

# Public Document Pack

## Lewisham Council Members

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 20 July 2016.



Barry Quirk, Chief Executive  
July 12 2016

Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye Councillor Abdeslam Amrani 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 Sir Steve Bullock Councillor Suzannah Clarke Councillor John Coughlin Councillor Liam Curran 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 Mark Ingleby Councillor Stella Jeffrey Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin Councillor Alicia Kennedy Councillor Roy Kennedy Councillor Helen Klier Councillor Jim Mallory Councillor Paul Maslin	
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Councillor David Michael Councillor Joan Millbank Councillor Jamie Milne Councillor Hilary Moore Councillor Pauline Morrison Councillor John Muldoon Councillor Olurotimi Ogunbadewa Councillor Rachel Onikosi Councillor Crada Onuegbu Councillor Jacq Paschoud Councillor John Paschoud Councillor Pat Raven Councillor Joan Reid Councillor Gareth Siddorn 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	
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## RECORDING AND USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

You are welcome to record any part of any Council meeting that is open to the public.

The Council cannot guarantee that anyone present at a meeting will not be filmed or recorded by anyone who may then use your image or sound recording.

If you are intending to audio record or film this meeting, you must :

- tell the clerk to the meeting before the meeting starts
- only focus cameras/recordings on councillors, Council officers, and those members of the public who are participating in the conduct of the meeting and avoid other areas of the room, particularly where non-participating members of the public may be sitting.
- ensure that you never leave your recording equipment unattended in the meeting room.

If recording causes a disturbance or undermines the proper conduct of the meeting, then the Chair of the meeting may decide to stop the recording. In such circumstances, the decision of the Chair shall be final.

# Council Agenda

Wednesday, 20 July 2016

**7.30 pm,**

Civic Suite

Lewisham Town Hall

London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Kevin Flaherty 0208 3149327 (Tel: 0208 314 9327)

## Part 1

<b>Item</b>	<b>Pages</b>
1. Declaration of Interests	1 - 3
2. Minutes	4
3. Petitions	5
4. Announcements or Communications	6
5. Member questions	7 - 10
6. Public Questions	11 - 53
7. Appointments	54 - 56
8. Motion 1 Proposed Councillor Hall Seconded Councillor Sorba	57
9. Motion 2 Proposed Councillor Walsh Seconded Councillor Hall	58 - 59
10. Motion 3 Proposed Councillor Moore Seconded Councillor Johnston-Franklin	60 - 61
11. Motion 4 Proposed Councillor Bell Seconded Councillor Curran	62
12. Motion 5 Proposed Councillor Hall Seconded Councillor Morrison	63 - 64
13. Motion 6 Proposed Councillor Best Seconded Councillor Maslin	65 - 66

Members of the public are welcome to attend committee meetings. However, occasionally, committees may have to consider some business in private. Copies of agendas, minutes and reports are available on request in Braille, in large print, on audio tape, on computer disk or in other languages.

# Agenda Item 1

COUNCIL		
<b>Report Title</b>	Declarations of Interests	
<b>Key Decision</b>		Item No. 1
<b>Ward</b>		
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: July 20 2016

## Declaration of interests

Members are asked to declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda.

### 1 Personal interests

There are three types of personal interest referred to in the Council's Member Code of Conduct :-

- (1) Disclosable pecuniary interests
- (2) Other registerable interests
- (3) Non-registerable interests

### 2 Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined by regulation as:-

- (a) Employment, trade, profession or vocation of a relevant person\* for profit or gain
- (b) Sponsorship –payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than by the Council) within the 12 months prior to giving notice for inclusion in the register in respect of expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member or towards your election expenses (including payment or financial benefit from a Trade Union).
- (c) Undischarged contracts between a relevant person\* (or a firm in which they are a partner or a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest) and the Council for goods, services or works.
- (d) Beneficial interests in land in the borough.
- (e) Licence to occupy land in the borough for one month or more.
- (f) Corporate tenancies – any tenancy, where to the member's knowledge, the Council is landlord and the tenant is a firm in which the relevant person\* is a partner, a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest.
- (g) Beneficial interest in securities of a body where:-

- (a) that body to the member's knowledge has a place of business or land in the borough; and
- (b) either
  - (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that body; or
  - (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person\* has a beneficial interest exceeds 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that class.

\*A relevant person is the member, their spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom they live as spouse or civil partner.

### (3) Other registerable interests

The Lewisham Member Code of Conduct requires members also to register the following interests:-

- (a) Membership or position of control or management in a body to which you were appointed or nominated by the Council
- (b) Any body exercising functions of a public nature or directed to charitable purposes, or whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy, including any political party
- (c) Any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25

### (4) Non registerable interests

Occasions may arise when a matter under consideration would or would be likely to affect the wellbeing of a member, their family, friend or close associate more than it would affect the wellbeing of those in the local area generally, but which is not required to be registered in the Register of Members' Interests (for example a matter concerning the closure of a school at which a Member's child attends).

### (5) Declaration and Impact of interest on members' participation

- (a) Where a member has any registerable interest in a matter and they are present at a meeting at which that matter is to be discussed, they must declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered. The declaration will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the matter is a disclosable pecuniary interest the member must take no part in consideration of the matter and withdraw from the room before it is considered. They must not seek improperly to influence the decision in any way. **Failure to declare such an interest which has not already been entered in the Register of Members' Interests, or participation where such an interest exists, is liable to prosecution and on conviction carries a fine**

### **of up to £5000**

- (b) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest they must still declare the nature of the interest to the meeting at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered, but they may stay in the room, participate in consideration of the matter and vote on it unless paragraph (c) below applies.
- (c) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest, the member must consider whether a reasonable member of the public in possession of the facts would think that their interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair the member's judgement of the public interest. If so, the member must withdraw and take no part in consideration of the matter nor seek to influence the outcome improperly.
- (d) If a non-registerable interest arises which affects the wellbeing of a member, their, family, friend or close associate more than it would affect those in the local area generally, then the provisions relating to the declarations of interest and withdrawal apply as if it were a registerable interest.
- (e) Decisions relating to declarations of interests are for the member's personal judgement, though in cases of doubt they may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer.

### **(6) Sensitive information**

There are special provisions relating to sensitive interests. These are interests the disclosure of which would be likely to expose the member to risk of violence or intimidation where the Monitoring Officer has agreed that such interest need not be registered. Members with such an interest are referred to the Code and advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance.

### **(7) Exempt categories**

There are exemptions to these provisions allowing members to participate in decisions notwithstanding interests that would otherwise prevent them doing so. These include:-

- (a) Housing – holding a tenancy or lease with the Council unless the matter relates to your particular tenancy or lease; (subject to arrears exception)
- (b) School meals, school transport and travelling expenses; if you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or a school governor unless the matter relates particularly to the school your child attends or of which you are a governor;
- (c) Statutory sick pay; if you are in receipt
- (d) Allowances, payment or indemnity for members
- (e) Ceremonial honours for members
- (f) Setting Council Tax or precept (subject to arrears exception)

# Agenda Item 2

COUNCIL		
<b>Report Title</b>	Minutes	
<b>Key Decision</b>		Item No.2
<b>Ward</b>		
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: July 20 2016

## Recommendation

It is recommended that the minutes of the meetings of the Council which were open to the press and public, held on March 30 2016 and May 20 2016 be confirmed and signed (copies previously circulated).

# Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL		
<b>Report Title</b>	Petitions	
<b>Key Decision</b>	no	Item No.
<b>Ward</b>	n/a	
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: July 20 2016

1. The Council is invited to receive petitions (if any) from members of the Council or the public. There is no requirement for Councillors to give prior notice of any petitions that might be presented.
2. The Council welcomes petitions from the public and recognises that petitions are one way in which people can let us know their concerns. All petitions sent or presented to the Council will receive an acknowledgement from the Council within 14 days of receipt. This acknowledgement will set out what we plan to do with the petition.
3. Paper petitions can be sent to :-  
  
Governance Support, Town Hall, Catford, SE6 4RU  
  
Or be created, signed and submitted on line by following this link:  
  
[www.lewisham.gov.uk/petitions](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/petitions)
4. Petitions can also be presented to a meeting of the Council. Anyone who would like to present a petition at a Council meeting, or would like a Councillor to present it on their behalf, should contact the Governance Support Unit on 0208 3149327 at least 5 working days before the meeting.
5. Public petitions that meet the conditions described in the Council's published petitions scheme and which have been notified in advance, will be accepted and may be presented from the public gallery at the meeting.



# Agenda Item 4

COUNCIL		
<b>Report Title</b>	Announcements or Communications	
<b>Key Decision</b>		Item No.
<b>Ward</b>		
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: July 20 2016

## Recommendation

The Council is invited to receive any announcements or communications from the Mayor or the Chief Executive.

### 1. Bellingham by-election

A by-election will be held in the Bellingham Ward on Thursday July 21 2016 following the resignation of Councillor Ami Ibitson on Friday June 10 having accepted a politically restricted post with Transport for London.

### 2. Former Councillor Ron Lee RIP

The Council has been informed of the death of former Conservative Councillor Ron Lee .

Ron Lee served one term as a Councillor for Grove Park ward from 1986 -1990.

His funeral took place on Thursday 12 May at Hither Green Crematorium.

### 3. Queen's Birthday Honours

The Council is asked to note Liz Brooker, the Council's Road Safety & Sustainable Transport Manager, was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

### 4. Visit of the Acting High Commissioner of Nigeria

The Acting High Commissioner of Nigeria, Mr Adah Simon Ogah, has accepted an invitation from the Chair to address the Council.

A profile of the Acting High Commissioner may be seen here:

<http://www.nigeriahc.org.uk/deputy-high-commissioner>

# Agenda Item 5

COUNCIL		
<b>Report Title</b>	Member Questions	
<b>Key Decision</b>		Item No.
<b>Ward</b>		
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: July 20 2016

## 7. Questions from Members of the Council

Section C, paragraph 14 of the Constitution, provides for questions relevant to the general work or procedure of the Council to be asked by Members of the Council. Copies of the questions received and the replies to them will be circulated at the meeting.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

**Question by Councillor Hall**  
**of the Mayor**

**Question**

How will the Mayor work with the new Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan?

**Reply**

I am already working with Mayor Khan and his team and have been since his election. I have had informal discussions with the Mayor himself and several of the Deputy Mayors. I also wrote formally to congratulate the Mayor on his election. In particular I have been working closely with the Deputy Mayor for Housing in my role as London Councils lead member for Housing.

I have taken every opportunity to impress on the Mayor and his team that the extension of the Bakerloo Line is a priority for this Borough and I expect to meet the Deputy Mayor for Transport more formally in the near future to discuss this and other issues.

I expect to continue to work with the Mayor and his deputies for the foreseeable future and welcome the recent appointment of the former chair of London Councils, Mayor Jules Pipe, as Deputy Mayor for Planning.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

**Question by Councillor Jacq Paschoud**  
**of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

**Question**

Pause, a project to support women who have had multiple children removed by social services, has run pilots in Greenwich and Southwark locally and in other parts of the country. These women tend to have multiple vulnerabilities, some of which, such as drug or alcohol abuse, may cause lifelong damage to their children before birth.

We may protect children who are in danger, improving the self-esteem of women used to abuse, helping them to make better life choices, and gain maturity and control has been proven to end the cycle of inadequate or unsafe parenting. Are there plans to run such a project in Lewisham?

**Reply**

We are aware of the Pause programme and as a Children and Young People's Directorate, have received a recent briefing and presentation on this programme and the success it has had to date. The programme addresses a range of outcomes, not only for Children's Services, but other Directorates and given the financial outlay required for the programme, we will hold discussions with other parts of the Council and other partners on its use, value for money and potential impact in Lewisham as a next stage.

**QUESTION No. 3**  
**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

**Question by Councillor Hall**  
**of the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Resources**

**Question**

Would the Cabinet Member give an update on the Council's relationship with the Municipal Bonds Agency?

**Reply**

The Council is a shareholder in the Municipal Bonds Agency (MBA) – see Council decision of 17 September 2014.

The Council does not hold any borrowing with the MBA nor does the Council have a significant borrowing requirement at present. For this reason the Council has had no need to approach the MBA or other parties to raise finance.

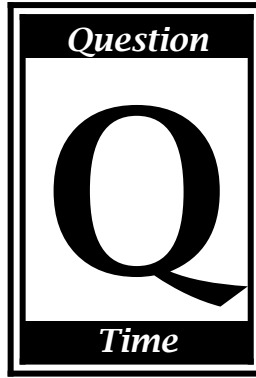
# Agenda Item 6

COUNCIL		
<b>Report Title</b>	Public Questions	
<b>Key Decision</b>		Item No.
<b>Ward</b>		
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: July 20 2016

The Council has received questions from members of the public in the order shown in the table below. Written responses will be provided to the questioners prior to the Council meeting and they will be entitled to attend and ask a supplementary question should they wish to.

**Question**      **Questioner**

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



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 1.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Ken Wakeman

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

**Question**

There was a serious fire in Wild Goose Drive, where the fire tender was unable to turn from Dennett's Road into Wild Goose Drive. He had to reverse out and drive all the way around to access the fire. This delay could have caused lives and serious injury. Do you agree this needs immediate action so this can never happen again?

With all the new proposed housing on our estate and all the new cars and vans, do you appreciate the concerns of the tenants and residents, when even a fire tender cannot gain access to a fire?

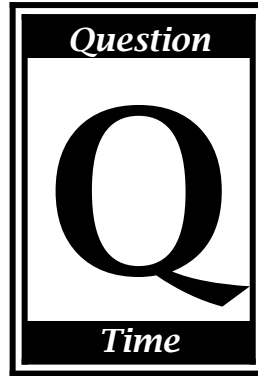
**Reply**

In relation to the recent difficulties with access for the London Fire Brigade, works were undertaken earlier this year to address estate road signage and road markings to prevent and deter obstructive parking in the area. This included the addition of double yellow lines on that particular junction.

In relation to the Council's plans for new housing, the Council is required to consider parking needs and arrangements as part of any planning application. Lewisham

Homes will soon be starting a consultation exercise with local residents, including the community centre. Detailed professional advice will be taken about the traffic and parking implications of any new homes and how these impacts can be best managed and mitigated through the design of the redevelopment plans. This will give tenants and residents the chance to give their views which will then be taken into account during the design and planning process.





**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 2.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Jan Fowler

Member to reply: Councillor Egan

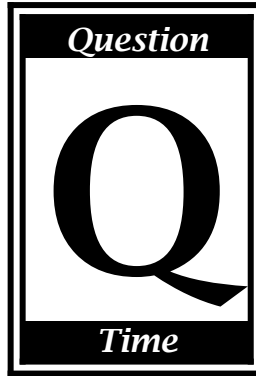
**Question**

What is the formal agreement regarding the housing stock transfer between LBL (London Borough Lewisham) and L&Q Group (London & Quadrant)?

**Reply**

As part of its strategy to achieve Decent Homes, the Council entered into three stock transfers with L&Q. Each of these was subject to a separate transfer agreement. All of these stock transfers were approved by residents, and together have brought in significant investment in residents' homes since the transfers took place.

For example the Grove Park stock transfer was approved by Mayor and Cabinet on 30 April 2008, and subsequently ratified by Full Council on 30 June 2008. As a result, L&Q invested £20million over 5yrs to bring the transferred homes up to Decent Homes Standard. They also committed to investment totalling £60 million over the first 30 years.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 3.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Matthew Clinch

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

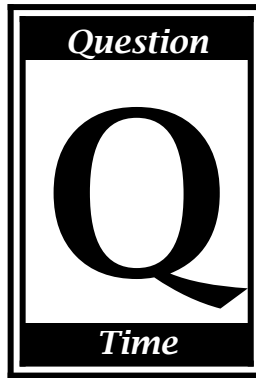
**Question**

What is the plan is for the property being vacated by St Winifred's Infant School in Effingham Road SE12 this year, and will the Council consider purchasing the property on behalf of the excellent Brindishe Schools to help tackle the severe shortage of primary school places in this area of the borough.

**Reply**

St Winifred's Infant School is owned by the Archdiocese of Southwark and as such we cannot comment on their plans for any future use of the site. We would recommend that you contact them directly.

There are currently sufficient primary school places in Lewisham following school expansions and opening of new schools. Additional places will still be required in future years and we are reviewing our plans with a view to setting a new 5 year strategy in the autumn.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 4.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Mr McCorkindale

Member to reply: Councillor Onikosi

**Question**

Can you offer advice to me as a pensioner with small gardens at the back and front of my home? I was quite happy with the Green Bag service provided as the amount of garden refuse I generated never exceeded ten bags a year, cost £10. On one year only did that amount total more than fifteen bags, £15. Are you aware that the Council is now asking me to pay £45 (45 bags!) then £60 after the discount period? Will you acknowledge that there is no way I can begin to fill sixty bags worth of garden waste a year and will you acknowledge that this is just another way to wring more money from tax payers.

**Reply**

The Council resolved that a subscription garden waste service be introduced from June 2016 at an annual fee of £60 p.a. in February 2016.

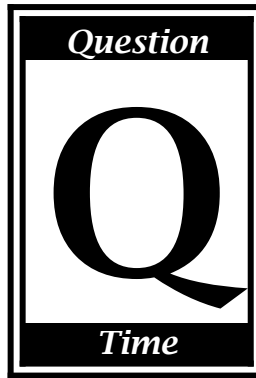
Garden waste is a service that can be charged for as not all citizens have a garden. The Council consulted on new waste and recycling services, which was the largest consultation that the Council has undertaken, with over 6,000 residents completing the survey.

In addition to this the Council also looked at what other local authorities were doing and believe that the costs of the new service are consistent with other local authorities. Of those that offer a wheelie bin garden waste service, eleven authorities charge, and the prices range from £30 - £78 per year, the majority are £60+ a year.

The decision was taken to run this service exclusively meaning that the bag service will cease. With the high volume of new customers, the health and safety of the operatives has to be taken into account, both from a manual handling perspective of collecting high volume of sacks on a daily basis as well as from handling high volumes of garden waste which increase the risk of exposure to bio aerosols, which can have health implications. The operatives have to empty the garden waste from the sacks which increases their exposure to these bio aerosols. Containing the garden waste in wheelie bins reduces this exposure.

For residents who don't want to subscribe for reasons such as the number of wheelie bins, the cost or who don't produce much garden waste, there are other ways that people can dispose of their garden waste. These include taking it to the Reuse & Recycling Centre, paying for a private waste contractor, using a mobile chipping company for branches or people could consider home composting the garden waste.

The Council will be reviewing all of the services that it is introducing following implementation and feedback from customers and where improvements can be made, these will certainly be investigated and implemented if possible.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 5.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: John Hamilton

Member to reply: Councillor Egan

**Question**

The current proposal for the use of the Council owned land known as the Besson Street triangle, is to enter into an agreement with a developer to build 250 private rented sector housing units of which 35% will be a guaranteed affordable rents.

- Will the land remain in Council ownership?
- Who will own the homes?
- Who will decide whether prospective tenants can have a high or a low rent?
- Could you explain the purpose of the collaborative nature of the planned development?

**Reply**

Our proposal for Besson Street is to create a new type of landlord and a new type of development, first and foremost to improve conditions in the private rented sector. We want to help shape the standards against which others are judged on crucial things like tenancy length, standards of repairs and management, and lettings fees. We also want to provide an offer to lower income local people who simply have no alternative to renting privately, other than moving away from London.

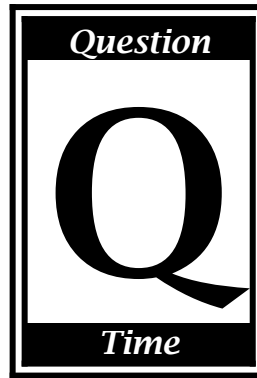
The development will be part of a wide range of measures aimed at tackling the housing crisis in Lewisham, and will be in addition to the existing programme of Council house building and the wider support provided by the Council to partners in order to deliver 2,000 new affordable homes by 2018.

In this instance, the Council is proposing to enter into a partnership with a developer to bring in the finance and skills needed to provide high quality new homes for rent as well as creating a new place with community facilities and a GP surgery.

This partnership will be able to attract patient, long-term capital funding from pension funds, and therefore be able to deliver a much higher quality rented offer for some of Lewisham's private renters, who amount to one in four of Lewisham's population and growing. It will be a pragmatic collaboration between the Council, which is seeking to deliver its housing strategy and improve standards for renters and development and/or funding partners who will bring expertise and the level of investment required to make the development happen.

Under the proposal the new development, including the land and the new homes, will be owned jointly by the Council and the partner through a new investment partnership company that the Council will create specifically for that purpose.

The Council will set the terms of the partnership before it is created, thereby ensuring that it is able to deliver enhanced security of tenure and the new model of discounted rents for local low income workers. The partnership itself will allocate the discounted rental properties according to pre-agreed criteria, which will include a local connection criteria and that the low-rent properties are rented to people who earn a salary below a pre-agreed level.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 6.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Jacob Stringer

Member to reply: Councillor Egan

**Question**

With reference to the Council's proposed Besson Street scheme, while we all understand the Council is looking for new income streams at present, could it not be considered opportunistic, even unethical, to use public land to create income streams from renters in a time of housing crisis?

**Reply**

There is a housing crisis across all tenures, and it is not simply limited to cost. One in four Lewisham residents lives in an almost entirely unregulated private rented sector, in which security of tenure is very poor, standards are variable, fees are high and the vast majority of landlords – including very many good landlords – are amateurs who only own one property.

This Council has committed to finding ways to improve conditions for private renters, an increasing number of whom have young families, and a large proportion of whom have always received low incomes but never had any realistic prospect of accessing social housing or home ownership. The private rented sector simply does not work well for a great many of our residents and we are committed to doing something about it.

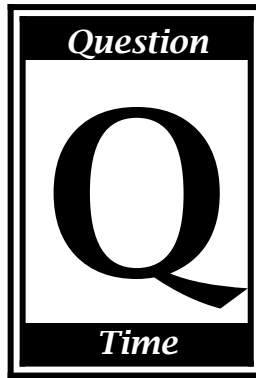
Our proposal for Besson Street is to create a new type of landlord and a new type of development, first and foremost to improve conditions in the private rented sector. We want to help shape the standards against which others are judged on crucial things like tenancy length, standards of repairs and management, and lettings fees. We also want to provide an offer to lower income local people who simply have no alternative to renting privately, other than moving away from London.

We will do this by creating a partnership with an experienced and credible private sector investment partner, who will bring the tens of millions of pounds of investment required to make this happen, but will do so from patient and long term sources like pension funds. We will do this by ensuring that a third of the homes in the development are affordable, where rents are set according to local incomes and not an ever inflating property market, and where there is absolutely no differential in property or service according to the rents that are paid. No poor doors, and access to all areas and all services for all tenants regardless of rent.

The development needs to be able to repay the money invested in it, otherwise the land will lay vacant and we won't build these 230 much needed homes. So, the two thirds of renters who pay a market rent will be helping to pay back the investment made by the Council and its partners. But these will be people who already rent privately, who are perfectly free to choose to rent somewhere else, and who we hope will choose to rent with us because the rented offer we will provide will be so much better than the standards out on the market. And any surplus that is made after repaying the investment will be shared, and the Council's share can be used to pay for vital services despite on-going and ever worsening funding cuts.

So no, I don't think there is anything unethical in providing better services, better standards, security of tenure for renters, a new offer for residents who could otherwise be excluded from living locally, new homes, a new GP surgery and the potential to fund vital services despite Government funding cuts.





**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 7.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Member to reply: Chair designate Elections Committee

**Question**

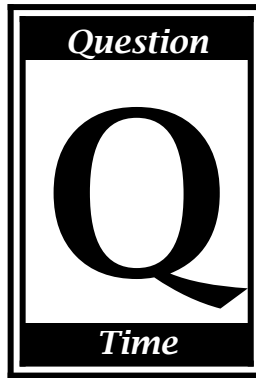
Now that postal returns for election balloting are increasing, would the Council explain how the system works once the postal ballot has been returned to its destination.

- Up to what date/time are postal ballot returns accepted?
- If these are returned on the day of the count how does Lewisham ensure such postal ballots are included?
- As postal ballots are returned over a period of time, where are they stored until they are required for the count?
- At what stage in the proceedings are postal ballots removed from their envelopes ready for the count?
- What is the total number of electors registered in the London Borough of Lewisham? What proportion of this is the over 18 years old population in Lewisham?
- How many of those registered to vote register for a postal ballot?

**Reply**

- Postal ballot returns are accepted until the close of poll at 10 p.m. on election day.
- Lewisham has a dedicated team which processes postal votes daily in the run up to election day. To be admitted to the count, postal votes must be accompanied by a postal vote statement bearing the elector's signature and date of birth. Only where both of these are supplied and both match those appearing on the postal vote application may the postal vote be admitted to the count. On election day Visiting Officers appointed by the Returning Officer make two visits to the polling stations to collect postal votes in sealed plastic wallets. They are delivered to the postal processing team at lunch time and in the early evening. Presiding Officers return any postal votes they receive after the final collection by the Visiting Officer by delivering them to the final postal processing session. That session starts only after the poll closes at 10 p.m. Once that final session is complete, the postal votes are delivered to the count venue.
- At the close of each daily postal processing session, the postal votes are placed in a ballot box which is sealed in the presence of any agents attending, who may take a note of the seal number should they wish to do so. The sealed ballot boxes are stored in a locked room in the Civic Suite. The room is only opened in the presence of a Deputy Returning Officer, and when it is open there is a Deputy Returning Officer present at all times.
- The external envelope addressed to the Returning Officer is opened first at each postal processing session. This exposes a sealed ballot paper envelope and the postal vote statement. Once it is established that the signature and date of birth on the statement match, the sealed ballot paper envelope is opened and the ballot paper removed. Ballot papers are kept face down at all times in the process. The papers are then counted, a postal vote ballot paper account for that session is drawn up, and the ballot papers are sealed in a ballot box.
- The local electorate at the 1 July 2016 is 197352, all of whom are over 18 save for 1750.

The number of postal voters at 1 July 2016 is 24,700



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 8.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Trina Lynskey

Member to reply: Councillor Onikosi

**Question**

Do you agree that flytipping is a persistent problem in the Evelyn Ward. Lewisham Council recommends residents use smartphone apps and the online reporting tool to report various environmental problems in their area including Fly-Tipping. Does this mean the Council does not undertake routine inspections of all streets in the ward on an ongoing basis?

How many instances of flytipping were reported in the Evelyn Ward using all available reporting methods (apps/online/email/letter etc) for the period April 2015 - March 2016?

How much did it cost to remove all instances of flytipping using Council employees and the Council appointed private contractor in the Evelyn Ward April 2015 - March 2016?

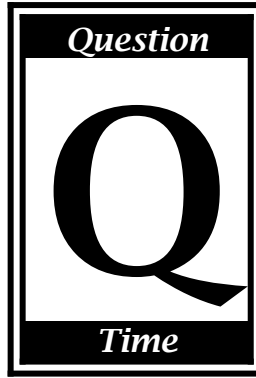
How many prosecutions were made as a result of enforcement with regard to Flytipping in the Evelyn Ward April 2015 - March 2016?

**Reply**

Fly-tipping is a problem borough wide within Lewisham and within most other inner city boroughs. Residents are encouraged to report fly-tipping in part because often incidents of fly-tipping have been witnessed by the resident and this can be key to enforcement action being able to be taken. However, the council's Clean Streets Enforcement Team does carry out proactive enforcement work within the borough. Although it must be remembered that the Clean Streets Enforcement Team is not a large team and therefore all proactive work has to be focused on the most serious and higher risk offending borough wide. Cleansing staff regularly inspect all borough roads and Cleansing Managers report issues to enforcement.

Unfortunately the council doesn't collect the requested information on a ward basis. A total of 6000 tonnes of fly-tipping was collected from Lewisham streets and estates in 2015/16, which amounted to just under £0.5m in disposal costs.

There was 19 Fixed Penalty Notices issued for waste offences in Evelyn ward. There was a total of 448 Fixed Penalty Notices issued borough wide for waste offences.



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**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 9.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Mr Ross

Member to reply: The Mayor

**Question**

Section 8.2 of a report to Mayor and Cabinet dated 30 April 2008 states:

*The Council will transfer the freehold of the W G Grace community centre to L&Q at nil value. L&Q have committed to spend up to £800,000 on improving community facilities and services within Grove Park and the centre will benefit directly from a proportion of this investment.*

Will the Mayor please itemise with an accurate breakdown where the '£800,000 on improving community facilities and services within Grove Park' has been spent, including the amount of interest accruing on monies unspent.

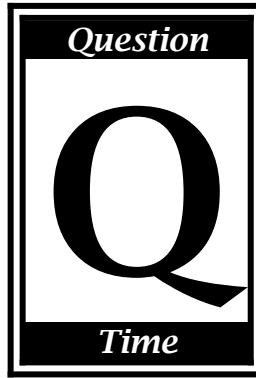
**Reply**

In 2008, following a tenant ballot, 1093 tenanted properties and 354 leasehold properties in Grove Park were transferred to L&Q. In return, L&Q committed to

spending £20million over 5yrs to bring the transferred homes up to Decent Homes Standard. They also committed to investment totalling £60 million over the first 30 years, including investing £0.8m into improvements to the W G Grace Community Centre.

All of these obligations have been met, with the exception of the investment into the W G Grace, where approximately £0.3m has been spent on essential repairs and improvements including creating a separate entrance and facilities for the pre-school.

The remaining £0.5m investment has been postponed, at the request of Council officers, while L&Q and the Council jointly explore options to invest in new community facilities in the Grove Park area. This process is ongoing and L&Q and the Council remain committed to ensuring that the remaining £0.5m is invested in local community facilities as soon as possible.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 10.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Martin Allen

Member to reply: Councillor Best

**Question**

Is it true that while the Council is cutting libraries and librarians, it is hiring agency staff in libraries? Were these agency staff used to undermine the legitimate withdrawal of labour on 5 July?

Please advise how many agency staff are in post in libraries and how much this has cost since the start of this financial year.

Do you agree that access to knowledge and information is surely a cornerstone of any socialist aspiration? Respecting workers' rights to withdraw their labour similarly. Has Lewisham Council formally distanced itself from these values?

**Reply**

The Library and Information Service has relied on agency staff for short term cover for many years. The presence of agency staff on 5<sup>th</sup> July was not linked to the industrial action.

The Library and Information Service is currently undergoing a full reorganisation. Only council staff can apply for the available jobs during the staff selection in a reorganisation.

However, while the recruitment is ongoing, the Service cannot recruit to posts that it may not be able to fill internally. Therefore, agency staff offer the only, temporary alternative to closing libraries or curtailing services due to staff shortages.

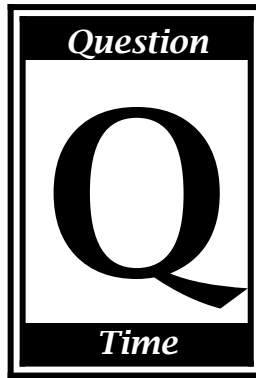
In all cases, the recruitment of agency staff always follows the practice of first asking council staff who can work additional hours.

Since April 2016, the Service spent £35,131 on 8 agency staff.

The Mayoral Commission on the Future of the Library and Information Service and Adult Learning in Lewisham confirmed the fundamental principle that public libraries exist to offer “unbiased access to information, learning, and the works of the creative imagination”.

Ana Lewisham upholds the workers’ right to withdraw their labour.





**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 11.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Marianna Femia

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

**Question**

Are you aware that the surface of Trundleys Road is in a state of disrepair? With the exception of the newly build pedestrian crossing on Grinstead Road end, there are currently no other safe crossings on the whole length of Trundleys Road including Bestwood's Street end. Do you agree that safe crossings are desperately needed at both 'Kezia Street' and 'Alloa Road' junctions?

In addition to the current level of pedestrian traffic, the new Lidl on Trundleys/Bestwood Street end, will attract even more people with nowhere safe to cross. This is one of the main routes to Surrey Quays and Canada Water station for all residents as well as the route to school for many kids in the area.

When will the poor state of Trundleys Road be addressed (and the road resurfaced) as well as the lack of safe crossings rectified?

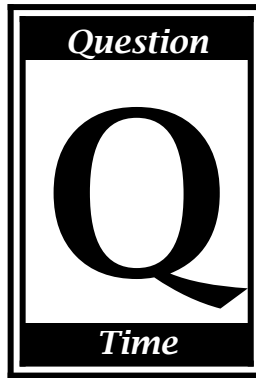
**Reply**

Trundleys Road is on our current carriageway resurfacing programme and subject to finance some resurfacing works are planned for 2017. There are also some

proposed footway improvements to the entrance at the new Lidl store which should be in place before opening.

The Council is in the process of implementing 20mph limits on all borough roads, and as such has a programme for considering and prioritising speed and/or safety issues across the borough. Roads which already have 20mph limits in place will also be considered if safety issues are identified, but funding will be prioritised based on need. Trundleys Road will be added to the list of roads to be assessed and considered for any measures that may be required as part of this programme.

From an initial assessment it is likely that the junctions with Kezia Street and Alloa Road are too narrow for pedestrian refuges and any crossing points here will require the removal of parking to leave a clear area on the approaches for pedestrians to cross safely. Such crossing points could involve the introduction of a raised surface along with redesign of the existing traffic calming. Please note that this is a B road an emergency service priority route where the type of traffic calming measures are limited. Such issues would also need to be considered through consultation, following an assessment of the technical feasibility.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 12.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Best

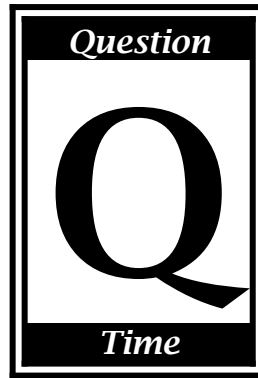
**Question**

In view of the current facility of performing marriage ceremonies at The Manor House, Lee, can the Council confirm how many marriage ceremonies have taken place at the Manor House, since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016?

What has been the income from this facility and is this facility likely to continue once the building has been transferred to a potential host/management organisation once a suitable partner has been found?

**Reply**

Between 1/4/2015 and 1/7/2016, 18 marriage ceremonies took place at Manor House. These resulted in £5,800 income. Any partner organisation taking on responsibility for Manor House would be able to decide whether or not to continue to offer marriage ceremonies. It is likely that this service would continue as it has the potential to general income.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 13.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: William Miles

Member to reply: Councillor Best

**Question**

Are Councillors content knowing their political reputations are at stake with regard to the problematic library restructuring of Forest Hill, Torridon, Catford and Manor House Libraries when the staff, the public and councillors have not been consulted on the latest tenders, and considering that all the bidders require proper review as all have serious cause for concern - for instance the Corbett society bidder has not even been constituted as a company yet?

**Reply**

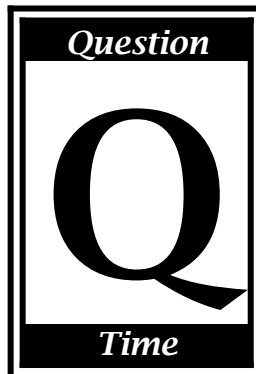
A report was presented to the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 which provides information about the process that has been undertaken to identify suitable partner organisations for the three new community libraries. This report will be presented to Mayor and Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> July. The report provides recommendations for the next steps for each building. In relation to Forest Hill this is to negotiate a lease with the V22 Foundation, the lead partner in a consortium

proposal that also involves the Forest Hill Society, Forest Hill Traders and the Friends of Forest Hill Library. This proposal fully met the tender criteria.

In relation to Torricon the recommendation is to negotiate a premises management agreement in the first instance with the Archibald Corbett Society and the Corbett Residents Association, both of whom are constituted. Their proposal in relation to the Torricon Road building needs further development before a lease can be entered into. This may also include the constitution of a new community organisation with the expressed objective of managing the building for the interest of the local community.

In relation to Manor House Library the report recommends that a further tender exercise is undertaken as a suitable proposal for the building was not found during the first process. It also recommends that interim arrangements are put in place to ensure that the building remains open to the public once the library staff reorganisation is implemented in September 2016.

The same report describes the public consultation and local stakeholder involvement throughout the procurement process.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 14.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Matt Ford

Member to reply: Councillor Best

**Question**

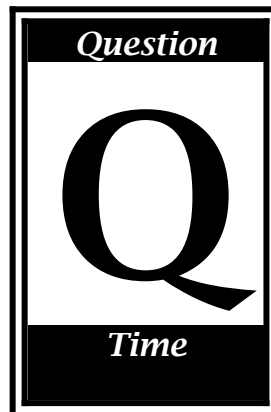
Are councillors confident that their political reputations have not been affected by the fact that the programme of savings for libraries in Lewisham is now different to the programme voted on at the end of 2015, due to a bodged implementation by unelected council officers, and that the public were not consulted on these changes?

**Reply**

The programme of savings has not changed from what Mayor and Cabinet agreed on 9 December 2015, (Revenue Budget Savings Report <http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s40314/Appendix%20i%20-%20SSSC%20libraries%20consultation%20outcome.pdf> ), specifically:

(2) For saving L6 – Libraries and Information Services the recommendations set out in the separate full report and appendices at Appendix 1 be approved; namely:

- the results of the consultation set out in sections 6 and 7 of the report and in appendix 1 be noted;
- the proposed saving of £1million from the Library and Information Service budget be approved;
- the retention of three hub libraries at Deptford Lounge, Lewisham and Downham Health and Leisure Centre as set out at paragraph 5.1 be approved;
- the Lewisham Community Library model as described in paragraph 5.1 be extended to Forest Hill, Torridon and Manor House libraries and for a formal tender process to be undertaken to identify partner organisations to work with the council to deliver this. The council will work with local stakeholders as part of this process;
- the development of detailed plans for the reconfiguration of the library and public reception area at the ground floor of Laurence House in Catford as set out at para 5.1 and 6.10 be approved.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.15**

**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Jan Fowler

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

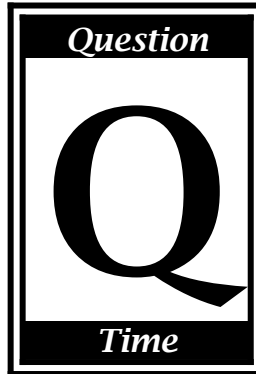
**Question**

What is the exact breakdown of the £2 million "community chest fund" and how this has been spent in Grove Park to date?

**Reply**

As part of the Grove Park stock transfer, a community benefit fund was established for the benefit of the community at large in the area of Grove Park and in the Borough of Lewisham. Just under £1m is being spent on improvements to the streets and roads in Grove Park to promote the use of local shops and facilities. The remainder of the fund is being spent on crucial flood alleviation works which will protect homes and businesses in the borough from the risk of flooding.





**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.16**

**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: John Hamilton

Member to reply: The Mayor

**Question**

Are you aware that the Shadow Housing minister John Healey has produced a document entitled, "High aspirations, sound foundations: a discussion report on the centre-ground case for building 100,000 new public homes" It shows how building council housing and letting it out at reasonable rents is financially sound if carried out over a long term cycle.

Will you consider traditional council house building on this important site which could deliver half of your promised 500 council homes by 2018?

**Reply**

The publication by the former Shadow Housing Minister, John Healey, is an important contribution to the debate about how we can address the Housing Crisis. It includes some very clear and specific proposals to facilitate the building of new homes by councils. These include:-

- Give councils the freedom to borrow against their assets, just as businesses are able to do
- Tighten the obligations of commercial developers to fund more new social homes through the planning system, reconfiguring the 'viability review' policy
- Reform right-to-buy to actually deliver one-for-one replacements
- Use the power of the government balance sheet to bring down the cost of finance for housing associations by extending the guarantee scheme
- Fund a significant HCA grant programme to allow councils and housing associations to build at scale, and lever in private finance

If Mr Hamilton has studied the report carefully he will know that these are all directed at action which needs to be taken by Central Government to enable Councils to deliver greater numbers. I have raised these and other issues directly with ministers in the past on behalf of all the London Boroughs and look forward to doing so again with the new team of ministers which were appointed last week.

However in the absence of action by Central Government Councils will need to pursue the sort of approach which Lewisham is undertaking. Last year this Council approved our housing strategy, "Homes for Lewisham", which committed us to driving up the supply of new homes of all tenures, with a particular focus on providing genuinely affordable rented homes. We agree that delivering new Council homes at social rents is crucial in helping us to achieve our ambitions for Lewisham, and that is why we have committed to delivering 500 new Council homes by 2018.

However, while building new homes ourselves is one crucial element of our strategy, a number of other elements combine with it to create a much broader approach to delivering the new homes we desperately need. Our housing strategy has committed us to enabling affordable housing supply more widely, with a target of supporting our partners to deliver 2,000 new affordable homes in our borough by 2018, a target that I am confident we will achieve.

Beyond that still our Local Plan and our work with developers commits us to delivering more than 1,200 homes of all tenures every year, and of ensuring that within that developers contribute their share of new affordable homes too.

The problems with London's housing economy are well known, and Lewisham is not immune from those. This is why I am so proud that we have been able to continue to deliver the number and types of homes that our residents need, most recently evidenced by a BBC investigation that found that Lewisham was the only one of the 33 London boroughs to hit its affordable housing delivery target last year.

We should also recognise that the problems in London housing economy are not confined solely to the level of new supply. There are issues of quality and security as well, particularly in the private rented sector.

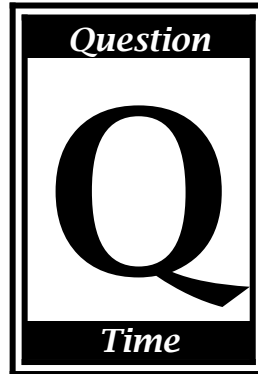
This is the context for our proposals at Besson Street: our own track record of delivering new affordable homes in a difficult financial and delivery climate; existing commitments to deliver 500 Council and 2,000 affordable homes, which we will

meet; and a private rented sector that does not work well for tenants and does not provide the quality and security our residents should expect.

Therefore our proposal for Besson Street is to create a new type of landlord and a new type of development, first and foremost to improve conditions in the private rented sector. We want to help shape the standards against which others are judged on crucial things like tenancy length, standards of repairs and management, and lettings fees. We also want to provide an offer to lower income local people who simply have no alternative to renting privately, other than moving away from London.

So this Council will still deliver the 500 Council homes it promised, but it will also seek new ways to attract finance and deliver much needed housing of all tenures, including a new type of rented home made available to local low-income workers.

At Besson Street we will therefore deliver another 230 homes in addition to the 500 Council homes, we will create a new type of tenure for people who would otherwise be unable to access any form of affordable housing locally, and at the same time we will be able to attract long term and sustainable investment into Lewisham.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.17**

**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

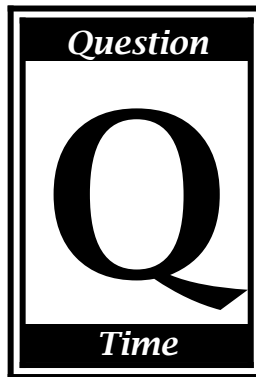
Member to reply: Councillor Best

**Question**

We have been told that certain bookings of the upper floor (Room 4) of the Manor House have been unable to go ahead due to the inability to access WiFi on that floor. The explanation was that the thickness of the walls interfered with access. However, we have also been told that WiFi access is possible if certain equipment is used. In view of conflicting explanations will the Council explain what the situation is and if there is a problem and whether it can be overcome?

**Reply**

It is indeed true that the static WiFi access is not available in Room 4. However, room hirers can additionally hire a device which is a mobile and that can be used in that room.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.18**

**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Trina Lynskey

Member to reply: Councillor Onikosi

**Question**

On 18 May 2016, Lewisham Council published that the authority is "introducing new on-the-spot fines to reduce fly-tipping offences in the borough". What measures have been put in place to enact this new policy and reduce fly-tipping?

What effect do you expect this new policy to have on the unacceptable level of fly-tipping and what change can residents expect to see with regard to fly-tipping in the Evelyn Ward as a result of the recently announced policy?

How will the London Borough Lewisham measure the success of this new policy?

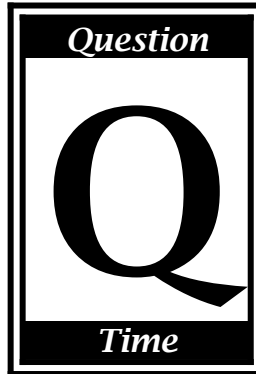
**Reply**

All officers within the Clean Streets Enforcement Team have now received training in this new power. The power is actually for the issuing of on the spot Fixed Penalty Notices. The new Fixed Penalty Notices have been produced and are available to

officers to issue. Proactive waste operations both inside and outside normal working hours have re-commenced with a view to issuing these new penalties to offenders caught during the operations.

It is expected that this new power will have a very positive effect on reducing fly-tipping in the borough. Borough wide residents can be confident that this new power will be effective in preventing fly-tipping and deterring further offending. By the end of June 2016 the team had already issued 12 of the new penalties

Success with regards to these new penalties will be measured through the number of penalties issued, by monitoring locations where penalties have been issued and through the number of commercial contracts obtained/upgraded by offenders after receiving a penalty. Of course overall success will be measured by a general reduction in fly-tipping and a cleaner borough.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 19**  
**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Mr Ross

Member to reply: The Mayor

**Question**

In the report to Mayor and Cabinet "Grove Park- Decent homes through stock transfer" dated 30th April 2008, Section 9.1. states:

*L&Q have made several promises to residents which will be legally binding as the contract being negotiated contains provisions requiring L&Q to comply with promises it made to tenants and leaseholders, some of the key promises include:*

*a £60 million repair and improvement programme to bring all tenanted homes in Grove Park to the standard of Decent Homes Plus over thirty years; (£20 million will be spent in the first five years) including improvements to the local environment;"*

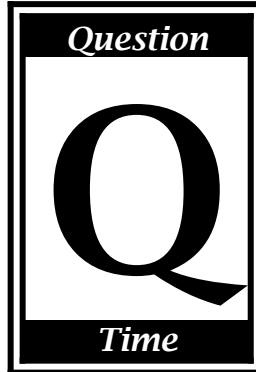
Will the Mayor please itemise, with an accurate breakdown on where these funds have been spent, including improvements to the local environment, including the amount of interest accruing on monies unspent?

**Reply**

As part of the stock transfer in Grove Park, L&Q committed to spending £20million over 5yrs to bring the transferred homes up to Decent Homes Standard. They also committed to investment totalling £60 million over the first 30 years.

Further detail on how L&Q managed this investment in their properties can be obtained from L&Q, however I'm pleased to confirm that the important repairs and refurbishments means that all the homes which formed part of the stock transfer now meet the Decent Homes standard. The Council continues to work closely with L&Q to coordinate further investment and improvements in Grove Park.





**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 20**

**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Martin Allen

Member to reply: Councillor Egan

**Question**

Besson Street development is a huge area of land. I understand that local people have imaginative proposals, under development, for a 'mixed' tenure use of the land, perhaps combining co-operative schemes with Council housing, perhaps even with the Council's preferred scheme of private rent with capped rents affordable to people in housing need who have limited means; low or no income.

Can you assure Lewisham residents that the Council will consider such ideas with an open mind?

**Reply**

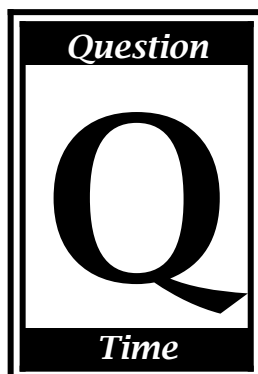
Our proposal for Besson Street is to create a new type of landlord and a new type of development, first and foremost to improve conditions in the private rented sector.

We want to help shape the standards against which others are judged on crucial things like tenancy length, standards of repairs and management, and lettings fees. We also want to provide an offer to lower income local people who simply have no alternative to renting privately, other than moving away from London.

The Council is very open to innovative approaches to development, with Council sponsored community-led developments at Church Grove in Ladywell and Brasted Close in Sydenham being two very good examples. Similarly the PLACE/Ladywell development for homeless people is an award-winning innovation led by the Council.

It is right to say that the Besson Street site covers a huge amount of land. A site of this size, with the capacity for around 230 homes as well as a much needed new local GP surgery, requires significant investment and expertise, which necessarily shapes the types of partners required to develop it. In this case, all options have been considered with the conclusion that, in this instance a community-led scheme will not be viable. In the future the community-led development model may have matured to the point at which it could sustain a development of this scale, but at present it is infeasible for a community organisation to attract and manage expenditure of this scale.

The Council carried out a large amount of consultation with the public regarding the proposals for Besson Street, and will continue to consult with residents throughout the process.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 21**

**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Best

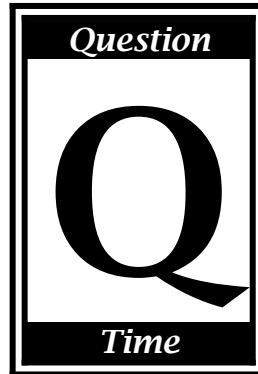
**Question**

On Monday 4 July, at the Safer Stronger Select Committee meeting, it was divulged that within the terms of the recommended transfer of Forest Hill library to the preferred host organisation V22 London CIC, the computer terminals in that library were not to remain within the building. How does that conform to the much vaunted 'Digital Age' programme of Lewisham's Library and Information Service? Where will 'customers' of this particular Community Library be able to access a free internet service once those terminals have been removed?

**Reply**

It has always been the intention for free computer access to remain in the community library. V22 wish to take over the current terminals. Officers have, however, to find a way to enable that to happen which prevents access to any other council data. It is

our intention, however, that free internet access will be available in all the community libraries.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 22**

**Priority 3**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Egan

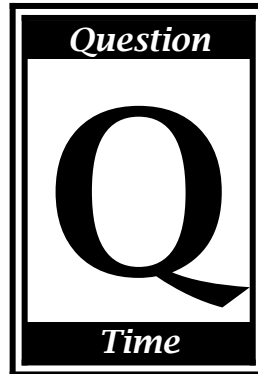
**Question**

Lewisham Life (Summer edition) page 5 states that Lewisham Homes has bought 50 properties to house families in need, which is a joint programme with the Council. How much has this project cost? How much was input by Lewisham Homes, and how is Lewisham Homes funded? How much has the Council contributed to support this housing effort?

**Reply**

The Council has made a loan of up to £20m to Lewisham Homes to fund this programme. The homes acquired will reduce the need for expensive bed and

breakfast type accommodation, as well as providing higher quality temporary accommodation for homeless families.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 23**

**Priority 3**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Best

**Question**

Are you aware that the Safer Stronger Select Committee on the 4th July 2016 it was made clear that no bid other than GLL Libraries Division had come forward with a proposal to take on the management of Manor House and this was refused because GLL's request for a Day Nursery in the lower floor as an income stream was impractical.

The Council is to engage a 'head-hunter' to aid the search for a host and inevitably extend the period to eventually accept a suitable bidder.

Are you further aware, that in the meantime, the Council will keep the library and building open with the library being unstaffed - its Service being operated by Self Issue Self return machines at reduced hours, supplemented by occasional peripatetic staff members to manage the bookstock and etc on very limited visits.

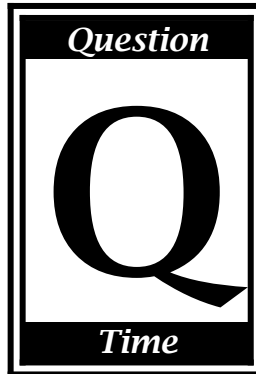
The building would remain open, but apparently without anyone being there. Can this be realistic? Is there a Plan B if a host is not found before the SSSC meets again in September 2016?

### **Reply**

*In relation to Manor House, the report to Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee suggests that “the search for a new partner will re-commence and an update on progress will be provided to Safer Stronger Select Committee in September 2016. The timetable for the service wide staff reorganisation will remain unchanged. Implementation will take effect in mid-September and from that time the library service will no longer be responsible for the day to day management of the building. The council, however, will retain this responsibility and will put in place alternative building management resource. The building will continue to open to the public on a reduced number of hours. Library services will be available on a self-service basis, supported by visits from the peripatetic library team that supports the community libraries and there will be the possibility of accommodating community uses. Further details of these interim management arrangements will be reported to Safer Stronger in September and the period for the interim arrangements will be kept as short as possible”.*

The report is not suggesting that a host will be found before the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee meeting in September 2016. It suggests that an update on the progress of the search will be provided to the Committee in September.

The report does also make it clear that the Council is not intending to open the building with nobody in it. There will be a short term alternative management arrangement.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 24**

**Priority 4**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 JULY 2016**

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Best

**Question**

In the past the community libraries in Lewisham have not necessarily been able to deal with payments of public money into the library service e.g. for fines, cost of lost books, reservations. Has this problem now been solved? If so how has this been done? If the technology is now available will it be implemented for the new tranche of community libraries? In addition how does the Council deal with data protection for members of the public in connection with the running of Community libraries?

**Reply**

The Library and Information Service is working to roll out the pay facility to all self-service terminals in Hub and Community Libraries. It is hoped that this facility will be in place for the implementation of the community library model at Forest Hill, Manor House and Torrindon Road.

The Library Management System accessed through the Community Libraries is the council's and, as such, it complies with the data protection requirements that the local authority applies to all its IT systems. Furthermore, all partner organisations sign a Data Protection Agreement and all volunteers and staff employed by the partner organisation receive Data Protection training.



# Agenda Item 7

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Appointments	
Key Decision	No	Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: July 20 2016

## 1. Appointments by the Council

### (a) STANDARDS COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEES

**RECOMMENDATION** 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

Under the terms of a scheme agreed in 1978 the Council nominates four trustees to the Board of this Charity and those four nominative members then co-opt two further trustees.

Two vacancies have arisen on the body following the death of former Councillor Stephen Padmore and the resignation of former Councillor Madeliene Long.

The Council is invited to consider the appointment of the two nominees shown below.

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

## **(c) AUDIT PANEL**

### **Appointment of independent members to the Audit Panel**

#### *Background*

At the Council meeting held in April 2007 members agreed that up to four independent members be appointed to the Audit Panel. Following that April Council meeting, the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration received three applications at the time and proposed three prospective candidates to be independent members.

These candidates were duly appointed to serve on the Audit Panel. They were David Tucker, David Webb and Richard King. Both David Tucker and David Webb retired from the Audit Panel some years ago, and the Panel saw the appointment of two further candidates, Paul Dale and Mike Robinson as direct replacements for them.

In 2014, Mike Robinson stepped down from his role on the Audit Panel. This was followed by the retirement of Richard King at the start of 2016. Currently, Paul Dale is the only remaining independent member of the Audit Panel.

#### *Discussion*

Audit Panel Members have requested that the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration look to strengthen / refresh the independent membership. Having made enquiries via professional networks and partner organisations, the Council has received two applications from prospective candidates. These candidates have met with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit Panel and attended the June 2016 Audit Panel as observers. A summary of what these candidates can bring to the Audit Panel is detailed below:

Stephen Warren – Stephen is a past District Auditor for the Audit Commission, who at the time was its Technical Director. He has a strong technical and financial audit background much of which was gained at the Commission when he was personally involved in complex accounting and audit issues, including at high profile clients including the GLA and the Metropolitan Police Authority.

Ian Pleace – Ian is the Director of Finance for Goldsmiths College since October 2015. Prior to joining Goldsmiths, he was a director at Deloitte where he specialised in the media and publishing sectors. During this time he was seconded to the role of Finance Director for BBC Nations & Regions and subsequently Finance Director for the Corporation's Future Media & Technology division. He is a Chartered Accountant and holds a BSc (Econ) in Economics from the LSE and an MSc in Economic Development from SOAS.

Both are fully qualified chartered accountants, have good working knowledge of the experiences of other organisations and would bring extensive recent and relevant experience to the Audit Panel.

*Conclusion*

The Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration recommends that these two candidates are fully qualified to sit on the Audit Panel and recommends their appointment as independent advisors.

**RECOMMENDATIONS 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.

Janet Senior  
Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration  
July 2016

**2. Appointments by the Mayor**

**(d) HEALTH & WELL BEING BOARD**

The Council is asked to note that the Mayor has appointed Roger Paffard (Chair, SLAM) as a member of the Health and Well Being Board.

**RECOMMENDATION that the appointment be noted**

# Agenda Item 8

COUNCIL		
<b>Report Title</b>	Motion 1 in the name of Councillor Hall to be seconded by Councillor Sorba	
<b>Key Decision</b>	n/a	Item No.
<b>Ward</b>	n/a	
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: July 20 2016

"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."

# Agenda Item 9

COUNCIL		
<b>Report Title</b>	Motion 2 in the name of Councillor Walsh to be seconded by Councillor Hall	
<b>Key Decision</b>	n/a	Item No.
<b>Ward</b>	n/a	
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: July 20 2016

## 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.

# Agenda Item 10

COUNCIL		
<b>Report Title</b>	Motion 3 in the name of Councillor Moore to be seconded by Councillor Johnston-Franklin	
<b>Key Decision</b>	n/a	Item No.
<b>Ward</b>	n/a	
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: July 20 2016

“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.



# Agenda Item 11

<b>COUNCIL</b>		
<b>Report Title</b>	Motion 4 in the name of Councillor Bell to be seconded by Councillor Curran	
<b>Key Decision</b>	n/a	Item No.
<b>Ward</b>	n/a	
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: July 20 2016

“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.”

COUNCIL		
<b>Report Title</b>	Motion 5 in the name of Councillor Hall to be seconded by Councillor Morrison	
<b>Key Decision</b>	n/a	Item No.
<b>Ward</b>	n/a	
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: July 20 2016

**“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 “chose 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.”

COUNCIL		
<b>Report Title</b>	Motion 6 in the name of Councillor Best to be seconded by Councillor Maslin	
<b>Key Decision</b>	n/a	Item No.
<b>Ward</b>	n/a	
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: July 20 2016

“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.”