

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 23 May 2018 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Mayor Damien Egan, Obajimi Adefiranye (Chair), Abdeslam Amrani, Tauseef Anwar, Chris Barnham, Paul Bell, Peter Bernards, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Andre Bourne, Bill Brown, Juliet Campbell, Suzannah Clarke, Patrick Codd, Tom Copley, Liam Curran, Janet Daby, Brenda Dacres, Sophie Davis, Amanda De Ryk, Joe Dromey, Colin Elliott, Feis-Bryce, Aisling Gallagher, Leo Gibbons, Alan Hall, Carl Handley, Octavia Holland, Sue Hordijkeno, Coral Howard, Mark Ingleby, Liz Johnston-Franklin, Caroline Kalu, Silvana Kelleher, Louise Krupski, Jim Mallory, Paul Maslin, Sophie McGeevor, Joan Millbank, Hilary Moore, Pauline Morrison, John Muldoon, Olurotimi Ogunbadewa, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Stephen Penfold, James Rathbone, Joan Reid, Sakina Sheikh, Jonathan Slater, Alan Smith, Luke Sorba, Eva Stamirowski, Alan Till, James-J Walsh and Susan Wise.

1. Reasons for lateness and urgency

The Chair was advised that all reports listed on the agenda were not available for the original dispatch because of a total IT collapse affecting the three boroughs in the shared service. The reports were deemed urgent and could not wait until the next meeting of the Council on July 18 2018 as this would have delayed implementation of the entire Governance arrangements of the new Council.

Where reports are received less than 5 clear days before the date of the meeting at which the matter is being considered, then under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100(b)(4) the Chair of the Committee can take the matters as a matter of urgency if he is satisfied that there are special circumstances requiring them to be treated as a matter of urgency. These special circumstances have to be specified in the minutes of the meeting.

RESOLVED that all matters listed on the agenda be taken as matters of urgency.

2. Election of Chair

Prior to calling for nominations for a new Chair, Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye reflected on his seven years as Chair and stated it had been a pleasure to be allowed to serve. He expressed particular thanks for the assistance given to him by the Civic Manager, the Head of Business & Committee, the Council Chauffeur, and his wife, Sandra.

Councillor Jacq Paschoud was then proposed by Councillor Bill Brown and seconded by Councillor Hilary Moore

RESOLVED that Councillor Jacq Paschoud be elected as Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2018-19.

3. Election of Vice Chair

The election of Councillor Andre Bourne was proposed by Councillor Bill Brown and seconded by Councillor Hilary Moore.

RESOLVED that Councillor Andre Bourne be elected as Vice-Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2018-19.

4. Election of Mayor

RESOLVED that the report of the Returning Officer recording the election of Damien Egan as Mayor for a four year period of office expiring in May 2022 be received.

5. Election of Councillors

RESOLVED that the report of the Returning Officer noting the election of 54 Councillors for a four year period of office expiring in May 2022 be received.

6. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 21 February 2018 and 9 March, 14 March and 23 March 2018 be approved and signed as true records.

7. Announcements or Communications

Manchester Bombing and Grenfell Fire

The Chair's first announcement marked the poignant anniversaries of both the Manchester bombing and the Grenfell fire. All present observed a minute of silence in memory of the victims of those two horrific events.

Mayoress

Mayor Egan announced the appointment of Liane Segal as his Mayoress for the Municipal Year 2018-19.

8. Executive Composition

The Mayor informed the Chief Executive that the 11 members, listed below, four of whom would job-share two of the positions on a January to June and July to December substantive basis, would serve as members of the Cabinet in the municipal year 2018/19. All of the members nominated had been confirmed at a special meeting of the Council held earlier in the evening. Mayor Egan reiterated his decision made at the earlier meeting that the statutory designated member for Children's Services would be Councillor Chris Barnham.

Portfolio

Name

Deputy Mayor of Lewisham – Cllr Chris Best - Health & Adult Social Care

Cabinet Member for Housing - Cllr Paul Bell
Cabinet Member for Democracy, Refugees & Accountability – Cllr Kevin Bonavia
Cabinet Member for Parks, Neighbourhoods & Transport - Cllr Brenda Dacres and Cllr Sophie McGeevor (job-share)
Cabinet Member for School Performance – Cllr Chris Barnham
Cabinet Member for Safer Communities – Cllr Joani Reid
Cabinet Member for Finance, Skills & Jobs - Cllr Amanda de Ryk and Cllr Joe Dromey (job-share).
Cabinet Member for the Community Sector – Cllr Jonathan Slater

RESOLVED that the constitution and composition of the Executive for the municipal year 2018/19 be noted.

9. Scheme of delegation

The Mayor moved and Councillor Best seconded that the changes to the Constitution and the Scheme of Delegation shown below be adopted.

RESOLVED that

(1) the current Executive Procedure Rules which appeared at Part D of the Council's Constitution be deleted and replaced with those appearing at Appendix 1 of the report; and

(2) Article 14.3 of the Constitution be amended to reflect the statutory requirement for the Council to nominate an officer as its Data Protection Officer to ensure data protection compliance in the organisation, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Bill when enacted and to agree that the Head of Information Governance should fulfil that role

(3) responsibility for decisions relating to neighbourhood planning are for the Mayor by law and not for the Council and the reference to neighbourhood planning referendums be deleted from the list of Council functions at Article 4(2)(y) of the Constitution and to references to neighbourhood planning be removed from the terms of reference of the Strategic Planning Committee at Article 9

(4) Article 6.1 and Paragraph E3 of the Constitution be amended as shown in Appendix 2 to exclude members appointed to the Mayor & Cabinet for part of a year from being a member of Overview & Scrutiny and its Select Committees at any time during that year.

10. Committee TOR

The Chair confirmed that apart from those just agreed in the previous item, there had been no other changes to Committee Terms of Reference since last year.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

11. Allocation of seats 2018

The Council considered a report setting out an allocation of seats on committees to political groups on the Council in compliance with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Select Committees would continue to be allocated in accordance with the proportion of seats held by the political groups on the Council.

At the proposal of Councillor Mallory, seconded by Councillor Moore, Members agreed unanimously to form an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of all 44 non-executive Councillors, that was politically balanced.

RESOLVED that:

(i) seats be allocated to political parties as indicated on the schedule attached to the report;

(ii) the Overview & Scrutiny Committee shall comprise all 44 non-executive Councillors; and

(iii) the composition of the Constitution Working Party, the Appointments Committee, the Urgency Committee, 3 Planning Committees, a Strategic Planning Committee, a Licensing Committee, a Licensing (Supplementary) Committee, a Pensions Investment Committee, a Health & Safety Committee, an Elections Committee, and an Audit Panel with the Terms of Reference set out be agreed.

12. Appointments to Committees

It was moved by the Councillor Mallory hair and duly seconded by Councillor Moore that members be appointed to serve on committees as listed below. The motion was declared carried and it was:

RESOLVED that members be appointed to serve on committees, as indicated, for the municipal year 2018/19.

<i>Council Chair (1)</i>	Councillor Jacq Paschoud
<i>Council Vice-Chair (1)</i>	Councillor Andre Bourne
<i>Planning Committee (A) (10)</i>	Councillor Skip Amrani (Catford S) (Chair) Councillor Octavia Holland (Lee Green) (Vice-Chair) Councillor Peter Bernards (Forest Hill) Councillor Juliet Campbell (Blackheath) Councillor Liam Curran (Sydenham) Councillor Mark Ingleby (Whitefoot) Councillor Paul Maslin (New Cross) Councillor Jacq Paschoud (Bellingham) Councillor Luke Sorba (Telegraph Hill)

	Councillor James Walsh (Rushey Green)
<i>Planning Committee (B)</i> (10)	Councillor Suzannah Clarke (Grove Park) (Chair) Councillor Tom Copley (Sydenham) (V-Chair) Councillor Jimi Adefiranye (Brockley) Councillor Tauseef Anwar (Crofton Park) Councillor Andre Bourne (Downham) Councillor Liz Johnston Franklin (Ladywell) Councillor Silvana Kelleher (Evelyn) Councillor John Muldoon (Rushey Green) Councillor John Paschoud (Perry Vale) Councillor James Rathbone (Lee Green)
<i>Planning Committee (C)</i> (10)	Councillor Olurotimi Ogunbadewa (Downham) (Chair) Councillor Stephen Penfold (Brockley) (Vice-Chair) Councillor Bill Brown (Ladywell) Councillor Aisling Gallagher (Lewisham Central) Councillor Leo Gibbons (Forest Hill) Councillor Louise Krupski (Rushey Green) Councillor Jim Mallory (Lee Green) Councillor Hilary Moore (Grove Park) Councillor Sakina Sheikh (Perry Vale) Councillor Alan Smith (Catford South)
<i>Strategic Planning Committee</i> (9)	Councillor John Paschoud (Chair) Councillor Alan Smith (Vice-Chair) Councillor Skip Amrani Councillor Paul Bell Councillor Suzannah Clarke Councillor Olurotimi Ogunbadewa Councillor Joani Reid Councillor James Walsh Councillor Bill Brown
<i>Licensing (inc Supplementary) Committee</i> (10)	Councillor Eva Stamirowski (Chair) Councillor Colin Elliot (Vice-Chair) Councillor Patrick Codd Councillor Alex Feis-Bryce Councillor Alan Hall Councillor Sue Hordijenko Councillor Coral Howard Councillor Caroline Kalu Councillor Joan Millbank Councillor Susan Wise
<i>Appointments Panel</i> (8)	Councillor Jacq Paschoud Councillor Jimi Adefiranye Councillor Octavia Holland

	<p>Councillor Liz Johnston Franklin Councillor Bill Brown Councillor Alan Smith Councillor Kevin Bonavia Councillor De Ryk</p>
<i>Appointments Committee (5)</i>	<p>Councillor Bill Brown 2 Cabinet Members 2 other Councillors - to be advised</p>
<i>Pensions Investment Committee (8)</i>	<p>Councillor Mark Ingleby (Chair) Councillor Louise Krupski (Vice-Chair) Councillor Alex Feis-Bryce Councillor Paul Maslin Councillor Patrick Codd Councillor Chris Best Councillor Sakina Sheikh Councillor John Muldoon</p>
<i>Health & Safety Committee (6)</i>	<p>Councillor Caroline Kalu (Chair) Councillor Silvana Kelleher (Vice-Chair) Councillor Peter Bernhards Councillor Aisling Gallagher Councillor Coral Howard Councillor Paul Maslin</p>
<i>Elections Committee (6)</i>	<p>Councillor James Rathbone (Chair) Councillor John Paschoud (Vice-Chair) Councillor Kevin Bonavia Councillor Peter Bernards Councillor Jacq Paschoud Councillor Stephen Penfold</p>
<i>Standards Committee (16)</i>	<p>Councillor Jimi Adefiranye (Chair) Councillor Caroline Kalu (Vice-Chair) Councillor Peter Bernards Councillor Andre Bourne Councillor Bill Brown Councillor Colin Elliott Councillor Alex Feis-Bryce Councillor Jim Mallory Councillor Joan Millbank Councillor Hilary Moore Cathy Sullivan Gill Butler David Roper Newman Leslie Thomas Fasil Bhatti Joy Walton</p>
<i>Council Urgency Committee (6)</i>	<p>Councillor Jacq Paschoud (Chair) Councillor Chris Best (Vice-Chair) Councillor Kevin Bonavia Councillor Bill Brown</p>

	Councillor Andre Bourne Councillor James Rathbone
<i>Constitution Working Party (6)</i>	Councillor Kevin Bonavia (Chair) Councillor Alan Smith (Vice-Chair) Councillor Jimi Adefiranye Councillor Jim Mallory Councillor Susan Wise Councillor Bill Brown
<i>Audit Panel (6 plus 4 co-optees)</i>	Councillor Alan Hall (Chair) Councillor Mark Ingleby (Vice-Chair) Councillor Louise Krupski Councillor Paul Maslin Councillor Joan Millbank Councillor James Rathbone Ian Pleace Stephen Warren Carole Murray 1 vacancy
<i>Overview & Scrutiny Committee (all 44 non executive councillors)</i>	Councillor Bill Brown (Chair) Councillor Juliet Campbell (Vice-Chair)

13. Appointments to Bodies

The Chair reported there was no bodies where there were more candidates than places available, the Chair therefore moved and the Vice-Chair seconded a proposal that the tabled schedule of appointments be adopted.

The motion was declared carried and it was:

RESOLVED that members be appointed to serve on other committees and organisations as set out in below:

Age Concern Reminiscence Theatre **Cllr De Ryk**
Albany 2001 Council of Management **Cllr Gallagher**
Blackheath Joint Working Party (3) **Cllrs Bonavia, Campbell & De Ryk**
Deptford Challenge Trust **Cllr Adefiranye**
Forest Hill and Sydenham Voluntary Service Association (2) **Cllrs Davis & Sheikh**
Lewisham Citizen's Advice Bureau Management Committee (2) **Cllrs Rathbone & Penfold**
Lewisham Disability Coalition **Cllr Jacq Paschoud**
Lewisham Local History Council/Society **Cllr Curran**
Lewisham Pensioners' Forum Management Committee **Cllr Elliot**
Lewisham Safer Neighbourhood Board **Cllr Barnham**
London Youth Games (2) **Cllrs Smith & Moore**
Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust **Cllr Adefiranye**
Trinity Laban **Cllr James Walsh**
Southwark College Board **Cllr Hilary Moore**
SLaM Mental Health of Older Adults JHOSC **Cllrs Muldoon and Rathbone**

14. Council Calendar

The Calendar was proposed for adoption by the Chair and seconded by the Vice-Chair and it was:

RESOLVED that

- (i) ordinary meetings of the Council be held on 18 July, 3 October, 28 November 2018, 23 January, 27 February and 6 March (fall-back) and that the Annual General Meeting be held on Wednesday 3 April 2109; and
- (ii) the attached schedule of meetings be approved for the municipal year 2018/19.

15. Mayoral Appointments 2018

The Chair proposed and the Vice-Chair seconded a proposal that the schedule of appointments made by the Mayor be noted.

RESOLVED to note the appointments made by the Mayor to the following external bodies/committees.

Mayoral appointments

Position	Appointment
<i>Adoption & Permanency Panel (1)</i>	Coral Howard
<i>Children and Young People's Stakeholders Forum (2)</i>	Caroline Kalu Chris Barnham
<i>"Champions"</i> <i>Mental Health</i> <i>Clean Air</i> <i>Night Economy</i>	James Rathbone Louise Krupski Pat Codd
<i>Corporate Parenting Group (8)</i>	John Paschoud Jacq Paschoud Luke Sorba Joan Millbank Liz Johnston-Franklin Andre Bourne

	Chris Barnham Chris Best
<i>Groundwork Local Authority Strategic Input Board (1)</i>	Susan Wise
<i>Intercultural Cities: Group Spokesman (1)</i>	Obajimi Adefiranye
<i>Lewisham Homes Board (3)</i>	Aisling Gallagher Mark Ingleby Peter Bernards
<i>Lewisham Local Representative (1)</i>	Joan Millbank
<i>LGA for South Africa - National Steering Committee (1)</i>	Obajimi Adefiranye
<i>LGA High Ethnicity Special Interest Group (1)</i>	Obajimi Adefiranye
<i>Local Government Association - General Assembly (4)</i>	Damien Egan Amanda De Ryk Sakina Sheikh Joani Reid
<i>London Road Safety Council (2)</i>	Tauseef Anwar John Paschoud
<i>New Cross Gate Trust (1)</i>	Joan Millbank
<i>Positive Ageing Council Steering Group (1)</i>	Coral Howard
<i>Phoenix Community Housing Association (2)</i>	Alan Hall Timi Ogunbadewa
<i>Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) (3)</i>	Tauseef Anwar Jacq Paschoud Hilary Moore
<i>Social Services (Access to Personal Files) Panel (1)</i>	Leo Gibbons
<i>Social Services Fostering Panel (1)</i>	Jacq Paschoud
<i>South East London Combined Heat & Power (SELCHP) Board (1)</i>	Liam Curran
<i>Strategic Flood Partnership (1)</i>	Alan Smith
<i>Voluntary Action Lewisham (2)</i>	James Rathbone James Walsh

<i>Wide Horizons Education Trust (1)</i>	Caroline Kalu
<i>Catford Regeneration Partnership Ltd (2)</i>	2 x Officer Mr Selwyn Thompson Mr Ralph Wilkinson
<i>Greater London Enterprise (1)</i>	Councillor Dromey
<i>Health and Wellbeing Board</i>	Mayor and Councillor Best
<i>Joint Street Lighting Committee (2)</i>	Two Cabinet members to be advised
London Councils - (a) Leaders' Committee (b) Grants Committee (c) Greater London Employment Forum (d) Transport & Environment Committee	(a) Damien Egan / Kevin Bonavia (b) Jonathan Slater / <i>to be advised</i> (c) Joe Dromey / Amanda De Ryk (d) Brenda Dacres / Sophie McGeevor
<i>South East London Transport Strategy Group (1)</i>	Councillor Dacres
<i>South East London Waste Disposal Group (1)</i>	Councillor McGeevor
<i>Works Council</i>	All Members of Cabinet except the Mayor

16. Standards Committee Annual Report

The report was moved by the outgoing Chair, Councillor Andre Bourne and

was seconded by Councillor Kalu and it was:

RESOLVED that the annual report of the Standards Committee be received.

17. Annual Mayoral Report

The Mayor delivered the following address:

WORKING TOGETHER

Thank you Councillor Jacq Paschoud and thank you to everyone for being here this evening for the first Council meeting of this new administration, it's great to see our Council chamber so full of friends and colleagues.

I am so proud to be standing here as your new Labour Mayor of Lewisham. And I am even prouder to be here alongside 54 newly-elected Labour Party Councillors.

I want to thank the people of Lewisham for putting your trust in us, and for putting your trust in me to lead our borough. Our election result is testament to both our record in Lewisham, and a clear mandate for the things we have set out to achieve in the next 4 years.

Fighting the election was made so much easier because of the record we were able to stand on. Steve Bullock achieved so much as our Mayor over the last 16 years, including:

- Ensuring that every single school in Lewisham was rebuilt.
- Creating the Young Mayor's Programme, now in its 14th year. A programme that has now been rolled out in councils across the country and across the world, inspiring thousands of young people to get engaged in politics.
- Investing in our green spaces so that Lewisham's parks are among the best in the world with 15 Green Flag parks.

I'll let you into a little secret, Steve texted me earlier to send us his best wishes today -- from a bar in Portugal! He is enjoying a very well-deserved holiday and he promises he is here with us in spirit!

On behalf of all of us, thank you Steve and Kris for everything you achieved for our borough. Personally I would like to thank you for all the support and guidance you have given me, including giving me the opportunity to serve as Cabinet Member for Housing.

And while there will be more opportunities over the next year to formally thank Steve and reflect on his outstanding legacy, I would also like to assure you that Steve's service to borough has not yet concluded.

When Steve was looking back on his time as Leader he gave me one main observation: He said, it's much easier being a Mayor with a Labour Government than being a Mayor with a Tory one. And he knows that more

than most, because he did eight years with both. And my goodness don't we all here know the difference.

What this Council has achieved since 2010 has been remarkable in the face of the savage cuts imposed on us.

When I became a Councillor 8 years ago, none of us ever imagined that our budget would be cut from £400 million to just £230 million. And it's not over yet. Far from it. The government now want to cut our budget by another £50 million pounds on top of everything we've already endured.

We see this impact not as numbers on a spreadsheet, but as having serious consequences in every service that we provide:

- There are more children living in poverty, including those from working households. Lewisham has over four times the number of children living in poverty than in Richmond.
- And the mental health of our residents falls well below the London average. Savage cuts to mental health services mean that 1 in 16 adults in Lewisham are affected by depression and waiting lists for mental health services are soaring.
- We have seen a sharp increase in homelessness. When we go home tonight, we need to remember that over 500 Lewisham families will be going back to B&Bs and 2,000 families will be living in temporary accommodation – experiences that I promise you, those families will never forget.

But we must never forget that even in the brutal reality of austerity, it is Labour councils that are making a difference by working together with our communities.

We provide beacons of hope, like:

- Approving the building of 500 new council houses, the first in Lewisham for a generation
- Joining the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme
- Becoming a Living Wage Council
- Supporting our primary schools to remain good or outstanding
- Protecting every Sure Start Centre from closure when other councils have closed theirs
- And created the award-winning pop-up village PLACE/Ladywell to provide desperately-needed homes for homeless families.

All these achievements were made in the last administration. And only possible because of the Councillors who served over the last four years.

Our Councillors give so much of their time, experience and commitment (and free evenings!), working to protect Lewisham's most vulnerable residents and to make our borough a better place.

And I would particularly like to take this opportunity to thank those Councillors who are not serving in this new administration.

Between them, they gave us decades of experience. We will miss you. As a small token of our thanks I would like to ask those former Councillors who are here today to come up as we would like to present you with a certificate recognising your service to Lewisham.

So thank you to former members in the room. Please accept these certificates.

And of course we also remember our friend and colleague, Councillor Crada Onuegbu and also those former councillors that can't be here today:

Now we have a new generation of Councillors, and we warmly welcome you. Thank you for taking up the challenge. I hope it's one you will find as rewarding as I have.

We know we have an incredibly difficult journey ahead of us.

The outlook might look bleak, and at times it will feel bleak, but as we've already seen there is so much we can do by working together.

But our Council does need to change and build on what we've achieved. Our Council today must do more to fight cuts.

Under my leadership, Lewisham will be a campaigning, anti-austerity council.

Challenging government cuts, finding creative and imaginative ways to articulate the real story of austerity in our communities, including using legal challenges against the government when we believe they're acting illegally – as we did in the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign.

We will stop using terms like savings and efficiencies when we're talking about job losses and redundancies.

And we will be open about the cuts Government is forcing us to make, we will be honest about the impact they're really having.

Lewisham has a radical and pioneering history:

- Labour MP for Deptford, Leslie Plummer, introduced the first Racial Discrimination Bill
- We set up the Women's' Rights Working Party – the first Council in the country to set up a committee that concentrated solely on supporting the rights of women in our Council
- We set up the UK's first self-build council housing project in the 1980s

Being elected as Mayor of Lewisham, you naturally think of those people who have led our Council in the past.

A common thread that has been fostered and developed in our borough, right

back to at least Andy Hawkins in the early 1970s has been our proud tradition of working together, alongside local residents and local community groups.

And it's great to see so many of those groups represented here today.

We like to call this way of working, the 'Lewisham Way'. We are lucky to have a diverse and dedicated voluntary and community sector. A community that has a strong sense of democracy, social solidarity and commitment to fairness.

And as we look ahead, I will ensure Lewisham Council continues to work with and values our voluntary and community sector, building on our traditions. We know that we work best when we're working together.

It was in this sense of collaboration that we worked together to write a manifesto in the election that set out a bold and radical vision for the next stage in Lewisham's story.

Working with over 500 local Labour Party members, scores of resident experts and community groups.

It was in this spirit that groups like:

- the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign
- Lewisham Refugees Network
- Shelter
- Lewisham Pensioners Forum
- the National Education Union
- Parents Engage
- Lewisham Cyclists
- Deptford Folk
- Lewisham Labour BAME forum
- RUSS Community Land Trust
- the Lewisham Disability Coalition
- and LGBT Lewisham

... all collaborated in our manifesto creation process. We thank everyone who helped us build our vision.

At the election I was proud to stand as a Labour and Co-operative Party candidate.

As we build a more co-operative council we will seek to empower our community. And part of doing that means reviewing how our community can hold us to account and how decisions are made.

We will be launching a Local Democracy Review which will have concluded in time for its recommendations to come to this AGM meeting next year.

I want us to have an honest and open look at our processes and ask ourselves, are they really working, and if not, let's try another way.

The principles of the Local Democracy Review will be to share more power. I have made a start by bringing to you the changes in our constitution that will enable me to share more powers and to empower my Cabinet. We must also review how our Cabinet can share power with all Councillors. And importantly, how we as a Council share power with our Community.

So there is much to do in the years ahead. Just over 100 commitments that we will deliver for the borough we love.

One of the personal pledges I have made is a commitment to electing more Councillors from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. All parties should be committing to supporting the election of more BAME councillors and I will make it my mission through training, mentoring and through political pressure – that in four years' time we are more reflective of the communities we represent.

We have of course, fantastic BAME role models in our Council who inspire many through their leadership.

We welcome our new Chief Executive, Ian Thomas.

Ian - welcome to Lewisham. I am looking forward to working with you to shape the future we all want to see for our borough.

Thank you to Janet Senior who we are so grateful for serving as our Acting Chief Executive for most of the last 12 months.

On a very personal note, I want to thank Councillor Janet Daby. It seems that you performed SO well as my Deputy Mayor that we MAY be losing you to Parliament! Huge congratulations to you Janet on being selected as Labour's candidate in the Lewisham East by-election. I can't wait to get out on the doorstep to campaign for you.

Earlier today we appointed a new Deputy Mayor and I am proud that it is Councillor Chris Best. Chris is our longest-serving councillor and has a depth of knowledge that is already proving invaluable to me and the rest of the team.

Alongside Chris I want to welcome back into the cabinet Councillors Kevin Bonavia and Joe Dromey, as well as welcoming a number of new faces:

Councillors Amanda de Ryk, Paul Bell, Joani Reid, Chris Barnham, Brenda Dacres, Sophie McGeevor and Jonathan Slater.

Welcome to you all.

We also have other new Council appointments.

Congratulations to all our Chairs of Scrutiny Committees.

to Cllr Bill Brown our new Chair of Overview and Scrutiny

to Cllr Joan Millbank our new Chair of Labour Group

to Cllr Andre Bourne our Vice Chair of Council

And to Cllr Jacq Paschoud, our new Chair of Council. I look forward to working with you. Just as I have big shoes to fill following Steve, so does Jacq.

Jimi Adefiranye -- I think we will all agree was an excellent Chair of Council not just in these meetings but also as a champion for Lewisham over the past seven years. We have this gift for you and Sandra, it's a photo album of your 'best bits' as our Chair of Council. Jimi please come to the front.

There are some other important people here today I would like to thank. My Mum and sister Roxanne are here with us tonight. My little sister Jasmine is doing her GCSEs which she decided were more important than sitting there listening to me -- although I assume she's watching us on the webcast! My family have been with my every step of way, supporting me and I really wouldn't be in this position now were it not for all your hard work too. I cannot thank you enough for everything you do for me.

I would like to introduce you all to Liane Segal, my Mayoress.

I should say that of all announcements I have made over the past few weeks, the appointment of Liane as Mayoress of Lewisham has seen the most interest on social media and I've had so many positive messages. Liane -- my Facebook has been buzzing -- I've never been so popular! Over the coming year Councillors will have the opportunity to hear Liane's story as she tours the borough at events and continues her work in local schools.

Liane will be a powerful ambassador for our borough at a time when it feels like the world has become less tolerant and more prejudiced. Reports of Anti-Semitism, Racism, Islamophobia and hate crimes are all on the rise. Liane's story as a child refugee on the Kindertransport fleeing Nazi Germany should remind us all what happens when hate is left to go unchallenged.

Liane -- we are all privileged and honoured that you will be representing us this year and we're all looking forward to working with you. I will now come up to present Liane with her official Badge of Office and install you as the Mayoress of Lewisham.

Liane's story is still as relevant today as it was all those years ago. Refugees have not been consigned to history. Today over 20 million people worldwide have been made refugees, many fleeing war and conflict.

But by working together, with our local community, we have been able to welcome 15 refugee families into our borough from Syria and from Iraq.

Over the next four years, working together with our community, our target is to welcome a further 100 refugee families into Lewisham as we become a Sanctuary Borough for Migrants and London's lead borough in refugee resettlement.

Even in times of austerity, Lewisham is showing that by working together we can make a difference.

And that goes across all the services that we provide.

In education, Lewisham has the best early years education in the country and we have amongst the best primary schools in London, so we know we need to work together with our school heads, teachers, governors, teaching unions and parents to improve our secondary schools too.

In housing, our record is one to be proud of. But we have to work together to achieve much more. We have promised 1,000 new social homes, four new pop-up developments for homeless families like PLACE/Ladywell, and a borough-wide landlord licensing scheme for private renters.

In health, we will be working together to resist any attempts to close or downgrade Lewisham hospital, and will be working hard to protect our home care staff by signing UNISON's Ethical Care Charter. Most of all we will be fighting to protect social care budgets which we know are going to be placed under huge pressure from government cuts.

On community safety, at a time of growing and heartbreaking violence on our streets, we will work together with the police, our hospitals and our mental health services to develop a new public health approach to youth violence.

On jobs and skills, we live in the wealthiest city in Europe but we know that wealth is not fairly distributed. By working together with local employers we will double the number of living wage employers in Lewisham, and expand our apprenticeship programme offering our young people a route into the jobs and opportunities our city has to offer.

On the environment, we will work together with local community groups, establishing a new Greening Fund to enhance our green spaces, paid for by a levy on private developers. We will clean our air by making it easier to cycle in the borough and build a new segregated cycle superhighway connecting Downham to Deptford.

We have much to do. We have set out an ambitious, radical, left agenda.

I want Lewisham to be leading the way; a pioneering borough once again; a borough that others look to follow. Most of all I want to lead a borough that promotes fairness, promotes equality, fights to protect our diversity and works together to put our communities at the heart of everything we do.

We have a lot to do.

Let's get to work.

Thank you.