

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 26 February 2020 at 7.30 pm

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chris Barnham, Councillor Bill Brown, Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin and Councillor Pauline Morrison.

58. Declaration of Interests

Councillors Wise declared a personal interest in Item 7 as a Director of Lewisham Homes.

Councillor Ingleby declared a personal interest in Item 7 as a Director of Lewisham Homes, a Trustee of Goldsmiths Community Association and as Chair of the Friends of Grove Park Nature Reserve.

Councillor Hall declared a personal interest in Item 7 as a member of Unison.

Councillor Mallory declared a personal interest in Item 7 as his daughter works in a Lewisham school.

Councillor Kelleher declared a personal interest in Item 7 as a tenant of Lewisham Homes.

59. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on January 22 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

60. Petitions

A petition from 103 residents of Cranston Road was submitted by Councillor John Paschoud calling on the Council to introduce traffic calming measures and to enforce the speed limit with 20mph average speed cameras. The petition also asked that more trees be planted on Cranston Road.

61. Announcements or Communications

Announcements were made concerning:

(a) London Borough of Culture 2021

The Mayor commended everyone involved in Lewisham's successful bid.

(b) Rough Sleeping Initiative Funding

The Council noted the award received to tackle rough sleeping in the borough.

(c) Migration Museum opens in Lewisham

Councillor Kevin Bonavia explained how the opening linked up with the council's Borough of Sanctuary initiatives.

(d) Building London Planning awards

The Chair was delighted to report Lewisham had won two Building London Planning awards. Team Catford, which leads the community engagement on the regeneration of Catford town centre on behalf of Lewisham Council, had won the Community Engagement in the Planning Process award while in her own ward The Fellowship Inn had won the Heritage and Culture award.

62. Public questions

17 questions were received from members of the public which were answered by the Cabinet Member indicated. No questioner wished to raise a supplementary question.

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

63. Member questions

113 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.

64. 2020 21 Budget

The Budget proposals were introduced by the Mayor who once again was forced to conclude that this was not the budget he would have liked to have offered but was the least harmful cuts option. He predicted that subsequent years would be faced with more difficult decisions especially given the need to prune £40million from budgets over the next three years. He paid particular thanks to Councillor De Ryk and to the Acting Chief Finance Officer for their help throughout the budget setting process.

The Mayor confirmed that he was proposing a Council Tax rise of 2% and that a balanced budget would be achieved.

The Mayor further confirmed that he did not intend to vary the budget proposals he had already fully set out at Mayor and Cabinet on February 5 and 12 and which did not require further amendment.

A motion that the proposals be accepted was moved by the 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, to which Councillor Smith also contributed, 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:

49 Votes In favour of the Mayor's Budget Proposals

Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye
Councillor Tauseef Anwar
Councillor Abdeslam Amrani
Councillor Paul Bell
Councillor Peter Bernhards
Councillor Chris Best
Councillor Kevin Bonavia
Councillor Andre Bourne
Councillor Juliet Campbell
Councillor Suzannah Clarke
Councillor Patrick Codd
Councillor Tom Copley
Councillor Liam Curran
Councillor Brenda Dacres
Councillor Sophie Davis
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 Hordijkenko
Councillor Coral Howard
Councillor Mark Ingleby
Councillor Caroline Kalu
Councillor Silvana Kelleher
Councillor Louise Krupski
Councillor Jim Mallory
Councillor Paul Maslin

Councillor Joan Millbank
Councillor Hilary Moore
Councillor John Muldoon
Councillor Olurotimi Ogunbadewa
Councillor Lionel Openshaw
Councillor Jacq Paschoud
Councillor John Paschoud
Councillor Stephen Penfold
Councillor Kim Powell
Councillor James Rathbone
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 the recommendations shown below be approved in respect of the 2020/21 Budget.

- 1.1 That, having considered the views of those consulted on the budget and subject to proper process, as required, Council:

Capital Programme

- 1.2 notes the 2019/20 Quarter 3 Capital Programme monitoring position and the Capital Programme potential future schemes and resources as set out in section 5 of this report;
- 1.3 notes the significant proposed rise in prudential borrowing of more than £300m by 2022/23, primarily to fund the Building for Lewisham programme capital plans;
- 1.4 approves the 2020/21 to 2022/23 Capital Programme of £559.5m, as set out in section 5 of this report and attached at Appendices W1 and W2;

Housing Revenue Account

- 1.5 notes the consultation report on service charges to tenants' and leaseholders in the Brockley area, presented to area panel members on 12 November 2019, as attached at Appendix X2;
- 1.6 notes the consultation report on service charges to tenants' and leaseholders and the Lewisham Homes budget strategy presented to area panel members on 17 December 2019 as attached at Appendix X3;
- 1.7 sets an increase in dwelling rents of 2.7% (an average of £2.56 per week) – as per the formula rent calculations outlined in section 6 of this report;

- 1.8 sets an increase in the hostels accommodation charge by 2.7% (or £0.94 per week), in accordance with formula rent calculations;
- 1.9 endorses the Mayor's approval of the following average weekly increases/decreases for dwellings for:
- 1.9.1 service charges to non-Lewisham Homes managed dwellings (Brockley);
- caretaking 3.40% (£0.13)
 - grounds 3.40% (£0.11)
 - communal lighting 3.40% (£0.02)
 - bulk waste collection 3.40% (£0.05)
 - window cleaning 3.40% (£0.00)
 - tenants' levy 0% (£0.00)
- 1.9.2 service charges to Lewisham Homes managed dwellings:
- caretaking 5.58% (£0.33)
 - grounds 3.80% (£0.09)
 - window cleaning 0% (£0.00)
 - communal lighting -3.94% -(£0.05)
 - block pest control 7.93% (£0.13)
 - waste collection -42.04% -(£0.22)
 - heating & hot water -0.39% -(£0.04)
 - tenants' levy 0% (£0.00)
 - bulk waste disposal 1.35% (£0.01)
 - sheltered housing 1.00% (£0.24)
- 1.10 endorses the Mayor's approval of the following average weekly percentage changes 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

- 1.11 endorses the Mayor's approval of an increase in garage rents by 2.4% (£0.38 per week) for Brockley and Lewisham Homes residents;
- 1.12 notes that the budgeted expenditure for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2020/21 is £225.8m, split £89.4m revenue and £136.4m capital, which includes the decent homes and new build programmes;
- 1.13 agrees the HRA budget strategy cut proposals in order to achieve a balanced budget in 2020/21, as attached at Appendix X1;
- 1.14 notes that the Mayor agreed to write off five cases of Former Tenants' Arrears as set out in section 6 and Appendix X7, totalling £60,307.22;

Dedicated Schools Grant and Pupil Premium

- 1.15 agrees, subject to final confirmation of the allocation, that the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant allocation of £ 212.135m be the Schools' Budget (Schools Block) for 2020/21.
- 1.16 notes that the funding in respect of each of the blocks continues to be based on the National Funding Formula. A "soft formula" remains in place for the Schools Block for 2020/21, however Lewisham Council has agreed to mirror the principles of the National Funding Formula to distribute the Schools Budget Share.
- 1.17 agrees that Minimum Funding Guarantee for the schools block be set at a plus 1.84% for 2020/21 as supported by Schools Forum;
- 1.18 notes a reduction in the Central Services Schools Block (CSSB) of £0.776m to £4.645m, previously committed to support additional high needs costs;
- 1.19 notes a provisional increase in the High Needs Block of £4.213m, effectively reduced to a net increase of £3.438m when offset by the CSSB reduction.
- 1.20 notes that schools have raised concern with Lewisham Council, as to the "cost pressures" arising from large numbers of Special Education Needs (SEN) support and Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) and that Schools Forum have agreed:
 - additional funded support for Schools with outlier number of EHCP greater than 3%. It is anticipated that this will affect around eight schools.
 - SEN team to progress pilot working with schools to develop agreed process and strategy for pupils with SEN support who do not have EHCP.
- 1.21 notes a small increase of £16k to the Central Services from the Schools Block component of the DSG for demand led statutory services.
- 1.22 notes that the Early Years Block position is provisional pending January 2019 and 2020 pupil counts; and to further note that within the supplementary funding for Nursery Schools (determined within the Early Years Block) will continue for 2020/21 with an increase of £0.339m.
- 1.23 notes the Department for Education (DfE) has confirmed that the Lewisham hourly rate per pupil for 3 and 4 year olds will increase from £5.62, to £5.70 (i.e. 8p per hour from 2020/21). The hourly rate for 2 year olds will also increase by 8p. Schools Forum has approved the split broadly at 50% to 50% to support

deprivation and inclusion;

- 1.24 notes the Pupil Premium Funding rates for 2020/21 will remain at current levels, set in 2017/18, thereby resulting in a further real term reduction;
- 1.25 notes that the 2020/21 pupil premium allocation will be confirmed pending the January 2020 census.

General Fund Revenue Budget

- 1.26 notes the projected overall variance of £5.4m (or 2%) against the agreed 2019/20 revenue budget of £243.012m as set out in section 8 of this report and that any year-end overspend will be met from corporate reserves and provisions;
- 1.27 endorses the budget cut proposals of £16.6m as per the Mayor and Cabinet meetings of the 21 November 2018, and 30 October 2019, as set out in section 8 of the report and summarised in Appendix Y1;
- 1.28 agrees the allocation of £6.500m in 2020/21 be set aside for corporate risks and pressures;
- 1.29 agrees the allocation of £23.528m of corporate risks and pressures, social care precept, new homes bonus, and social care grant in 2020/21 to be invested in funding quantified budget pressures and opportunities;
- 1.30 agrees that a General Fund Budget Requirement of £248.714m for 2020/21 be approved;
- 1.31 considers and agrees the use of up to £2m of reserves should there be a late change in the final settlement when it is considered by parliament but that if the shortfall is greater than this Council will meet again to set the budget and Council Tax.
- 1.32 agrees to a 3.99% increase in Lewisham's Council Tax element. This will result in a Band D equivalent Council Tax level of £1,314.37 for Lewisham's services and £1,646.44 overall. This represents an overall increase in Council Tax for 2020/21 of 3.91% and is subject to the GLA precept for 2020/21 being increased by £11.56 (i.e. 3.6%) from £320.51 to £332.07, in line with the GLA's budget proposals;
- 1.33 notes the Council Tax Ready Reckoner which for illustrative purposes sets out the Band D equivalent Council Tax at various levels of increase. This is explained in section 8 of the report and is set out in more detail in Appendix Y3;
- 1.34 asks that the Acting Chief Finance Officer issues cash limits to all Directorates once the 2020/21 Revenue Budget is agreed;
- 1.35 Approves the Acting Chief Finance Officer's Section 25 Statement as presented in Appendix Y4;
- 1.36 agrees the statutory calculations for 2020/21 as set out at Appendix Y5;
- 1.37 notes the prospects for the revenue budget for 2021/22 and future years as set out in section 9;
- 1.38 agrees and asks officers to continue to develop firm proposals to redesign and transform services and bring them forward in good time to support the work

towards a cuts round to help plan early and meet the future forecast budget shortfalls;

- 1.39 notes and endorses the Council's continuing participation in the London Business Rates Pool, as approved on the 17 January 2018, for 2020/21.

Other Grants (within the General Fund)

- 1.40 notes the adjustments to and impact of various specific grants for 2020/21 on the General Fund as set out in section 10 of this report;

Treasury Management Strategy

- 1.41 approves the prudential indicators and treasury indicators, as set out in section 11 of this report;
- 1.42 approves the Annual Investment Strategy and Credit Worthiness Policy, set out in further detail at Appendix Z2;
- 1.43 approves the Capital Strategy 2020/21, set out in further detail at Appendix Z5;
- 1.44 approves the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy as set out in section 11 of this report;
- 1.45 agrees to delegate to the Acting Chief Finance Officer authority during 2020/21 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;
- 1.46 approves the credit and counterparty risk management criteria, as set out at Appendix Z2, the proposed countries for investment at Appendix Z3, and that it formally delegates responsibility for managing transactions with those institutions which meet the criteria to the Acting Chief Finance Officer; and
- 1.47 approves a minimum sovereign rating of AA-

65. Response to LGBC draft recommendations

Councillor Chris Best moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Councillor James Walsh and it was then, with one abstention:

RESOLVED that the draft response in Appendix A be approved for submission to the LGBC.

66. Organisational priorities for 2020

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

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the contents of the report and the structural reorganisation at paragraphs 5.2, 5.3 and the background papers be noted; and

(2) the establishment of five new Council posts paid at a level of remuneration on the JNC2 and JNC3 salary scale, as set out in paragraph 5.3, be approved.

67. Delegated Authority to recruit Director for Borough Based Board

The Deputy Mayor moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by the Chair of the Healthier Communities Select Committee, Councillor John Muldoon and it was then unanimously:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the contents of the report be noted; and

(2) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to recruit, select and appoint to the position of Director of Integrated Care and Commissioning.

68. Appointments

Councillor Hilary Moore proposed and Councillor Joan Millbank seconded a proposal that Councillor Kevin Bonavia be appointed to the Strategic Planning Committee during the period of Councillor Joani Reid's parental leave. There being no other nominations it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Kevin Bonavia be appointed to the Strategic Planning Committee to replace Councillor Joani Reid during her parental leave.

69. Motion 1 - Skips - Proposed Cllr Penfold Seconded Cllr Maslin

The motion was moved by Councillor Stephen Penfold and seconded by Councillor Paul Maslin. Following a contribution from Councillor Mark Ingleby, the motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be approved:

“Lewisham Council notes that:

On 3 January 2020 the Local Government Association reported that fly-tipping incidents have increased 50% over the last 6 years, from 714,631 in 2012/13 to 1,072,431 in 2018,19. In Lewisham, Councillors have observed an increase over the last few years with some Councillors reporting fly-tipping on the FixMyStreet app on a daily basis.

Lewisham Council believes that:

Given the increase in fly tipping, noted above, and the necessity for residents to own a car to be able to effectively access the Council tip at Landmann Way, at a time when car use and ownership is being discouraged by the

Council, a new approach to fly-tipping is needed

Lewisham Council resolves to:

Ask officers to investigate the cost of community skips across the borough. It is understood that this scheme should be cost neutral and so officers are also asked to investigate the likely amount of savings that will be delivered as a result of the scheme and any other sources of funding, including best practice in other boroughs and whether existing Lewisham contractors can provide the service under social value provisions. The officers are asked to report back to Councillors within 3 months.”

The meeting closed at 8.51pm