

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 21 February 2018 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Sir Steve Bullock (Mayor), Obajimi Adefiranye (Chair), Abdeslam Amrani, Chris Barnham, Paul Bell, Peter Bernards, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Andre Bourne, Bill Brown, Suzannah Clarke, John Coughlin, Liam Curran, Janet Daby, Brenda Dacres, Amanda De Ryk, Joe Dromey, Damien Egan, Colin Elliott, Alan Hall, Carl Handley, Maja Hilton, Simon Hooks, Sue Hordijkeno, Mark Ingleby, Stella Jeffrey, Liz Johnston-Franklin, Roy Kennedy, Jim Mallory, Paul Maslin, Sophie McGeevor, David Michael, Joan Millbank, Hilary Moore, Pauline Morrison, John Muldoon, Rachel Onikosi, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Pat Raven, Joan Reid, Gareth Siddorn, Jonathan Slater, Luke Sorba, Eva Stamirowski, Alan Till, Paul Upex and Susan Wise.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Britton and Councillor Olurotimi Ogunbadewa.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Adefiranye and McGeevor.

The entire meeting was chaired by Councillor Alan Till.

141. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Susan Wise declared a personal interest in Item 7 as a member of the Lewisham Homes Board and as the holder of a pension from Lewisham Council.

Councillor Alan Hall declared a personal interest in Item 7 as a member of the Phoenix Community Housing Board.

142. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on January 17 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

143. Petitions

A petition supported by 450 persons was submitted by Father Boniface Akpoigbe MSP. The petition opposed parking restrictions on Sundays on Deptford High Street and daily after 6.30pm and called for their removal.

A petition supported by 27 residents of Blashford Street was submitted by Councillor Joan Reid. The petition called on the Council to introduce a CPZ for reasons stated.

144. Member questions

Member Questions

9 questions were received from the following Councillors which were answered by the Cabinet Members indicated. A copy of the questions and

answers was circulated separately and can be viewed on the Council's website with the meeting papers.

1.	Cllr Hall	Mayor
2.	Cllr Curran	Mayor
3.	Cllr Ingleby	Cllr Onikosi
4.	Cllr Jacq Paschoud	Cllr Bonavia
5.	Cllr Hall	Cllr Onikosi
6.	Cllr Jacq Paschoud	Cllr Bonavia
7.	Cllr Ingleby	Cllr Onikosi
8.	Cllr Jacq Paschoud	Cllr Bonavia
9.	Cllr Ingleby	Cllr Onikosi

145. Public Questions

Public Questions

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

1	Martin Cox	Cllr Egan
2	Mrs Richardson	Cllr Bonavia
3	Mr Richardson	Cllr Best
4	Mr Richardson	Cllr Best

146. Announcements or Communications

Council meetings in March

The Vice-Chair reminded members that there were to be two Friday evening meetings of the Council in March. On March 2 to bestow the Freedom of the Borough on Sir Ian Mills and on March 23 to give the same honour to Wozzie Brewster. Additionally, dependent on the outcome of the February 22 Appointments Panel, it was planned to convene a short meeting of the Council on Wednesday March 14 at 7pm to confirm the appointment of a new Chief Executive.

147. 2018 19 Budget

The Budget proposals were introduced by the Mayor who thanked staff across all Directorates for their help in compiling the Budget. The Mayor confirmed that he was proposing a Council Tax rise of 3.99% and proposed to use Council reserves in order to ensure a balanced budget was achieved.

The Mayor confirmed that he did not intend to vary the budget proposals he had already fully set out at Mayor and Cabinet on February 7 and 14 and which did not require further amendment unless there was an unexpected late change to the GLA precept when that body met to set its budget the following day.

A motion that the proposals be accepted was moved by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Kevin Bonavia and seconded by Councillor Alan Hall. There was then a general debate to which Councillor Coughlin, contributed followed by a reply from Councillor Bonavia. During this general debate on the budget the 5 minute limit on speeches for the Mayor and Councillors Bonavia, Hall and Coughlin was suspended.

The Council was also addressed by Nike, aged 22, a care leaver who had been under the wing of the Council since she was 12 years old. She described her life journey and the various obstacles she had overcome to reach her current situation. She warmly welcomed the budgetary proposal that care leavers be exempted from Council Tax, which she said represented a meaningful impact for a vulnerable section of the community. The Council thanked Nike for her commentary and extended their thanks to her, wishing her well in her future education and career and standing to applaud her contribution.

Once the debate was concluded, there was, in accordance with statutory provisions, a recorded vote on the Mayor's proposed Budget. The result of the vote was as follows:

46 Votes In favour of the Mayor's Budget Proposals

Councillor Abdeslam Amrani
Councillor Chris Barnham
Councillor Peter Bernhards
Councillor Chris Best
Councillor Kevin Bonavia
Councillor Andre Bourne
Councillor Bill Brown
Mayor Steve Bullock
Councillor Suzannah Clarke
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 Sue Hordijkenko
Councillor Mark Ingleby
Councillor Stella Jeffrey
Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin
Councillor Roy Kennedy
Councillor Jim Mallory
Councillor Paul Maslin
Councillor Sophie McGeevor
Councillor David Michael

Councillor Joan Millbank
Councillor Hilary Moore
Councillor Pauline Morrison
Councillor John Muldoon
Councillor Rachel Onikosi
Councillor Jacq Paschoud
Councillor John Paschoud
Councillor Pat Raven
Councillor Joan Reid
Councillor Gareth Siddorn
Councillor Jonathan Slater
Councillor Luke Sorba
Councillor Eva Stamirowski
Councillor Alan Till
Councillor Paul Upex
Councillor Susan Wise

Votes Against the Mayor's Budget Proposals nil

Abstentions (1)

Councillor John Coughlin

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the 2017/18 Quarter 3 Capital Programme monitoring position and the Capital Programme potential future schemes and resources as set out in section 5 be noted;
- (2) the 2018/19 to 2020/21 Capital Programme of £271.5m, as set out in section 5 of this report and attached at Appendices W1 and W2 be approved;

Housing Revenue Account

- (3) the consultation report on service charges to tenants' and leaseholders in the Brockley area, presented to area panel members on 12 December 2017, as attached at Appendix X2, be noted;
- (4) the consultation report on service charges to tenants' and leaseholders and the Lewisham Homes budget strategy presented to area panel members on 14 December 2017, as attached at Appendix X3, be noted;
- (5) a decrease in dwelling rents of 1.0% be set (an average of £0.97 per week) – as per the requirements from government as presented in section 6;
- (6) a decrease in the hostels accommodation charge by 1.0% be set (or £0.35 per week), in accordance with Government requirements;
- (7) the Mayor's approval of the following average weekly increases/decreases for dwellings be endorsed for:

(a) service charges to non-Lewisham Homes managed dwellings (Brockley);

- caretaking 4.90% (£0.24)
- grounds 4.90% (£0.12)
- communal lighting 4.90% (£0.06)
- bulk waste collection 4.90% (£0.02)
- window cleaning 4.90% (£0.01)
- tenants' levy 30.0% (£0.03)

(b) service charges to Lewisham Homes managed dwellings:

- caretaking -1.17% (-£0.12)
- grounds 16.27% (£0.27)
- window cleaning 51.41% (£0.03)
- communal lighting 0.38% (£0.01)
- block pest control 1.87% (£0.03)
- waste collection 1.93% (£0.01)
- heating & hot water no change
- tenants' levy 30.0% (£0.03)
- bulk waste disposal 2.96% (£0.02)
- sheltered housing 1.00% (£0.24)

(8) the Mayor's approval of the following average weekly percentage changes for hostels and shared temporary units be endorsed for;

- service charges (hostels) – caretaking etc.; no change
- energy cost increases for heat, light & power; no change
- water charges increase; no change

(9) the Mayor's approval of an increase in garage rents by Retail Price Inflation (RPI) of 3.9% (£0.46 per week) for Brockley residents and 3.9% (£0.46 per week) for Lewisham Homes residents be endorsed;

(10) the budgeted expenditure for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2018/19 is £156.8m, split £84.1m revenue and £72.7m capital, which includes the decent homes and new build programmes be noted;

(11) the HRA budget strategy savings proposals in order to achieve a balanced budget in 2018/19, as attached at Appendix X1, be endorsed;

Dedicated Schools Grant and Pupil Premium

(12) subject to final confirmation of the allocation, the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant allocation of £292.3m be the Schools' Budget for 2018/19;

- (13) the implementation of the national funding formula schools block for schools be noted;
- (14) Lewisham uses the national funding formula schools block to allocate funds to schools from April 2018;
- (15) Minimum Funding Guarantee for the schools block be set at 0.25% for 2018/19;
- (16) the change to the PFI factor in the formula to base it on estimates for the schools block be approved;
- (17) implementing the new banding systems in resource bases at a cost to the High Needs block of £251k be approved;
- (18) implementing the new banding system for Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) in mainstream schools at a cost to the High Needs block of £47k be approved;
- (19) the latest financial position in schools be noted;
- (20) the likely future cost pressures on schools be noted;
- (21) the estimated pupil premium of £17.0m be noted;
- (22) the changes to the way the High Needs block is calculated be noted;
- (23) the Loan Scheme consultation for the schools block be noted;
- (24) the position of the consultation on eligibility for free school meals and the early years pupil premium under Universal Credit be noted;

General Fund Revenue Budget

- (25) the projected Directorate Services overall variance against the agreed 2017/18 revenue budget of £12.9m as set out in section 8 be noted and that any year-end overspend will have to be met from reserves;
- (26) the previously approved revenue budget savings of £0.58m for 2018/19 and budget savings proposals of £4.28m as per the Mayor and Cabinet meeting of the 6 December 2017, as set out in section 8 and summarised in Appendix Y1 and Y2 be endorsed;
- (27) the transfer of £5.0m in 2018/19 from the New Homes Bonus reserve to the General Fund for one year to meet funding shortfalls be approved and that the position be reviewed again for 2019/20;
- (28) the use of £3.570m reserves to meet the budget gap in 2018/19 be approved;

- (29) the allocation of £6.500m in 2018/19 be set aside for corporate risks and pressures, added to the £2.130m set aside for unidentified risks in 2017/18;
- (30) the allocation of £6.915m in 2018/19 to fund quantified budget pressures be approved from the £8.630m set aside for corporate risks and pressures;
- (31) a fund be created in respect of the identified but as yet un-quantified revenue budget risks in the sum of £1.715m in 2018/19 (the balance of budget for corporate risks and pressures), allowing the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration to hold these resources corporately in case these pressures emerge during the year, and authorises the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to allocate these funds to meet such pressures when satisfied that those pressures cannot be contained within the Directorates' cash limits;
- (32) the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration identify up to £5m of earmarked reserves to fund service transformation costs to facilitate services change and develop further savings proposals;
- (33) a General Fund Budget Requirement of £241.281m for 2018/19 be approved;
- (34) a 3.99% increase in Lewisham's Council Tax element be approved, resulting in a Band D equivalent Council Tax level of £1,203.87 for Lewisham's services and £1,498.10 overall. This represents an overall increase in Council Tax for 2018/19 of 4.2% and is subject to the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept for 2018/19 being increased by £14.21 (i.e. 5.1%) from £280.02 to £294.23, in line with the GLA's draft budget proposal;
- (35) the Council Tax Ready Reckoner which for illustrative purposes sets out the Band D equivalent Council Tax at various levels of increase be noted. This is explained in section 8 and is set out in more detail in Appendix Y3;
- (36) the exemption from Council Tax for Care Leavers up to the age of 25 in the Borough, agreed by Council in January 2018 when setting the 2018/19 Council Tax base, and the review underway to assess other possible exemptions be noted;
- (37) the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration issues cash limits to all Directorates once the 2018/19 Revenue Budget is agreed;
- (38) the draft statutory calculations for 2018/19 as set out at Appendix Y5 be noted;
- (39) the prospects for the revenue budget for 2019/20 and future years as set out in section 9 be noted; as part of the Lewisham Future Programme to help meet the future forecast budget shortfalls;

(40) officers continue to develop firm proposals and bring them forward as soon as possible as part of the Lewisham Future Programme to help meet the future forecast budget shortfalls;

Other Grants (within the General Fund)

(41) adjustments to and impact of various specific grants for 2018/19 on the General Fund as set out in section 8 be noted;

Treasury Management Strategy

(42) the prudential indicators and treasury indicators, as set out in section 10 be approved;

(43) the Annual Investment Strategy and Credit Worthiness Policy, set out in further detail at Appendix Z3 be approved;

(44) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy as set out in section 10 be approved;

(45) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration authority during 2018/19 to make amendments to borrowing and investment limits provided they are consistent with the strategy and there is no change to the Council's authorised limit for borrowing;

(46) the credit and counterparty risk management criteria, as set out at Appendix Z3, be approved the proposed countries for investment at Appendix Z4, and that responsibility for managing transactions with those institutions which meet the criteria be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration; and

(47) a minimum sovereign rating of AA be approved.

148. Pay Statement

The report was introduced by Councillor Kevin Bonavia who highlighted a pay imbalance favourable to female employees.

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

RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement as attached as Appendix 1 be approved.

149. Scrutiny Report

Councillor Alan Hall moved that the report recounting the work of scrutiny over the previous four years be noted and this was seconded by Councillor Gareth Siddorn. Following contributions from Councillors Morrison, Curran and Dacres, it was:

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

150. Motion 1 Proposed Councillor Millbank Seconded Councillor Clarke

The motion was moved by Councillor Joan Millbank and seconded by Councillor Suzannah Clarke. Following contributions from Councillors Kennedy, De Ryk and Hilton, the motion was put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

“This Council notes that 2018 is the centenary of Representation of the People Act 1918, which saw the start of women in the UK securing the right to vote and to take up opportunities in civic life including the right to stand as councillors. This Council welcomes events being organised to mark women’s achievements over the last 100 years, including ‘Vote Organise Participate’, a day of celebration, learning and action taking place in the Civic Suite Catford on International Women’s Day on March 8th.

While recognising the significant progress made on gender equality this Council believes that more action is needed for women to have full and equal rights. The World Economic Forum’s 2017 Global Gender Gap report that while women worldwide are closing the gap in critical areas such as health and education, significant gender inequality persists in the workforce and in politics, while the Census of Local Authority Councillors 2013 found less than a third of councillors nationally were female (36% in London) and only 12.3% of local authority leaders in England were women in 2014. This Council’s own Barriers to Politics Working Party in 2017 identified a range of attitudinal and practical measures still necessary to remove the barriers to political engagement by women, and other under-represented groups.

This Council welcomes the #BehindEveryGreatCity campaign set up by the Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London to mark progress made on women’s equality and to drive gender equality across the capital in 2018. This Council pledges its support to the campaign and to uses its influence to lead and umotivate its administration, its partners and its communities to think, act and be gender inclusive.”

151. Motion 2 Proposed Councillor Brown Seconded Councillor Mallory

The motion was moved by Councillor Bill Brown and seconded by Councillor Jim Mallory who accepted an amendment submitted in the names of Councillors Egan and Best. Following contributions from Councillors Egan, Best and Coughlin, the amended motion was put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

“Council notes and welcomes UNISON’s campaign for an Ethical Care Charter. Council agrees to sign up to the Ethical Care Charter and thereby to become an Ethical Care Council where:

- The starting point for commissioning of visits will be client need and not

minutes or tasks. Workers will have the freedom to provide appropriate care and will be given time to talk to their clients.

- The time allocated to visits will match the needs of the clients. In general, 15-minute visits will not be used as they undermine the dignity of the clients.
- Homecare workers will be paid for their travel time, their travel costs and other necessary expenses such as mobile phones.
- Visits will be scheduled so that homecare workers are not forced to rush their time with clients or leave their clients early to get to the next one on time.
- Clients will be allocated the same homecare worker(s) wherever possible.
- Zero hours contracts will not be used in place of permanent contracts.
- Providers will have a clear and accountable procedure for following up staff concerns about their clients' wellbeing.
- All homecare workers will be regularly trained to the necessary standard to provide a good service (at no cost to themselves and in work time).
- Homecare workers will be given the opportunity to regularly meet co-workers to share best practice and limit their isolation.
- All homecare workers will be paid at least the London Living Wage.
- All homecare workers will be covered by an occupational sick pay scheme to ensure that staff do not feel pressurised to work when they are ill in order to protect their vulnerable clients.

The meeting closed at 9.28pm.