

# MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 20 July 2016 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Obajimi Adefiranye (Chair), Chris Barnham, Paul Bell, Peter Bernards, 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, Simon Hooks, Mark Ingleby, Stella Jeffrey, Liz Johnston-Franklin, Alicia 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, Gareth Siddorn, Jonathan Slater, Alan Smith, Luke Sorba, Eva Stamirowski, James-J Walsh and Susan Wise.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Abdeslam Amrani, Councillor Chris Best, Councillor Carl Handley, Councillor Maja Hilton, Councillor Roy Kennedy, Councillor Olurotimi Ogunbadewa, Councillor Crada Onuegbu, Councillor Alan Till and Councillor Paul Upex.

## 1. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Hall declared a personal interest in Item 12 as Chair of the Lewisham Co-operative Party.

Councillors Wise, Bell, Walsh, Dromey, Bernhards, John Paschoud, and Jacq Paschoud declared a personal interest in Item 12 as members of the Lewisham Co-operative Party.

Councillor Muldoon declared a personal interest in Item 12 as a member of the Co-operative Party and a Fellow of the RSA.

Councillor Coughlin declared a personal interest in Item 12 as a member of the Brockley Tenants Co-operative.

Councillors Jacq Paschoud, and Wise declared a personal interest in Item 10 as women affected by pension changes.

Councillors John Paschoud and Britton declared a personal interest in Item 10 as husbands of women affected by pension changes.

## 2. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on March 30 2016 and May 20 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## 3. Petitions

Dagmar Vesely and her husband presented a petition supported by 196

persons calling on the Council to support residents of Canonbie Road and parents of pupils at Fairlawn Primary School by making a temporary traffic order. The petitioners wanted their street to be closed to through traffic in order to assess the situation and find a permanent, effective and viable solution to rat running and dangerous driving issues.

#### **4. Announcements or Communications**

##### *1. Terrorist Attacks*

The Chair remarked on his attendance on July 14 at the annual Bastille Day celebrations at the residence of the Ambassador of the Republic of France in London which was followed a few hours later by the terrorist atrocity in Nice. Given the Council's strong links with Antony, the Council marked the tragedy by flying the French tricolour at half mast throughout the period of official mourning and by observing the French Government's official minute of silence on Monday July 18.

The Chair observed this was only the latest in a long list of such outrages. The Mayor, followed by Councillor De Ryk reflected on a litany of similar tragedies that had taken place since the last Council meeting.

All present stood for 1 minute in memory of all those who had died as a result of terrorism.

##### *2. Acting High Commissioner of Nigeria*

The Chair welcomed Mr Adah Simon Ogah, the Acting High Commissioner of Nigeria to the meeting. Mr Ogah had accepted his invitation to visit Lewisham, which had a large and vibrant Nigerian community and which had for many years seen the election of Councillors of Nigerian origin.

Councillor Onikosi added her welcome as a British born Nigerian. The Mayor further welcomed the Acting High Commissioner saying links with the countries of the Commonwealth were significant and valued.

In reply, Mr Ogah said he had spent some hours with the Council already and had enjoyed an impressive briefing about Local Government operations in the UK. He praised the special relationship between the UK and Nigeria and spoke of his valued meetings with the Queen and the former Prime minister.

##### *3. Hate Crime Statement "Standing Together Against Racism, Xenophobia and Bigotry"*

The Chair introduced the statement shown below entitled 'Lewisham Standing Together Against Racism, Xenophobia and Bigotry'.

Lewisham Standing Together Against Racism, Xenophobia and Bigotry.

*We reaffirm our belief that:*

*Racism, xenophobia, bigotry, and all forms of hate crime have no place in Lewisham, London or Britain. Lewisham's diversity is an asset that we've benefited from economically, socially and culturally, with generations of migrants contributing to and enhancing our Borough.*

*In short, that diversity has made our borough stronger, more vibrant and more tolerant.*

*Across the UK there has been a rise in reported hate crimes. If this weren't bad enough in itself, it probably reflects a small proportion of the problem as we know many more incidents go unreported.*

*We pledge as local councillors, community leaders, and citizens, to reassure all communities that face bigotry, hate and oppression that they are valued and welcome in Lewisham.*

*Lewisham's councillors will further enhance work on hate crime and hate incident reporting in the Borough, including ensuring all residents know how to report Hate Crime and that they have the necessary confidence to do it.*

*We will work in partnership with local bodies, community groups, public services and local businesses to fight and prevent bigotry and intolerance, and support further community cohesion.*

*We call upon the Department of Communities and Local Government to make additional resources available to support community cohesion work and to start the process of healing Britain's fractured community.*

*We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country and we condemn them unequivocally. We will never allow hate to become acceptable.*

*We invite the citizens of Lewisham to join us in standing against all forms of hate crime by adding their signatures to this statement.*

The Mayor, Councillor Daby and Councillor Michael spoke in support of the statement, following which there was a formal signing ceremony of the document involving all members of the Council.

##### *5. Links with Matagalpa*

The Chair reminded the Council that at the AGM in March, the Ambassador of Nicaragua had presented an official invitation from the Mayor of Matagalpa to visit Nicaragua. The Chair said he was delighted to say that, at their own expense, Councillors Muldoon and Jeffrey were able to accept the invitation and had just returned from their visit.

Councillors Muldoon and Jeffrey both briefly addressed the Council on their visit to Nicaragua, accompanied by a visual presentation. Councillor Muldoon then presented a bronze plaque and other gifts from Matagalpa to the Mayor.

## *6. Bellingham by-election*

The first written announcement reported the following day, July 21, as the date of the Bellingham by-election. Councillor Alan Hall paid tribute to the departing Councillor, Ami Ibitson, saying she had served with distinction from 2006-2016 and was liked and well regarded in Bellingham. He noted she had risen to be chair of the Housing Select Committee and he ended by congratulating her on securing a new position with Transport for London.

## *7. Deaths of Former Members*

There was a written announcement concerning the death of former Councillor Ron Lee. The Mayor added that Bob Neill MP had informed him of the further death at an advanced age of another former Conservative Councillor, Bertie Straker, who had represented the Perry Hill ward for one term in the 1980s.

All present stood for 1 minute in memory of former Councillors Ron Lee and Bertie Straker.

## *8. Queen's Birthday Honours*

The Council congratulated staff member Liz Brooker on the award of an OBE.

## *9. Prudential Ride London Surrey 100*

Councillor Ingleby, the Council's Cycling Champion, made an announcement about a charity cycling event to take place on July 31 in which he would be taking part on behalf of the Lavender Trust.

## *10. Deptford Parish Council proposal*

The Chief Executive announced that a petition had been presented to Council officers the day before, 19 July 2016, headed as follows:

**“Petition for a community Governance Review to constitute a Deptford Parish Council under the Local Government and Public Health Act 2007, Section 80”**

Work would now be undertaken by officers to establish whether the petition is valid and they will provide a further report on the matter to members at the earliest opportunity.

## **5. Member questions**

### **Member Questions**

3 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.	Councillor Hall	Mayor
2.	Councillor Jacq Paschoud	Cllr Maslin
3.	Councillor Hall	Cllr Bonavia

## 6. Public Questions

24 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.	Ken Wakeman	Cllr Smith
2.	Jan Fowler	Cllr Egan
3.	Matthew Clinch	Cllr Maslin
4.	Mr. McCorkindale	Cllr Onikosi
5.	John Hamilton	Cllr Egan
6.	Jacob Stringer	Cllr Egan
7.	Patricia Richardson	Cllr John Paschoud
8.	Trina Lynskey	Cllr Onikosi
9.	Mr. Ross	Mayor
10.	Martin Allen	Mayor
11.	Marianna Femia	Cllr Smith
12.	Peter Richardson	Mayor
13.	William Miles	Mayor
14.	Matt Ford	Mayor
15.	Jan Fowler	Cllr Smith
16.	John Hamilton	Mayor
17.	Patricia Richardson	Mayor
18.	Trina Lynskey	Cllr Onikosi
19.	Mr. Ross	Mayor
20.	Martin Allen	Cllr Egan
21.	Peter Richardson	Mayor
22.	Patricia Richardson	Cllr Egan
23.	Peter Richardson	Mayor
24.	Patricia Richardson	Mayor

## 7. Appointments

Councillor Hall proposed and Councillor Dacres seconded that the appointments shown below be made. These were agreed unanimously.

### (a) STANDARDS COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that the following persons be appointed to Sub-Committees of the Standards Committee:

#### Standards Sub-Committee A

Councillors Aderfiranye, Bell, Dacres, Elliott and Mallory.

Independent Members: Sullivan, Roper-Newman and Bhatti.

Standards Sub-Committee B

Councillors Bourne, Hall, Hooks, Moore and Morrison.

Independent Members: Butler, Thomas and Walton.

(b) DEPTFORD ST PAUL CHARITY

RESOLVED that Councillor Brenda Dacres and Councillor Joe Dromey be appointed as Trustees of the Deptford St Paul Charity.

(c) AUDIT PANEL

RESOLVED that:

1. Stephen Warren and Ian Pleace be appointed as independent members of the Audit Panel.
2. That the independent members of the Audit Panel be entitled to receive the Council's standard co-optee allowance of £600 per annum.

The Chair proposed and the Deputy Mayor seconded that an appointment made by the Mayor be noted. This was agreed unanimously.

(d) HEALTH & WELL BEING BOARD

RESOLVED that the appointment of Roger Paffard (Chair, SLAM) as a Board member be noted.

**8. Motion 1 Proposed Councillor Hall Seconded Councillor Sorba**

The Council agreed to a suspension of Standing Orders to limit all speeches on motions to a maximum of three minutes.

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

There was then a debate to which Councillors Bonavia, Curran and Coughlin contributed. The motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

“This Council is greatly concerned about the effects of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union on the citizens of Lewisham.

We believe that the social, economic and political implications of the withdrawal are enormous and far-reaching and will adversely affect the life-chances of all the residents of our borough.

Given that:

- the leaders of the Leave campaign have admitted hours after the polls closed that many of the pledges made will not be implemented
- Many voters were misled as to the true implications and effects of withdrawal
- The decision now also heralds the potential break-up of the United Kingdom as a country
- The opening negotiations will highlight the true price to pay for withdrawal

This Council calls on Parliament to use whatever Parliamentary mechanisms necessary to put any treaty changes or agreements with the EU to the United Kingdom electorate enable voters to make an informed choice."

## **9. Motion 2 Proposed Councillor Walsh Seconded Councillor Hall**

The motion was moved by Councillor Walsh and seconded by Councillor Hall.

The motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

Council Notes:

The Government is currently part way through a Parliamentary Boundary Review that basis it's methodology on elector numbers from December 2015. The Government ambition has been to reduce the number of MPs to 600.

That controversially the government have based the notional size of constituencies on the electoral registers from December 2015, which was after the move from household registrations to individual electoral registrations (IER), has disproportionately affected inner city areas like Lewisham in making the transition. Millions of voters have gone missing from the electoral roll.

The independent Electoral Commission did recommended that those on the register following the General Election in May 2015 should remain on the register until December 2016. The Government ignored that advice.

As examples of impact: the electoral register in Liverpool is down 14,000 from December 2014, Birmingham by 19,000 and Lewisham by 6,000 even when there is an actual increase in population in these areas.

That registrations to vote increased by 18.6% from December 2015 - placing Lewisham at the top of the league table in elector growth, and London the largest regional growth with 7%.

Council Believes:

This Governments aspiration has been to reduce both the number of MPs, but

shamefully the number of electors on the electoral roll in a partisan way, by introducing new electoral procedures, such as individual electoral registrations (IER) that disproportionately disadvantage inner city areas like Lewisham.

That Lewisham is potentially going to lose one third of its current say in Parliament if the figures aren't updated in the Boundary Review to reflect these large significant changes.

Council Resolves:

To urgently write to the Boundary Commission to set out our concerns and make clear that this unprecedented growth, must not be ignored and ask for urgent action to resolve this issue.

For the Mayor to work with the LGA and other affected Local Authority leaders to work to significantly influence and change the proposals to reflect both the changes in registrations, but also the partisan structural inequality concerns the process has raised.

To commission a report to return to Full Council that identifies the reasons why so many of our citizens were not on the electoral roll, and highlight the learning we need to take from this unprecedented growth in registration, so that we can replicate it again in the future.”

#### **10. Motion 3 Proposed Councillor Moore Seconded Councillor Johnston-Franklin**

The motion was moved by Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor Johnston-Franklin.

There was then a debate to which Councillors Jacq Paschoud and Dromey contributed. The motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

“This Council calls on the Government to rethink their plans for state pension arrangements that discriminate against all women born on or after April 1<sup>st</sup> 1951, who have been unfairly affected by the changes to State Pension Age (PSA) in 2011.

This Council notes –

- That over £2.6 million women are affected by this policy, and some women will be up to £12,000 worse off due to the changes. Around 20,000 women in Lewisham *could fall* into this category
- That hundreds of thousands of women affected by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 were not notified of the changes until relatively recently, and some were not notified until two years ago of a six-year increase in pension age.
- The government e-petition number 110776 submitted by Women against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) attracted over 190,000 signatures.



- That Stephen Crabb MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, announced on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016 that no transitional arrangements would be put in place due to budgetary restraints.
- That cost-neutral proposals were put forward by cross-party MPs on the Work and Pensions Select Committee which would have allowed women to retire early, but with a reduced pension.
- That this could push women affected into financial hardship as retirement plans are being ruined.
- That many women affected by these changes have caring commitments and suffer workplace discrimination which may lead them to struggle to find employment.

This Council believes –

1. That transitional measures need to be put in place to ensure that women are not affected adversely by the changes to the State Pension Age.
2. That pension age should be equalised between men and women, but should be implemented in a fair way to ensure women affected are not pushed into financial hardship.
3. That the current policy is unfair as women affected by the changes were not informed early enough to adjust their retirement plans

This Council therefore resolves to –

1. Ask the Mayor to write to the Secretary of State for Work and *Pensions* expressing our continuing concerns over the lack of transitional arrangements for women born in 1950s.
2. Ask the Mayor to write to our local MPs expressing the Council's concerns as stated above and to seek their support for our position on the proposals.

#### **11. Motion 4 Proposed Councillor Bell Seconded Councillor Curran**

The motion was moved by Councillor Bell and seconded by Councillor Curran.

The motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

“This Council demands that Southern Railway has its franchise removed by HM Government. Over the last three months, the “temporary” problems with the service are still not being resolved. Passengers are left stranded, late picking-up their children and some cases left without a job. Meanwhile the government is taking no action except to reward failure by:

- Allowing Southern to introduce an emergency timetable, cutting 341 trains per day. That is 15% of their network.
- Increasing the number of cancellations they are allowed without penalty.

Therefore this Council resolves that:

1. the Mayor writes to the Secretary of State for Transport demanding that Southern Railway should be stripped of its franchise immediately and that it should face appropriate penalties for its failure to delivery adequate service
2. the Mayor writes to the Chief Executive of Govia Thameslink Railway, the parent company of Southern, demanding that he takes immediate action to provide relief for long suffering passengers
3. the Mayor should work with the Mayor of London, local MPs and other affected Local Authority Leaders, including Kent County Council, to demand urgent talks with the rail minster about the failings of Southern Railway
4. the Mayor and the council join the voices demanding that Southern Railway franchise should be brought back into public control in the short term and the suburban route to be handed to TFL
5. the Mayor calls on the Mayor of London to take forward the recommendation in the “Turning South London Orange” report.
6. the Mayor publicises this motion to the local press and the Evening Standard to show support for our residents who are being increasingly and without remedy inconvenienced by this rail company.”

## **12. Motion 5 Proposed Councillor Hall Seconded Councillor Morrison**

The motion was moved by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Morrison.

There was then a debate to which Councillors Coughlin, Jacq Paschoud and Muldoon 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 there are nearly 7,000 independent co-operative businesses across the UK, each owned and democratically run by their customers, employees, suppliers or members of their local community.
- Today, the co-operative movement is a significant part of the UK’s economy, growing by 21% to £33billion, and outperforming the economy as a whole during the recent recession.
- The number of people who own and control the UK’s co-operatives has grown by to 17.5m - nearly a quarter of the UK's population. From credit unions to community farms – the rise in co-operative ownership is a significant development for the UK’s business sector, meaning that

the number of co-op members continues to outstrip the number of shareholders in the UK.

**This Council believes:**

- That the co-operative model provides a sustainable way of providing local government services that empower residents, service users and employees, giving them a fair share and an equal say.
- Local Councils up and down the country have already put these values into practice in a number of ways, for example developing the co-operative sector, resident and employee owned companies and co-operative schools.
- That Lewisham's vibrant co-operative sector including Brent Knoll and Watergate Co-operative School Trust, Phoenix Community Housing and Lewisham and Bromley Credit Union promote involvement and service improvement.
- That the Council has the opportunity to "choose co-operative" when considering the future of local services, giving residents and communities more of a say in their area.

**Therefore, we call on the council to:**

- Work to incorporate co-operative values and principles when planning services and in its engagement with local residents.
- Publicise existing co-operative good practice within the council and across the London Borough of Lewisham.
- Audit our contractors and suppliers on how many meet the FairTax Mark standards, pay the Living Wage and meet appropriate standards on apprenticeships."

**13. Motion 6 Proposed Councillor Best Seconded Councillor Maslin**

The motion was moved by Councillor Maslin and seconded by Councillor Dacres.

The motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

"This Council resolves to support a programme of activity to reduce the amount of sugar consumed by Lewisham residents. This motion is proposed in response to concern at the very high levels of childhood and adult obesity in the borough and the award of national pilot status to develop a whole system approach to tackling obesity.

The Council will:

1. Support the Lewisham Obesity Alliance to implement a whole system obesity action plan that aims to:
  - Promote an environment that supports healthy weight and wellbeing as the norm, making it easier for our residents to choose healthier diets and active lifestyles;
  - Support our communities and families to become healthier and more resilient, which will include addressing the wider determinants of health.
  
2. Call on the Government to implement the evidence based measures identified by Public Health England to effectively tackle obesity. A summary of these measures which include the introduction of a sugar levy are detailed below:
  - To introduce a price increase of a minimum of 10-20% on high sugar products through the use of a tax or levy such as on full sugar soft drinks, based on the emerging evidence of the impact of such measures in other countries.
  - To reduce and rebalance the number and type of price promotions in all retail outlets including supermarkets and convenience stores and the out of home sector (including restaurants, cafes and takeaways).
  - To significantly reduce opportunities to market and advertise high sugar food and drink products to children and adults across all media including digital platforms and through sponsorship.
  - To set a clear definition for high sugar foods to aid with actions 1 and 2 above. Currently the only regulatory framework for doing this is via the Ofcom nutrient profiling model, which would benefit from being reviewed and strengthened.
  - To introduce a broad, structured and transparently monitored programme of gradual sugar reduction in everyday food and drink products, combined with reductions in portion size.
  - To adopt, implement and monitor the government buying standards for food and catering services (GBSF) across the public sector, including national and local government and the NHS to ensure provision and sale of healthier food and drinks in hospitals, leisure centres etc.
  - To ensure that accredited training in diet and health is routinely delivered to all of those who have opportunities to influence food choices in the catering, fitness and leisure sectors and others within

local authorities.

- To continue to raise awareness of concerns around sugar levels in the diet to the public as well as health professionals, employers, the food industry etc., encourage action to reduce intakes and provide practical steps to help people lower their own and their family's sugar intake.”

The meeting closed at 9.42pm