

# MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 27 February 2019 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Damien Egan (Mayor), Councillors Obajimi Adefiranye, Abdeslam Amrani, Tauseef Anwar, Chris Barnham, Paul Bell, Peter Bernard, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Andre Bourne, Bill Brown, Juliet Campbell, Suzannah Clarke, Patrick Codd, Tom Copley, Liam Curran, Janet Daby, Brenda Dacres, Amanda De Ryk, Joe Dromey, Colin Elliott, 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, Joan Millbank, Hilary Moore, Pauline Morrison, John Muldoon, Olurotimi Ogunbadewa, Jacq Paschoud (Chair), John Paschoud, Stephen Penfold, James Rathbone, Joani Reid, Sakina Sheikh, Jonathan Slater, Alan Smith, Luke Sorba, Eva Stamirowski, James-J Walsh and Susan Wise.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sophie Davis, Councillor Alex Feis-Bryce and Councillor Sophie McGeevor. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Maslin and Stamirowski.

## 31. Declaration of Interests

Councillors Walsh and Dromey declared a personal interest in Item 6 as Founder members of the Bakerloo Extension Campaign.

Councillor Copley declared a personal interest in Item 6 as a private tenant.

Councillor Hall a personal interest in Item 12 as a member of Lewisham Trades Council and as Chair of the Lewisham, Bexley and Greenwich Branch of the Unite Union.

## 32. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on January 23 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## 33. Petitions

Nicola Johnson presented a petition bearing more than 5,000 names calling for the protection of open green space at the junction of Duncombe Hill and Brockley Rise SE23 1QY.

Heather Gilmore presented a petition bearing 1650 names call for the community redevelopment of the Old Tidemill land and a change to the plans already agreed by the Council.

Councillor Hilary Moore presented a petition bearing 330 names opposing a proposal by CTIL (Vodafone + O2) for the erection of a 15m antenna at the

junction of Winn Road in Lewisham and Guibal Road in Greenwich.

Councillor Patrick Codd presented a petition bearing 94 names expressing concern that their street is being used by commuters and for long term parking by non-residents to the detriment of residents and calling on the Council to carry out a consultation to extend the Hither Green CPZ to the Woodlands and adjacent streets.

### **34. Announcements or Communications**

#### *International Women's Day*

Councillor Joan Millbank informed the Council that International Women's Day would take place on March 8 2019 under the theme of "Equality for all" and that the Council's collaborative participation would see a range of activities taking place to which all genders were welcome.

#### *Director of Public Health*

Councillor Chris Best noted the retirement of the Director of Public Health, Dr Danny Ruta and praised him for his vision and passion.

#### *Lady Mayoress*

The Chair announced that the Bromley and Catford Synagogue were organising a Shabbat on March 16 to honour the Lady Mayoress Liane Segal for her year's service. Further details were to follow.

### **35. Public Questions**

54 questions were received from members of the public which were answered by the Cabinet Member indicated. In the time available 25 questioners were given the opportunity to raise supplementary questions.

A copy of the questions and answers was circulated separately and can be viewed on the Council website with the meeting papers.

### **36. Member questions**

20 questions were received from 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.

### **37. Council Budget 2019-20**

The Budget proposals were introduced by the Mayor who concluded that this was not the budget he would have liked to have offered but was the least harmful cuts option and came as the result of unprecedented levels of participation. He predicted that subsequent years would be faced with more difficult decisions and that the Government's so called 'Fair Funding Review'

gave little grounds for optimism. He paid particular thanks to Councillor De Ryk for her help throughout the process.

The Mayor confirmed that he was proposing a Council Tax rise of 4.99% and proposed to use Council reserves for the fifth consecutive year 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 6 and 13 and which did not require further amendment.

A motion that the proposals be accepted was moved by the job share Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Amanda De Ryk and seconded by the Chair of the Public Accounts Select Committee, Councillor Jim Mallory. During the debate on the budget the 5 minute limit on speeches for the Mayor and Councillors De Ryk and Mallory was suspended.

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:

#### 51 Votes In favour of the Mayor's Budget Proposals

Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye  
Councillor Tauseef Anwar  
Councillor Abdeslam Amrani  
Councillor Chris Barnham  
Councillor Paul Bell  
Councillor Peter Bernhards  
Councillor Chris Best  
Councillor Kevin Bonavia  
Councillor Andre Bourne  
Councillor Bill Brown  
Councillor Juliet Campbell  
Councillor Suzannah Clarke  
Councillor Patrick Codd  
Councillor Tom Copley  
Councillor Liam Curran  
Councillor Janet Daby  
Councillor Brenda Dacres  
Councillor Amanda De Ryk  
Councillor Joe Dromey  
Mayor Damien Egan  
Councillor Colin Elliott  
Councillor Aisling Gallagher  
Councillor Leo Gibbons  
Councillor Alan Hall  
Councillor Carl Handley  
Councillor Octavia Holland  
Councillor Sue Hordijkeno  
Councillor Coral Howard

Councillor Mark Ingleby  
Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin  
Councillor Caroline Kalu  
Councillor Silvana Kelleher  
Councillor Louise Krupski  
Councillor Jim Mallory  
Councillor Joan Millbank  
Councillor Hilary Moore  
Councillor Pauline Morrison  
Councillor John Muldoon  
Councillor Olurotimi Ogunbadewa  
Councillor Jacq Paschoud  
Councillor John Paschoud  
Councillor Stephen Penfold  
Councillor James Rathbone  
Councillor Joani Reid  
Councillor Sakina Sheikh  
Councillor Jonathan Slater  
Councillor Alan Smith  
Councillor Luke Sorba  
Councillor Eva Stamirowski  
Councillor James-J Walsh  
Councillor Susan Wise

Votes Against the Mayor's Budget Proposals nil

Abstentions nil

RESOLVED that:

(1) the recommendations shown below be agreed in respect of the 2019/20 Budget having considered the views of those consulted on the budget, and subject to consideration of the outcome of consultation with business ratepayers and subject to proper process, as required,

Capital Programme

(2) the 2018/19 Quarter 3 Capital Programme monitoring position and the Capital Programme potential future schemes and resources as set out in section 5 be noted;

(3) the 2019/20 to 2021/22 Capital Programme of £344.7m, as set out in section 5 and attached at Appendices W1 and W2 be approved;

Housing Revenue Account

(4) the consultation report on service charges to tenants' and leaseholders in the Brockley area, presented to area panel members on 27 November 2018, as attached at Appendix X2 be noted;

(5) the consultation report on service charges to tenants' and leaseholders and the Lewisham Homes budget strategy presented to area panel members on 13 December 2018 as attached at Appendix X3 be noted;

(6) a decrease be set in dwelling rents of 1.0% (an average of £0.96 per week) – as per the requirements from government as presented in section 6;

(7) a decrease be set in the hostels accommodation charge by 1.0% (or £0.36 per week), in accordance with Government requirements;

(8) the Mayor's approval of the following average weekly increases/decreases for dwellings be endorsed for:

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

- caretaking 4.30% (£0.22)
- grounds 4.30% (£0.09)
- communal lighting 4.30% (£0.07)
- bulk waste collection 4.30% (£0.06)
- window cleaning 4.30% (£0.01)
- tenants' levy 15.0% (£0.02)

(10) service charges to Lewisham Homes managed dwellings:

- caretaking 3.27% (£0.19)
- grounds 3.63% (£0.07)
- window cleaning 11.11% (£0.01)
- communal lighting 0.88% (£0.01)
- block pest control 1.84% (£0.03)
- waste collection 8.33% (£0.04)
- heating & hot water 1.31% (£0.13)
- tenants' levy 15.38% (£0.02)
- bulk waste disposal 3.70% (£0.03)
- sheltered housing 1.00% (£0.24)

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

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

(12) the Mayor's approval of an increase in garage rents by 25% (£2.37 per week) be endorsed for Brockley residents and 25% (£3.06 per week) for Lewisham Homes residents;

(13) the budgeted expenditure for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2019/20 be £169.6m, split £99.9m revenue and £69.7m capital, which includes the decent homes and new build programmes;

(14) the HRA budget strategy cut proposals be approved in order to achieve a balanced budget in 2019/20, as attached at Appendix X1;

Dedicated Schools Grant and Pupil Premium

- (15) subject to final confirmation of the allocation, the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant allocation of £290.880m be the Schools' Budget for 2019/20;
- (16) the funding in respect of each of the blocks continue to be based on the National Funding Formula. A "soft formula" remains in place for the Schools Block, however Lewisham Council has agreed to mirror the principles of the National Funding Formula to distribute the Schools Budget Share;
- (17) Minimum Funding Guarantee for the schools block be set at a plus 0.20% for 2019/20 as supported by Schools Forum;
- (18) the continuing pressures facing the High Needs Block be noted and endorse and the transfer of £1m be endorsed from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block as agreed with Schools Forum;
- (19) an overall increase in the High Needs Block of £2m be noted of which £0.7m relates to the Secretary of States recent statement providing £300m to Local Authorities to support pressure in the High Needs Block, with the remaining increase arising from factors determining the High Needs Block methodology, and adding £1m on top of this funding;
- (20) despite the increase in High Needs Funding, there continues to remain upward pressure on costs, arising from a combination of increase in pupils with specialist need, more complex need, and associated costs;
- (21) the Early Years Block position be provisional pending January 2019 and 2020 pupil counts; and to note that the supplementary funding for Nursery Schools (determined within the Early Years Block) will continue for 2019/20 and the provisional allocation suggests a minor increase of £7k;
- (22) a small increase of £15k to the Central Services to Schools Block Component of the Dedicated Schools Grant be noted;
- (23) the Pupil Premium Funding rates for 2019/20 will remain at current levels thereby resulting in a real term reduction in spending and to note that the funding levels have not increased since 2017/18;
- (24) the 2019/20 pupil premium allocation will be confirmed pending the January 2019 census; and to note for information that 2018/19 pupil premium was £16.4m. The 2019/20 figure could potentially be lower as a result of reduction in overall pupil numbers coupled with overall reduction in Free School Meal Eligibility numbers;
- (25) the latest financial position in schools and the likely future cost pressures on schools be noted;
- General Fund Revenue Budget
- (26) the projected overall variance against the agreed 2018/19 revenue budget of £241.281m as set out in section 8 be noted and that any year-end

overspend will have to be met from reserves;

(27) the budget cut proposals of £7.963m be endorsed as per the Mayor and Cabinet meeting of the 21 November 2018, as set out in section 8 of the report and summarised in Appendix Y1;

(28) in relation to budget cut proposals – Commercial Income (RES16) £140k, Main Grants (COM12) £600k, Local Assemblies Funding (COM14) £225k, and Small Grants (COM17) £50k - the proposed budget cuts totalling £1.015m in 2019/20 be endorsed, as set out in section 8 and summarised in Appendix Y2;

(29) budget cut proposals Park Events Income (CUS03) and Removal of Public Toilets (CUS08) totalling £0.292m in 2019/20 have yet to be re-presented to Mayor and Cabinet for approval but are assumed as part of the budget calculation for 2019/20, with any gap covered from once-off resources until formerly concluded;

(30) the transfer of £5.0m in 2019/20 be approved from the New Homes Bonus reserve to the General Fund for one year to meet funding shortfalls and that the position be reviewed again for 2020/21;

(31) the use of £2.461m reserves be approved to meet the budget gap in 2019/20;

(32) the allocation of £6.500m in 2019/20 be set aside for corporate risks and pressures;

(33) the allocation of the full £6.500m set aside for corporate risks and pressures in 2019/20 be made to fund quantified budget pressures;

(34) a General Fund Budget Requirement of £243.012m be approved for 2019/20;

(35) a 4.99% increase in Lewisham's Council Tax element be approved resulting in a Band D equivalent Council Tax level of £1,263.94 for Lewisham's services and £1,584.45 overall and representing an overall increase in Council Tax for 2019/20 of 5.76% subject to the GLA precept for 2019/20 being increased by £26.28 (i.e. 8.9%) from £294.23 to £320.51, in line with the GLA's budget proposal;

(36) the Council Tax Ready Reckoner be noted which for illustrative purposes sets out the Band D equivalent Council Tax at various levels of increase as explained in section 8 and set out in more detail in Appendix Y3;

(37) the Interim Chief Finance Officer issues cash limits to all Directorates once the 2019/20 Revenue Budget is agreed;

(38) the Interim Chief Finance Officer's Section 25 Statement be approved as attached at Appendix Y4;

(39) the statutory calculations for 2019/20 be approved as set out at Appendix Y5;

(40) there were seven responses from Business Rate payers to the consultation on the draft Budget which took place from 14 January 2019 to 1 February 2019, detailed as received in Appendix Y6;

(41) the confirmation from the Lewisham and Greenwich Trust to manage the Health Visiting service at current levels within the available Public Health grant allocated to this service in 2019/20 be noted;

(42) the prospects for the revenue budget for 2020/21 and future years as set out in section 9 be noted;

(43) officers have been asked to continue to develop firm proposals and bring them forward for working towards a cuts round before the summer recess to help plan early and meet the future forecast budget shortfalls;

#### Other Grants (within the General Fund)

(44) the adjustments to and impact of various specific grants for 2019/20 on the General Fund as set out in section 8 be noted;

#### Treasury Management Strategy

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

(46) the Annual Investment Strategy and Credit Worthiness Policy, set out in further detail at Appendix Z2 be approved;

(47) the Capital Strategy 2019/20, set out in further detail at Appendix Z5 be approved;

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

(49) delegated authority be made to the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration during 2019/20 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;

(50) approval be given for the credit and counterparty risk management criteria, as set out at Appendix Z2, the proposed countries for investment at Appendix Z3, and delegated responsibility for managing transactions with those institutions which meet the criteria be given to the Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration; and

(51) a minimum sovereign rating of AA- be approved;

### **38. Financial Regulations and Schemes of Delegation**

Councillor Kevin Bonavia moved that the recommendations be approved and this was formally seconded by Councillor Jim Mallory and it was then unanimously:

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the latest version of the Financial Regulations (Appendix 1) be approved;
- (2) the Directorate Schemes of Delegation (Appendices 2 to 5) as they relate to non-executive functions be endorsed;
- (3) officers be authorised to update the Council's Constitution accordingly.

### **39. Modern Day Slavery and human trafficking**

Councillor Amanda De Ryk moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Joani Reid and it was then unanimously:

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the approval by Council of a motion that Lewisham Council signs the Cooperative Party Charter against Modern Slavery be noted (*Council meeting 3 October 2018*)
- (2) the potential impact of adoption of the Charter, the Lewisham Modern Slavery Protocol, and the draft Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Statement for 2018/19 on current and future arrangements including with partners as set out be noted;
- (3) the Council adopts and signs up to the Co-operative Party Charter on Modern Slavery;
- (4) the Lewisham Modern Slavery Protocol (developed jointly with partners) be approved;
- (5) the Council's draft Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Statement for 2018/19 be approved.

### **40. Corporate Strategy**

The Mayor moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Bill Brown and it was then unanimously:

RESOLVED that the attached Corporate Strategy replace the 2008 Community Strategy.

### **41. Appointments**

*Albion Green Millennium Trust*

Councillor Millbank proposed a nomination and this was seconded by Councillor Moore and there being no other nominations it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Sophie Davis be appointed to the Albion Green Millennium Trust.

**42. Motion 1 proposed Cllr Rathbone seconded Cllr Moore**

The Chair agreed to use her Constitutional discretion and changed the order of the agenda by taking this motion immediately after Item 5, Public Questions.

The Head of Law was questioned concerning the legal advice which was tabled in connection with this motion and she confirmed her advice was purely facilitative.

The motion was moved by Councillor Rathbone and seconded by Councillor Moore. Following contributions from Councillors Bonavia, Slater, the Mayor and Councillor Hall, the motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

Lewisham Council is concerned by the rise in hate crime and racism across the UK and the wider world. Lewisham is proud of its diverse community, and works to tackle discrimination in all its forms. As part of this work we believe that we must establish clear definitions of what is and isn't acceptable as part of our Equalities Policy, whether this relates to gender, disability, sexuality or discrimination against people on the grounds of race, religion or culture.

2017 saw the highest recorded level of antisemitism in over twenty years, with the recorded level for 2018 being only slightly lower. Antisemitism accounts for 12% of all religious hate crime in the UK, despite the Jewish population being less than 0.5% of the total population. Roughly 75% of antisemitic incidents occur in Greater London and Manchester.

Antisemitism comes in many forms, such as physical violence, vandalism and criminal damage, but also as verbal and online abuse. It is increasingly common to see antisemitism disguised as criticism of Israel, or criticism of Israel expressed via anti-Semitic tropes, conspiracies and language. This definition does not in any way undermine freedom of speech regarding the Israeli Government or its actions. Whilst this criticism can be legitimate, that is not the case if it stems from antisemitism, or is expressed using the tropes and imagery of antisemitism.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism and its examples is the only definition supported by the Jewish community of the UK, as represented by their communal organisations the Jewish Leadership Council and the Board of Deputies. The IHRA Definition and its examples has already been adopted by the Government of the UK and

over 130 Local Authorities, as well as numerous other national and international bodies, including both the European Union and United Nations.

It is also noted that nothing in the IHRA definition of Antisemitism, or in other documents with a bearing on the Authority's code of conduct and disciplinary procedures, can be used or interpreted in a way that violates the right to freedom of expression entrenched in the Human Rights Act 1998.

This Council resolves to:

1. Reaffirm its condemnation of all forms of hate crimes and racism.
2. Adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism as the working model for challenging and confronting incidents of this form of hate crime and racism.
3. Ask the Mayor and Cabinet to look into adopting similarly agreed definitions for other forms of hate crime, to better confront and challenge all forms of racism and discrimination that exist within our society.”

**43. Motion 2 proposed Cllr Anwar seconded Cllr Krupski**

The motion was moved by Councillor Anwar and seconded by Councillor Krupski. Following contributions from Councillors Sorba and Sheikh, the motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

Lewisham Council notes:

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm) and continue to rise. This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;

Without significant and sustained action, the world will exceed the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050. The government's policies and programmes to cut carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 are insufficient.

Individual and collective action is needed to make this reduction. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure and culture to recognise and meet the full cost of greenhouse gases.

The public sector has a fundamental role in enabling individuals and communities to make sustainable low carbon choices.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in October 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise. The IPCC identify that limiting global warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious

action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities;

In Lewisham, the consequences of inaction to address this climate emergency will include:

- Increased risk of flooding and damage to buildings, infrastructure and the local economy.
- Health problems, particularly for children, older people and those with pre-existing conditions.
- Higher living costs including energy, food, travel and insurance costs.
- Increases in social injustice and inequality.
- Financial and emotional consequences for residents with families around the world adversely affected by the impact of a changing climate

Councils around the world, including the Mayor of London and other local authorities in London and the UK have responded by declaring a 'climate emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.

Lewisham Council resolves to:

1. Declare a 'climate emergency'
2. Recognise that a changing climate will have severe and enduring social, economic and environmental implications, and that tackling climate change is an issue of inequality as the greatest impact will be on the most vulnerable and those least able to protect themselves.

Call on the Mayor and Cabinet to:

1. Pledge to do everything within their power to make Lewisham carbon neutral by 2030.
2. Launch a review to report to on delivering a Zero-Carbon Lewisham including:
  - Publishing a new Lewisham Action Plan on Climate Change, with an interim draft ready for scrutiny by the Sustainable Development Select Committee and Mayor & Cabinet before the end of the municipal year 2019/20.
  - Setting specific and measurable targets to reduce carbon emissions for the Council and for the borough as a whole, including costed milestones to zero-carbon;
  - Consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities;
  - Increase local resilience to climate impacts already in the system.
3. Task an Executive Director with responsibility for reducing the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities as rapidly as possible, and ensuring a coordinated approach across housing, our corporate estate, transport, regeneration, planning and other services.

4. Continue to prioritise support for vulnerable residents through the Council's fuel poverty programmes working with partners at a community, borough wide and regional level to provide advice services and access to funding for heating, insulation and ventilation.
5. Accelerate existing programmes to deliver reductions in greenhouse gas emissions including delivery of heat networks in the borough, low carbon development and high quality housing, an efficient and low carbon corporate estate and support for renewables and for community energy.
6. Work with partner bodies across the borough and across London to ensure the climate emergency is adequately reflected in the development and implementation of all borough wide strategies and plans.
7. Reaffirm Lewisham's membership of UK100, and use our membership to work with other councils across the UK to meet climate change targets.
8. Draw up a communications strategy to support delivery of a Zero-Carbon Lewisham and enable Lewisham residents to make low carbon choices.
9. Call on the UK Government to provide the powers and resources to make this possible.

**44. Motion 3 proposed Cllr Walsh seconded Cllr Bernards**

Councillor Copley successfully moved and Councillor Ingleby seconded a motion without notice that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the meeting to continue past the 10pm guillotine.

The motion was moved by Councillor Copley and seconded by Councillor Bernards. Following a contributions from the Mayor, the motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

This Council notes:

PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a drug taken by HIV-negative people before sex that reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by more than 90%. If taken as prescribed, it is highly effective at preventing HIV

PrEP has already been approved for use across the world including in the United States, Canada and France

PrEP has been recommended for use by the World Health Organization

However, access to the treatment in the UK differs according to the country you live in:

- In England, the PrEP trial scheme has places limited to just 13,000 people, leaving thousands across the country who want to protect their health having

to import the PrEP and paying up to £4,200 a year

- Meanwhile, in Scotland PrEP is available to high-risk groups on the NHS, while in Wales and Northern Ireland there are trial schemes with no limits on places

This Council believes:

- That the founding principles of the NHS are just as important as today
- That the NHS meet the needs of everyone
- That it be free at the point of delivery
- That it be based on clinical need, not ability to pay

- PrEP is a vital tool for public health and achieving zero HIV transmissions
- By failing to make PrEP available on the NHS in England, the founding principles of the NHS are being broken
- PrEP should be available on the NHS in England and the UK for those who need it

This Council resolves:

- To work with organisations including the Terrence Higgins Trust to campaign for PrEP to be available on the NHS in England.
- To call on the government to fund the availability of PrEP on the NHS in England.

#### **45. Motion 4 proposed Cllr Copley seconded Cllr Walsh**

The motion was moved by Councillor Walsh and seconded by Councillor Kelleher. Following a contributions from Councillor Adefiranye, the motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

“Russia: End the persecution of LGBT people in Chechnya

This Council believes:

- Chechen Authorities under the auspices of the Russian Government have been carrying out large-scale arrests of individuals believed to be gay or lesbian.
- LGBT people in Chechnya are being abducted, locked up in secret detention sites, tortured and sometimes killed - purely because of their sexual orientation.
- Two people have already been tortured to death during a recent revival of the crackdown on LGBTI people that started two years ago. This must stop now.
- People are living in fear of humiliation, torture and death at the hands of the authorities. Their passports are being confiscated and destroyed by the authorities, so even when people are released, they are trapped in Chechnya.
- Chechen authorities deny that gay people exist but also incite homophobic violence by telling people to murder their own family members

because of their sexual orientation. This means anyone who is suspected of being LGBTI in Chechnya is at extreme risk.

This Council further believes:

Lewisham in its aspiration to act as borough of sanctuary, should not only house those dispossessed by natural disaster, war or persecution, but should also shine a light on those that create regimes that force those to flee their country.

This Council resolves:

- To ensure that our role as a sanctuary borough is fully inclusive, and welcomes and fully understands the needs of LGBT+ Asylum Seekers.
- To work with LGBT+ Asylum/immigration charities such as UKLGIG to help build our understanding, and theirs, as Lewisham as s a sanctuary Borough
- For the Mayor of Lewisham to write to the The Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs and the Secretary of State for International Development & Minister for Women & Equalities, copying their Shadow Ministerial counterpart, asking how they're planning on responding to this humanitarian crisis and to publish that response back to Council."

The meeting closed at 10.12pm