

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 21 September 2016 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Abdeslam Amrani, Chris Barnham, Paul Bell, Peter Bernards, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Andre Bourne, David Britton, Bill Brown, Sir Steve Bullock (Mayor), Suzannah Clarke, John Coughlin, Liam Curran, Janet Daby, Brenda Dacres, Amanda De Ryk, Joe Dromey, Damien Egan, Colin Elliott, Alan Hall, Carl Handley, Maja Hilton, Simon Hooks, Sue Hordijkeno, 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, Olurotimi Ogunbadewa, Rachel Onikosi, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Pat Raven, Joan Reid, Gareth Siddorn, Alan Smith, Luke Sorba, Eva Stamirowski, Alan Till, Paul Upex, James-J Walsh and Susan Wise.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye and Councillor Jonathan Slater.

14. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Susan Wise declared an interest in Item 11 as a Lewisham Homes Board Member.

Councillors John Muldoon and Alan Hall both declared an interest in Item 4 as elected governors of the NHS SLAM Foundation Trust.

Councillor John Paschoud declared a personal interest in Item 12 as a member of Voluntary Action for Lewisham's CYP Steering Committee.
Councillor Jacq Paschoud declared a personal interest in the same item as his spouse.

15. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on July 20 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

16. Petitions

Councillor Helen Klier presented a petition supported by 5 Milford Towers leaseholders calling on the Council to establish a Forum with the purpose of effecting an efficient, fair and informed outcome for all parties in the recovery of leases.

Councillor Liam Curran presented a petition supported by 31 residents of Peak Hill Avenue SE26 calling on the Council to give residents the right to park outside their homes.

17. Announcements or Communications

Councillor Sue Hordijenko

On behalf of the Council, the Chair welcomed Councillor Sue Hordijenko to her first meeting.

Councillor Crada Onuegbu RIP

The Chair announced the sad news concerning the death of a serving member, Councillor Crada Onuegbu and welcomed members of her family who were in attendance at the meeting.

The Mayor said all members of the Council shared the family's loss. He acknowledged that Crada had been a long serving Cabinet member whose services had been largely underestimated. He considered her a good, caring person with great empathy for young people and that he had always highly valued her advice and wisdom. The Mayor added that even after the onset of serious illness which contributed to her leaving the Cabinet in 2014, she had remained committed to the Council and he remembered her as a friend who would be missed.

Councillor John Muldoon reported that the Chair and Governors of the NHS SLAM Foundation Trust had conveyed their condolences. He said Crada had been the longest serving appointed governor representative of stakeholder organisations and had served with two Chairs and two Chief Executives during her tenure.

Councillor David Michael mentioned he had worked with Crada for many years, particularly in her role as Cabinet Member for Community Safety. He said he found her to have a strong sense of justice and was deeply connected with the equalities agenda. He knew she could be counted on to speak up on issues of social justice without fear or favour and that even recently she had been campaigning for fairness in housing waiting lists at the Evelyn Assembly. He added that despite her grave illness she had never lost interest in the happenings at the Labour Group, Ward Assembly or local Labour Party branch.

Councillor Michael concluded by paying tribute with the following adapted quote from Theodore Roosevelt:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the person who points out how the strong woman stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the woman who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends herself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if she fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that her place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Mr Tony Dykes representing LAACTSA next addressed the Council. He said Crada had been Chair of the organisation since 2011 and in 2013 had actually led a delegation to South Africa. He said he had been with her there for 11 days and had got to know her warmth and vitality. She had proved to be an excellent ambassador who mixed easily with Government Ministers, Civil Servants and community representatives. She had campaigned for social justice for victims of domestic violence, the disabled and for the empowerment of young people. He thanked Lewisham for Crada's contribution and said a challenge remained to sustain and build upon her work.

Councillor David Britton stated Crada was a relative of his wife and formed part of a great Nigerian-British heritage. He praised her as a very hard working and conscientious councillor who always comprehensively addressed whatever questions were posed to her. She had been a long serving member of a Nigerian Womens Support Association with close ties to eastern Nigeria.

Councillor John Coughlin conveyed the condolences of the Lewisham Green Party to Crada's family and to the Lewisham Labour Party.

Mr Ken Hulbert

The Mayor paid tribute to Ken Hulbert, a friend of many years standing who had always impressed him as a calm and rational man and deep thinker who loved to help other people especially through his vocation of teaching. On retirement Ken had continued his involvement in teaching as a Governor and had served as Chair of Governors at both Crofton Park and Stillness Schools. The Mayor remembered him as someone who had made a difference and that he would be missed.

Darryl Neita

Councillor Chris Best added to the written report by saying Darryl had been Great Britain's youngest athletic medallist for twenty years. Between 2009 and 2012 her prowess in the long jump and sprints had been recognised by the Council. As a recipient of the Small Grants Award Scheme of sums up to £500, she had been supported in her travels in the formative years of her athletic career. Councillor Best cited her as a wonderful example of what local support could achieve.

The Council joined in applauding Darryl Neita.

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

1.	Thom Townsend	Cllr Smith
2.	Andrea Carey-Fuller	Cllr Egan

3.	Patricia Richardson	Cllr Smith
4.	Mr Ambrose	Cllr Smith
5.	Cynthia Bailey	Cllr Egan
6.	Mr Maxton	Cllr Bonavia
7.	Kassim Hussain	Cllr Egan
8.	Peter Richardson	Cllr Best
9.	Andrea Carey-Fuller	Cllr Smith
10.	Mr Maxton	Cllr Egan
11.	Kassim Hussain	Cllr Smith
12.	Patricia Richardson	Cllr Best
13.	Peter Richardson	Cllr Onikosi
14.	Andrea Carey-Fuller	Cllr Egan
15.	Mr Maxton	Cllr Dromey
16.	Patricia Richardson	Cllr Best

19. Member questions

8 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 Walsh	Cllr Smith
3.	Cllr Coughlin	Cllr Onikosi
4.	Cllr Elliott	Cllr Onikosi
5.	Cllr Ingleby	Cllr Onikosi
6.	Cllr Walsh	Cllr Smith
7.	Cllr Ingleby	Cllr Smith
8.	Cllr Walsh	Mayor

20. Syrian Refugees

Councillor Kevin Bonavia moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Joan Millbank. The Chair then allowed contributions to be made by Janet Emmanuel, a Member of Lewisham Citizens and Assistant Head at Sydenham School, Rosario Guimba-Stewart, Director of Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network and Fardous Babouh, a refugee from Syria. There was then a general debate to which Councillor Jeffrey, Councillor Egan, the Mayor, Councillor Amrani and Councillor Coughlin contributed. Councillor Bonavia waived his right to reply and the recommendations were then put to the vote and declared to be carried unanimously and it was:

RESOLVED that

(1) the Council's response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis caused by conflict in Syria by resettling up to 10 Syrian refugee households in Lewisham be noted;

- (2) the outline timetable for receiving the first households and overall participation in the Syria Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme be noted;
- (3) the Lewisham Syrian Refugee Offer at Appendix 1 sets out that accommodation will be procured from the private rented sector, the local community and/or voluntary sector agencies to accommodate Syrian refugees;
- (4) the Lewisham Syrian Refugee Offer proposes the tendering and appointment of a support resettlement service;
- (5) the approved Syrian Refugee Offer attached at Appendix 1 be noted;
- (6) the delegated responsibility to the Executive Director for Customer Services to enter into a formal agreement with the Home Office to resettle up to 10 Syrian refugee households in Lewisham be noted; and
- (7) the agreed budgetary provision of £50,000 for contingency costs and administration of the Lewisham Refugee Offer be noted.

21. Gypsy and Traveller Site Selection

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

RESOLVED that the final search parameters and site selection criteria as set out in Appendix 1 be approved

22. Consultation Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan

Councillor Alan Smith moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Liam Curran. Following a contribution from Councillor Susan Wise it was:

RESOLVED that

(1) the consultation on the preparation of Gypsy & Traveller Site(s) Local Plan be approved as set out in the Regulation 18 (Stage 2) 'Potential Sites' Report (Appendix 1) together with the consultation on the associated Integrated Assessment Report (Appendix 2); and

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

23. LGO Report

Councillor Kevin Bonavia moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Jamie Milne and it was:

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

24. Statement of Accounts 15-16

Councillor Kevin Bonavia moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Jamie Milne and it was:

RESOLVED that

(1) the adjustments to the financial statements in the Audit Findings Reports be noted;

(2) the Action Plans set out in the Reports be approved;

(3) the Letter of Representation on behalf of the Council be approved;

(4) the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) be approved;

(5) the 2015/16 audited Statement of Accounts be approved;

25. Youth First Board Appointment

Councillor Brenda Dacres moved that the recommendation shown below be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Jim Mallory and it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Johnston-Franklin be appointed as a non-executive Director of the Board of Youth First

26. Appointments

Councillor Dacres proposed and Councillor Mallory seconded that the following appointments be made to Committees and outside bodies

RESOLVED that the following appointments be made:

<i>SLaM Council of Governors</i>	<i>Cllr Sorba</i>
<i>Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust</i>	<i>Cllr Michael</i>
<i>Public Accounts Select Committee</i>	<i>Cllr Hordijenko</i>
<i>Audit Panel</i>	<i>Cllr Hordijenko</i>
<i>Planning Committee C</i>	<i>Cllr Hordijenko</i>

Councillor Mallory proposed and Councillor Jeffrey seconded that the following appointment be made to an outside body:

RESOLVED that the following appointment be made:

<i>The Albany</i>	<i>Cllr Dacres</i>
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The Mayor gave notification that he had filled vacancies as follows:

<i>Corporate Parenting Panel</i>	<i>Cllr Britton</i>
<i>LA ACTSA</i>	<i>Cllr Elliott</i>

RESOLVED that the Mayoral appointments be noted.

27. Motion No.1 Proposed Councillor Sorba Seconded Councillor Moore

The motion was moved by Councillor Sorba and seconded by Councillor Moore.

There was then a debate to which Councillors Barnham, Hall, Smith and Coughlin contributed. Following a reply from Councillor Sorba, the motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

“This Council contests both the claims in the government’s White Paper “Educational Excellence Everywhere” and the proposals put forward by the Prime Minister, Theresa May:

Specifically:-

1. The re-introduction of the Grammar School system; resulting in the segregation of children from the age of 11 and a two tier education system. Ofsted’s Chief Inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw said this month, “The notion that the poor stand to benefit from the return of grammar schools strikes me as quite palpable tosh and nonsense – and is very clearly refuted by the London experience.” Neil Carmichael the Chair of the House of Commons Education Select Committee and Alan Milburn the Chair of the Government’s Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission are also opposed.
2. The removal of the 50% cap which will now allow new Faith Schools to admit the entirety of their intake on the basis of their religious practices.
3. The over-riding objective eventually to make *all* schools Academies without consulting stakeholders such as Governing Bodies, Senior Leadership Teams, Elected Members etc. – despite the fact that Academies are (a) not obliged to teach Personal, Social and Health Education, (b) are permitted to hire unqualified teachers and that (c) there is no solid evidence to indicate conversion leads to a rise in performance;
4. The abolition of Parent-Governors on School Governing Bodies and thus the parental voice;

In contrast, this Council urges national government policy to:-

1. Move away from a fixation with changing school structure and governance and a prejudice against local authorities;
2. Adequately fund an inclusive, not selective educative school system that serves both equal opportunity and social diversity.

3. Prioritize closing gaps in achievement linked to race, gender and socio-economic class;
4. Redefine educational achievement as more than just the accumulation of rising exam grades and include within it the successful development of wider attributes such as curiosity, self-confidence, creativity and collaborative and technical skills;
5. Utilise and adequately resource the school environment such that it nurtures the wellbeing and resilience of children;
6. Meet the challenge of recruiting and retaining sufficient numbers of both teachers and support staff and so reach education policy objectives;
7. Recognise that the interaction between the child and the teacher is more likely to improve learning than continual and disruptive top-down institutional reorganization.

The Council resolves to communicate these views to the Department for Education, the Shadow Secretary for Education and the Local Government Association.”

The meeting closed at 9.32pm