

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 24 February 2016 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Obajimi Adefiranye (Chair), Abdeslam Amrani, Chris Barnham, Paul Bell, 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, Liz Johnston-Franklin, Roy Kennedy, Helen Klier, Jim Mallory, Paul Maslin, David Michael, Joan Millbank, Jamie Milne, Hilary Moore, Pauline Morrison, John Muldoon, Rachel Onikosi, 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 Peter Bernards, Councillor Liam Curran, Councillor Alicia Kennedy, Councillor Olurotimi Ogunbadewa, Councillor Crada Onuegbu and Councillor Gareth Siddorn.

35. Declaration of Interests

Councillor John Muldoon declared personal interests in Items 7 and 11 as a Governor on the SLAM NHS Foundation Trust and in Item 11 as Chair of the London Scrutiny Network.

Councillor Alan Hall declared personal interests in Items 7 and 11 as a Governor on the SLAM NHS Foundation Trust.

Councillor Mark Ingleby declared a personal interest in Item 4 as Chair of the Grove Park Nature Reserve.

Councillor Susan Wise declared a personal interest in Item 7 as a Board Member on Lewisham Homes.

36. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on January 20 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to Councillor Walsh's declaration of interests being amended to show he declared a disclosable non pecuniary interest.

37. Petitions

Mr Ken Wakeham presented a petition bearing 541 names objecting to the proposed closure of the Barnes Wallis Community Centre.

Ms Yvonne Peart gave notice of a petition bearing more than 1000 names objecting to the proposed closure of the Honor Oak Community Centre.

Councillor Joe Dromey presented a petition bearing more than 18,500 names on behalf of the 'Defend our Den' group calling on the Council to halt the sale

of three areas of land currently leased to Millwall FC and the Millwall Community Scheme Trust to a property developer.

Councillor Damien Egan presented a petition supported by 93 persons and the Fire Brigades Union calling on the Council to ensure a full independent and transparent review and assessment of the alleged fire risk takes place at Lewisham Park Towers.

Councillor John Muldoon presented a petition supported by 620 persons calling on the Council to refuse planning permission for a 19 storey tower block in Catford Green.

38. Announcements or Communications

Former Councillor Barrie Anderson RIP

The Chair reported the death of former Councillor Barrie Anderson, remembering him fondly as a long serving Chair of Council who embraced his civic responsibilities with supreme dedication enhancing the reputation of Lewisham across London. Even after retiring from the Council he remained a strong supporter of civic events, providing help and encouragement to the current Chair.

The Mayor added that he had been shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Barrie Anderson. He paid tribute to his strong commitment to public service, recognising that he always put his constituents and Council first and that between 2006-2010 he had been a fair Chair of an evenly balanced Council.

The Chair permitted former Councillor Christine Allison to pay tribute to Barrie Anderson. She spoke of him as a very generous man who worked hard for the Conservative Party and the electorate. He had immensely enjoyed his time as Chair of Council. She concluded that he would be sadly missed.

Councillor David Britton spoke of Barrie Anderson as a close colleague from 1998 to 2010 but also as someone who was a very private person. Aside from Politics, he had served as an officer in the British Army and later in the media Industry, as well as being a celebrated author.

Councillor Alan Hall paid tribute to Barrie Anderson by reading the final recollection of the principal character in his book "Not the Day Job" which had been a thinly disguised fictionalised account of Lewisham during his years on the Council.

Councillor Susan Wise recounted that she had known Barrie Anderson since 1998 and had counted him as a friend. She spoke of the civic duties they had shared together and recounted that he had been instrumental in ensuring the success of the stock transfer in the Grove Park area.

Councillor Mark Ingleby remembered Barrie Anderson as a Ward colleague and fellow author who was a humble but insightful man of the highest integrity fully committed to supporting his constituents.

Councillor Helen Klier spoke of the popularity and respect in which Barrie Anderson was held and of the kindness he had displayed towards her.

Councillor John Muldoon said he would remember Barrie Anderson as a kind and erudite man who took his civic duties very seriously, serving in the Council's first Cabinet against the wishes of his party. He would be missed not only in Lewisham but across the Home Counties where he had established numerous links.

Former Councillor Ron Pepper RIP

The Mayor recalled Ron Pepper as a significant figure in Lewisham's political history. He had retired as a Lewisham Councillor 26 years ago but had then forged a further 12 year career in retirement on Canterbury City Council. He had achieved a stellar career in Education becoming the youngest Secondary Head Teacher in London and the first Chair of the Borough's Education Committee when responsibility was transferred from the ILEA.

Councillor Jim Mallory said even though he had served with Ron Pepper for only four years, he knew his influence lasted much longer, with even a Millwall FC match day programme containing an obituary for him. He praised his work in ensuring Education was integrated smoothly into the Council after the demise of the ILEA.

All present observed a 1 minute silence in memory of Barrie Anderson and Ron Pepper.

Berkeley Foundation

The Chair reported the Berkeley Foundation had included the Borough of Lewisham in an expansion of the Lords Taverners Disability Cricket Championship from 2016 to 2019. The programme was to be led by Kent County Cricket Board and run as a dual borough with Greenwich.

Race Relations Act

The Chair highlighted the 40th anniversary of the Race Relations Act. Councillors Dacres and Walsh added their support for the positive changes the Act had fostered for equality and diversity.

Matagalpa in Nicaragua

The Chair announced 2016 marked 30 years since the London Borough of Lewisham originally passed a motion to twin with Matagalpa in Nicaragua.

Since then, the Council had supported the region of Matagalpa by donating a waste disposal truck, fundraising to donate latrines and other sanitation facilities, and raising money for its residents following various natural disasters.

In March, Ivania Calderón Peralta, the Secretary of the Board of Directors of CECOCAFEN, a Fairtrade coffee cooperative based in Matagalpa which

represented over 2400 producer families was to visit. She was to take part in Fairtrade Fortnight, the first two weeks of March, talking in schools and other community venues about her work in Nicaragua.

39. Public Questions

14 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 was circulated separately and can be viewed on the Council website with the meeting papers.

1.	Keme Nzeren	Cllr Maslin
2.	Patricia Richardson	Chair
3.	Scott Barkwith	Cllr Onikosi
4.	Peter Richardson	Cllr Best
5.	John Hamilton/Ray Woolford	Mayor
6.	Emma Bushell	Cllr Onikosi
7.	Carolina Ocares	Cllr Onikosi
8.	Moira Kerrane	Cllr Smith
9.	Pat Richardson	Cllr Egan
10.	Peter Richardson	Cllr Onikosi
11.	Scott Barkwith	Cllr Smith
12.	Moira Kerrane	Cllr Smith
13.	John Hamilton	Mayor
14.	Patricia Richardson	Cllr Smith

40. Member questions

4 questions were received from the following Councillors which were answered by the Cabinet Members indicated. A copy of the questions and answers was circulated separately and can be viewed on the Council's website with the meeting papers.

1.	Cllr Hall	Mayor
2.	Cllr Barnham	Deputy Mayor
3.	Cllr Milne	Cllr Egan
4.	Cllr Michael	Cllr Maslin

41. Council Budget 2016-17

The Budget proposals were introduced by the Mayor who thanked staff in the Resources team for their help in compiling the Budget. He said the Council faced five more years of austerity and an awful Financial Settlement. He viewed the balanced budget he was promoting as the best available in the given circumstances but it gave him no pleasure or joy. The Mayor said he believed Government was simply wrong and its policy direction meant services were now at breaking point.

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 10 and 17.

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, Dromey, Hilton and Bell 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 Abdeslam Amrani
Councillor Chris Barnham
Councillor Paul Bell
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 Liz Johnston-Franklin
Councillor Roy Kennedy
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 Rachel Onikosi
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 2016/17 budget be agreed;
- (ii) the 2015/16 Quarter 3 Capital Programme monitoring position be noted;
- (iii) the 2016/17 to 2019/20 Capital Programme of £337.2m, as set out be approved;

Housing Revenue Account

- (iv) the consultation report on service charges to tenants' and leaseholders in the Brockley area, presented to area panel members on 17 December 2015, and subsequent postal consultation be noted;
- (v) the consultation report on service charges to tenants' and leaseholders and the Lewisham Homes budget strategy presented to area panel members on 17 December 2015, be noted;
- (vi) a decrease in dwelling rents be set of 1.0% (an average of £0.99 per week) – as per the requirements from government as presented;
- (vii) a decrease in the hostels accommodation charge be set by 1.0% (or £0.39 per week), in accordance with Government requirements;
- (viii) the following average weekly increases for dwellings be approved for:
 - (a) service charges to non-Lewisham Homes managed dwellings (Brockley);
 - caretaking 1.80% (£0.06)
 - grounds 1.80% (£0.03)
 - communal lighting 1.80% (£0.01)
 - bulk waste collection 1.80% (£0.02)

- window cleaning 1.80% (£0.09)
- tenants' levy -30.0% (-£0.03)

(b) service charges to Lewisham Homes managed dwellings:

- caretaking 1.20% (£0.07)
- grounds 68.0% (£0.66)
- window cleaning No increase
- communal lighting -10.7% (-£0.13)
- block pest control -4.3% (-£0.07)
- waste collection No change
- heating & hot water 23.1% (£1.85)
- tenants' levy -30.0% (-£0.03)
- bulk waste disposal new service (£0.81)
- sheltered housing new service (£23.62)

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

- service charges (hostels) – caretaking etc.; 2.90% (£2.09)
- no energy cost increases for heat, light & power; 0.0% (£0.00)
- water charges decrease; -5.26% (-£0.01)

(x) an increase in garage rents be approved by Retail Price Inflation (RPI) of 0.80% (£0.09 per week) for Brockley residents and 0.80% (£0.09 per week) for Lewisham Homes residents;

(xi) the budgeted expenditure for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2016/17 of £167.6m be noted, which includes the capital and new build programmes;

(xii) the HRA budget strategy savings proposals be endorsed in order to achieve a balanced budget in 2016/17,

Dedicated Schools Grant and Pupil Premium

(xiii) subject to final confirmation of the allocation, the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant allocation of £283.5m be the Schools' Budget for 2016/17; and

- note the consultation with schools on the changes to the funding
- arrangements for High Needs Pupils as set out
- note the level of pupil premium anticipated for 2016/17 of £18.0m

General Fund Revenue Budget

(xiv) the projected overall variance against the agreed 2015/16 revenue budget of £6.9m as set out be noted and that any year-end overspend will be met from

reserves;

(xv) the previously approved revenue budget savings of £6.462m for 2016/17 and budget savings proposals of £10.752 be endorsed as per the Mayor and Cabinet meeting of the 30 September 2015,

(xvi) the transfer of £5.0m in 2016/17 be made from the New Homes Bonus reserve to the General Fund for one year to meet funding shortfalls and that the position be reviewed again for 2017/18;

(xvii) the use of £5.942m reserves be approved to meet the budget gap in 2016/17;

(xviii) budget pressures in the sum of £3.750m be met in 2016/17;

(xix) a fund be created in respect of as yet un-quantified revenue budget risks in the sum of £3.750m in 2016/17, allowing the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration to hold resources corporately in case 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;

(xx) a General Fund Budget Requirement of £236.218m for 2016/17 be approved, based on a 3.99% increase in Lewisham's Council Tax element. This will result in a Band D equivalent Council Tax level of £1,102.66 for Lewisham's services and £1,378.66 overall. This represents an overall increase in Council Tax for 2016/17 of 1.72% and is subject to the GLA precept for 2016/17 being reduced by 6.44% from its existing level, in line with the GLA's draft proposal;

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

(xxii) the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration issues cash limits to all Directorates once the 2016/17 Revenue Budget is agreed;

(xxiii) the Chief Financial Officer's Section 25 Statement be noted;

(xxiv) the draft statutory calculations for 2016/17, as set out, be noted;

(xxv) the prospects for the revenue budget for 2017/18 and future years, as set out, be noted;

(xxvi) officers continue to develop firm proposals as part of the Lewisham Future Programme to help meet the forecast budget shortfalls;

Other Grants (within the General Fund)

(xxvii) the adjustments to and impact of various specific grants for 2016/17 on the General Fund, as set out, be noted;

Treasury Management Strategy

(xxviii) the prudential indicators and treasury limits, as set out, be noted;

(xxix) the 2016/17 treasury strategy, including; the potential for debt restructuring and opportunity to invest for longer than one year in pooled property funds, along with the investment strategy and the credit worthiness policy, as set out, be approved;

(xxx) the revised Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy, as set out, be approved;

(xxxi) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration during 2016/17 to make amendments to borrowing and investment limits provided they are consistent with the strategy and there is no change to the Council's authorised limit for borrowing;

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

(xxxiii) a minimum sovereign rating of AA- be approved;

(xxxiv) a change to the yellow and purple durational investment bands from 1 to 2 years in the credit worthiness policy be approved.

APPENDIX A

Statutory Calculations

1) It be noted that at its meeting on 20 January 2016, the Council calculated the number of **78,528.58** as its Council Tax base for 2016/17 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Taxbase) Regulations;

2) The following amounts are now calculated by the Council for the year 2016/17 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

a. **£977,472,136** 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. **£741,254,007** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for income, calculated in accordance with Section 32(3)A of the Act;

c. **£236,218,129** 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. **£146,690,805** 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.

e. **£89,527,324** being the residual amount required to be collected from Council Tax payers. This includes the surplus on the Council's Collection Fund of **£2,937,000**.

f. **£1,102.66** being the residual sum at (e) above (less the surplus on the Collection Fund), divided by the Council Tax base of **78,528.58** which is Lewisham's precept on the Collection Fund for 2016/17 at the level of Band D;

Band	Council Tax (LBL)
	£
A	735.11
B	857.62
C	980.14
D	1,102.66
E	1,347.69
F	1,592.73
G	1,837.76
H	2,205.32

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 2016/17, 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	184.00
B	214.67
C	245.33
D	276.00
E	337.33
F	398.67
G	460.00
H	552.00

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 2016/17 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Band	Total Council Tax (LBL & GLA)
	£
A	919.11
B	1,072.29
C	1,225.47
D	1,378.66
E	1,685.02
F	1,991.40
G	2,297.76
H	2,757.32

42. Gambling Act Policy 2016-2019

Councillor Rachel Onikosi moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Eva Stamirowski and it was:

RESOLVED that the Gambling Act Policy for 2016-2019 be formally determined and published.

43. Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan Early Public Consultation

Councillor Alan Smith moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Councillor James Walsh and it was:

RESOLVED that

(1) the consultation on the preparation of Gypsy & Traveller Site(s) Local Plan (including the scoping and search parameters, site selection criteria and timetable for identifying a site (or sites) as set out in the Regulation 18 Consultation Report (Appendix 1) together with the consultation on the associated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Appendix 2) be approved; and

(2) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to make any minor alterations to the consultation document prior to the start of the formal consultation.

44. Appointments of Independent Members to the Standards Committee

Councillor Brenda Dacres moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Simon Hooks and it was:

RESOLVED that Joy Walton and Fasil Bhatti be appointed as independent members of the Council's Standards Committee

45. Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Alan Hall moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Councillor John Muldoon and it was:

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference of the JHOSC agreed on 25 November 2015 be amended to omit the following words from paragraph 13.

“However, as a general principle the Committee will not consider any written or verbal submissions from individual members of the public. It will however pass written submissions on to the OHSEL programme carrying out the consultation.”

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.