase
- window cleaning No increase
- communal lighting 40.70% (£0.35)
- block pest control 5.16% (£0.08)
- waste collection No change
- heating & hot water -18.93% (-£1.87) decrease
- tenants levy No increase

(x) the following average weekly percentage increases for hostels and shared temporary units be approved for;

- service charges (hostels) – caretaking etc.; 4.08% (£2.77)
- no energy cost increases for heat, light & power; 0.0% (£0.00)
- water charges increase; 5.88% (£0.01)

(xi) an increase in garage rents by Retail Price Inflation (RPI) be approved of

2.3% (£0.20 per week) for Brockley residents and 2.3% (£0.27 per week) for Lewisham Homes residents;

(xii) the budgeted expenditure for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2015/16 is £130.9m be noted;

(xiii) the HRA budget strategy savings proposals be endorsed in order to achieve a balanced budget in 2015/16;

(xiv) 20 cases of Former Tenants' Arrears be written off totalling £265,843.81;

Dedicated Schools Grant and Pupil Premium

(xv) subject to final confirmation of the allocation, that the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant allocation of £275.8m be the Schools' Budget for 2015/16; and the changes to the funding arrangements for High Needs Pupils as set out be approved and the level of pupil premium anticipated for 2015/16 of £18.2m be noted;

General Fund Revenue Budget

(xvi) the projected overall variance against the agreed 2014/15 revenue budget as set out and that any year-end overspend will be met from reserves be noted;

(xvii) the previously approved revenue budget savings of £1.48m for 2015/16 and delegated budget savings proposals as per the Mayor and Cabinet meeting of the 12 November 2014, as set out in section 8 and summarised in Appendix Y1, be endorsed;

(xviii) the revenue budget savings presented at Mayor and Cabinet on 11 February 2015 as summarised in Appendices Y1 and Y2 of the 2015/16 Revenue Budget Savings Report (with the exception of proposal O1) will be used to balance the budget;

(xix) the previously agreed efficiency savings of £2.5m from 2015/16 to 2017/18 be off-set against non-pay inflation in directorate budgets;

(xx) the transfer of £5.0m in 2015/16 from the New Homes Bonus reserve to the General Fund for one year to meet funding shortfalls be approved and that the position be reviewed again for 2016/17;

(xxi) the use of £4.96m reserves to fill the budget gap in 2015/16 be approved;

(xxii) the creation of a fund in respect of quantified revenue budget pressures in the sum of £4.3m in 2015/16 be approved, allowing the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration to hold these resources corporately until such time that these pressures emerge during the year, and the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration be authorised to allocate these funds to meet pressures when satisfied that those pressures cannot be contained within the Directorates' cash limits;

(xxiii) the creation of a fund in respect of as yet un-quantified revenue budget risks in the sum of £3.2m in 2015/16 be approved, allowing the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration to hold these resources corporately in case these pressures emerge during the year, and the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration be authorised to allocate these funds to meet such pressures when satisfied that those pressures cannot be contained within the Directorates' cash limits;

(xxiv) a General Fund Budget Requirement of £246.224m for 2015/16 be approved, based on a 0% increase in Lewisham's Council Tax element and the 1% Council Tax freeze grant of £1.0m being accepted. This will result in a Band D equivalent Council Tax level of £1,060.35 for Lewisham's services and £1,355.35 overall. This represents an overall decrease in Council Tax for 2015/16 of 0.3% and is subject to the GLA precept for 2015/16 being reduced by 1.3% from its existing 2014/15 level, in line with the GLA's draft proposal;

(xxv) the Council Tax Ready Reckoner which for illustrative purposes sets out the Band D equivalent Council Tax at various levels of increase be noted;

(xxvi) the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration be asked to issue cash limits to all Directorates once the 2015/16 Revenue Budget is agreed;

(xxvii) the draft Chief Financial Officer's Section 25 Statement be received,

(xxviii) the draft statutory calculations for 2015/16 be approved;

(xxviii) the prospects for the revenue budget for 2016/17 and future years as set out be noted:

(xxx) officers continue to develop firm proposals as part of the Lewisham Future Programme to help meet the forecast budget shortfalls in 2015/16 and for future years;

Other Grants (within the General Fund)

(xxxi) the adjustments to and impact of various specific grants for 2015/16 on the General Fund as set out be noted;

Treasury Management Strategy

(xxxii) the prudential indicators and treasury limits be approved, as set out;

(xxxiii) the 2015/16 treasury strategy, including the investment strategy and the credit worthiness policy be approved, as set out;

(xxxiv) the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration be delegated authority during 2015/16 to make amendments to borrowing and investment strategies provided there is no change to the Council's authorised limit for borrowing;

(xxxv) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy be approved as set out;

(xxxvi) the credit and counterparty risk management criteria and the proposed countries for investment be approved, and responsibility for managing transactions with those institutions which meet the criteria be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration;

(xxxvii) the maximum deposit limits with the part nationalised banks be decreased from £65m to £40m for each of Lloyds Banking Group and Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) Group;

(xxxviii) the one incidence of a breach of the investment policy in November 2014 when an investment with an approved counter party was made for 12 months which should have been limited to 6 months be noted; and

(xxxviii) the development of the Municipal Bond Agency be noted.

APPENDIX A

Statutory Calculations

1) It be noted that at its meeting on 21 January 2015, the Council calculated the number of 75,526.1 as its Council Tax base for 2015/16 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Taxbase) Regulations;

2) The following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2015/16 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

a. **£1,042,058,620** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for gross expenditure, calculated in accordance with Section 32(2)A of the Act;

b. **£795,834,465** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for income, calculated in accordance with Section 32(3)A of the Act;

c. **£246,224,155** being the amount by which the aggregate of 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate of 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32A(4) of the Act, as its General Fund budget requirement for the year;

d. **£161,276,055** being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of the Settlement Funding Assessment. This includes a Settlement Funding Assessment adjustment of **£1,259,461**;

e. **£84,948,100** being the residual amount required to be collected from Council Tax payers. This includes the surplus on the Council's Collection Fund of **£4,864,000**.

f. **£1,060.35** being the residual sum at (e) above (less the surplus on the Collection Fund), divided by the Council Tax base of **75,526.1** which is Lewisham's precept on the Collection Fund for 2014/15 at the level of Band D;

Band	Council Tax
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	(LBL)
	£
A	706.90
B	824.72
C	942.53
D	1,060.35
E	1,295.98
F	1,531.62
G	1,767.25
H	2,120.70

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (f) above by the number which, in proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;

3) It be noted that for the year 2015/16, the Greater London Authority is currently consulting on the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Band	GLA Precept
	£
A	196.67
B	229.44
C	262.22
D	295.00
E	360.56
F	426.11
G	491.67
H	590.00

4) Having calculated the estimated aggregate amount in each case of the amounts at 2) (f) and 3) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, assumed the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2015/16 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Band	Total Council Tax (LBL & GLA)
	£
A	903.57
B	1,054.16
C	1,204.75
D	1,355.35

E	1,656.54
F	1,957.73
G	2,258.92
H	2,710.70

69. River Corridors Improvement Plan SPD

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alan Smith, moved that the recommendation be approved and this was seconded by the Vice-Chair of the Sustainable Development Select Committee, Councillor Jamie Walsh and it was:

RESOLVED that the draft River Corridors Improvement Plan SPD be approved for public consultation in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement.

70. Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alan Smith, moved that the recommendation be approved and this was seconded by the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, Councillor Amanda De Ryk and it was:

RESOLVED that

(i) the council adopts

the Lewisham Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule;
the Lewisham CIL Regulation 123 List; and
the Lewisham CIL Instalments policy

(ii) the documents listed above come into effect on 1 April 2015.

71. Planning Obligations SPD

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alan Smith, moved that the recommendation be approved and this was seconded by the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, Councillor Amanda De Ryk and it was:

RESOLVED that the Planning Obligations 2015 SPD as set out be adopted.

72. Constitutional Changes

The Chair of the Constitution Working Party, Councillor Alan Hall, accepted an amendment to the report and moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by the Vice-Chair of the Constitution Working Party, Councillor Susan Wise and it was:

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Constitution be amended as set out in paragraphs 4.7 and 6;
- (ii) the Council establish a Pension Board with effect from 1st April 2015 with the detailed terms of reference set out in Appendix 1;
- (iii) appointments be made to the Pension Board at the earliest opportunity;
- (iv) the remuneration for the Chair of the Pension Board be equivalent to that paid to co-opted members of the Council's Standards Committee from time to time; that other members of the Board do not receive any remuneration; and that the Terms of Reference in Appendix 1 be amended to reflect this; and
- (v) authority be delegated to the Head of Law to amend the Council's Member Code of Conduct to reflect the particular circumstances of the Pension Board and ask that she circulate it to the Board members once appointed.

73. Motion 1 Proposed by Councillor Egan Seconded by Councillor Handley

The motion was moved by Councillor Egan and seconded by Councillor Handley. There was then a debate to which Councillor Hilton contributed. The motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

"The Council notes that:

- i) The Local Government Association (LGA) has recently highlighted the importance of affordable homes in meeting the housing aspirations of Lewisham residents;
- ii) The SHOUT campaign (Social Housing Under Threat) was launched in June 2014 by housing professionals to promote the importance of social rented housing as a major part of solving the national housing crisis;
- iii) Our ability to provide affordable housing for our people has been restricted by welfare cuts, the 'bedroom tax' and homes lost through Right to Buy.

The Council therefore resolves:

- i) To support the SHOUT campaign and their aim to have 'a genuinely affordable, flourishing and fair social housing sector';
- ii) To ask the Chief Executive and other officers of the Council to continue working to maximise the supply of affordable housing, including social rented housing where appropriate, and to use housing supply to stimulate economic growth and jobs."

74. Motion 2 Proposed by Councillor Reid Seconded by Councillor Daby

The motion was moved by Councillor Reid and seconded by Councillor Daby. There was then a debate to which Councillors Moore, Millbank and Coughlin contributed. The motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

“FGM is defined by the World Health Organisation as "all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons". There is no cultural or religious justification for FGM and it has been illegal in this country since 1985. If it is performed on a British citizen in the UK or overseas it is a crime. FGM can leave women and girls traumatised as well as in severe pain, with medical difficulties, cause difficulties in child birth, and in some rare cases it can lead to death. Current prevalence studies estimate that as many as 60,000 women and girls in the UK could be at risk of FGM, and over 125,000 may already be living with the consequences (Equality Now and City University July 2014).

This motion calls on Lewisham Council to work towards ending FGM, by exercising its statutory duty to safeguard children and protect and promote the welfare of all women and girls. For the council to raise awareness in Primary and Secondary Schools, to work with Health Partners, Police and other Statutory Agencies including Children Services and Community Safety Services to stop the practice of FGM. Additionally, to work with other relevant partners, as well as with appropriate local community groups and both parents to support the long term abandonment of the practice. Support is needed to those women and girls who suffer from the long term effects of FGM. The motion recognizes that FGM is part of the Councils Safer Lewisham Partnership Strategy to prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), but calls on the council to be more proactive with preventative work and partnership work to rule out FGM in Lewisham.”

75. Motion 3 Proposed by the Mayor Seconded by Councillor Hall

The Council agreed to suspend standing orders to allow debate on this item to proceed beyond the 10pm guillotine.

The motion was moved by the Mayor and seconded by Councillor Hall. There was then a debate to which Councillors Ingleby, Slater and Bell contributed. The motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

“The United Kingdom is one of the most centralised states in the world. Compared to other democracies, local government is relatively weak, lacking the means to raise sufficient income to meet local needs and sufficient and effective powers over services such as health, the police and education.

Instead of being a relationship of equals, local government is the junior partner, reliant on central government for most of its funding, and subject to

numerous restrictions and diktats. As the vast majority of council funding comes from central government, local councils often have to make cuts imposed by central government.

Since 2010, local government funding has been allocated more on population and less on need, a cynical move by the Tory-Lib Dem Coalition to shift funding away from areas of greatest need to the wealthier areas. As a result, deeply regressive cuts of 38.2% have since hit the poorest areas hardest, and now Central government cuts will force Lewisham Council into making a further £85m of savings over the next three years.

To address these issues, Lewisham Council affirms its commitment to the overarching principle of achieving a fairer distribution of resources among all regions and localities, with the objective of reducing inequalities. We therefore call for greater freedoms to raise income locally that will better enable us to protect our community from the ravages of austerity enforced by the Coalition while at the same time calling for the retention of some centrally-allocated funding based on the restoration of a needs-based formula to support boroughs such as Lewisham that have the greatest needs.

The Modern Charter for Local Freedom, produced by the Core Cities group, is a bold call for greater devolution and localism. It demands that local areas be given the freedom to decide, the freedom to invest and the freedom to deliver. It demands that local government be given the ability to raise a greater proportion of its income, and to play a greater role in taking decisions and overseeing local services. In return, local areas will commit to creating stronger local economies, investing more in local infrastructure, improving local services, and devolving decision-making further down to local communities, neighbourhoods and individuals.

Lewisham Council therefore resolves to:

- Sign the Core Cities' Modern Charter for Local Freedom
- Campaign for further devolution and greater localism
- Support a fairer distribution of resources based on the restoration of
- needs-based central funding."

The meeting closed at 10.05pm