

# MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 3 March 2021 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Damien Egan (Mayor), Obajimi Adefiranye, Tauseef Anwar (Chair), Chris Barnham, Paul Bell, Peter Bernards, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Andre Bourne, Bill Brown, Juliet Campbell, Suzannah Clarke, Patrick Codd, Liam Curran, Brenda Dacres, Amanda De Ryk, Joe Dromey, Colin Elliott, Aisling Gallagher, Leo Gibbons, Alan Hall, Carl Handley, Octavia Holland, 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, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Stephen Penfold, Kim Powell, 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 Olurotimi Ogunbadewa and Councillor Lionel Openshaw.

## 122. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on January 20 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## 123. Declaration of Interests

Councillors Wise, Kalu and Ingleby declared personal interests in Item 7 as Directors of Lewisham Homes.

Councillor Jacq Paschoud declared a personal interest in item 7 as a close relative of a person receiving a package of social care support from the Council, as a Trustee of the Ravensbourne Project and as a Trustee and Governor of the Brent Knoll and Watergate Trust. Councillor John Paschoud made a corresponding declaration as the husband of a Councillor with these interests and also declared a further interest as a Trustee and Governor of Parkwood Hall Co-operative Academy where the Council purchases places for SEN children.

Councillor Johnston-Franklin declared a personal interest in Item 7 as a Council appointed representative on Youth First.

## 124. Announcements or Communications

*Councillor Sue Hordijkeno RIP*

The Mayor led the tributes to Councillor Sue Hordijkeno who has died unexpectedly. The Mayor remembered Councillor Hordijkeno as a particularly nice person who never uttered cross words and who was genuinely excited to fulfil her role as a public representative. He extended his condolences to

Councillor Hordijenko's family.

Councillor Jacq Paschoud, a Ward colleague in Bellingham, praised her as someone who had made a real difference in the community earning a reputation as a problem solver who had tackled a myriad of housing issues.

Councillor Alan Hall, also a Ward colleague, remembered her as a charismatic supporter of local residents exemplified by the support she had given to the family of a murdered young man in the locality. He told of the pride she took in her Irish and Ukrainian roots. He recalled her involvement with the British Science Association which had led to her appearance on Newsnight wearing a dress made from used cigarette ends. She was portrayed as an activist even shortly before her death taking part in the Bell Green picket.

Councillor Caroline Kalu thought of her as a selfless, generous person with an unwavering commitment to family and friends. As a fellow member of the Licensing Committee she had seen how caring and loyal she had been and knew she would be greatly missed.

Councillor Liam Curran said Sue Hordijenko had always commanded attention with her red hair, laugh and generosity. She was a bon vivir, cat lover and fiercely intelligent having been Director of Programmes at the British Science Association. He pointed out the lengthy tributes to her on the BSA website which gave greater depth about her life prior to her 2016 election as a Councillor. Above all, Councillor Curran remembered her as a friend and neighbour.

Councillor Curran then read out a statement prepared by Councillor Hordijenko's cousin and then the Council viewed a musical photographic montage of her life.

All present concluded the tribute by observing a minute of silence.

### ***Councillor Joe Dromey***

The Council noted Councillor Joe Dromey had announced he was to resign from the Council to take on a new full time role as Director of Central London Forward (CLF). Cllr Dromey represented New Cross from 2014 and served as Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs and Skills (job share) from 2018. He also served as Cabinet Member for Policy, Performance and Communications between 2014 and 2018.

### ***London Mayoral and Assembly Member elections – May 2021***

The Council noted the 2021 London Mayoral and Assembly Member elections would be held on Thursday 6 May 2021. The Council was encouraging residents to register to vote by post to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

### ***Census***

The Council noted the next Census Day was Sunday 21 March 2021.

### **International Women's Day**

Councillor Millbank confirmed International Women's Day would take place on Monday 8 March, with this year's theme being 'Choose to Challenge'. Councillor Millbank said details of the programme would be shown at:

<https://www.iamlewisham.uk/>

### **Lewisham Council AGM**

The Speaker confirmed Lewisham Council's AGM had been rescheduled to Wednesday 26 May.

### **125. Petitions**

Councillor Mark Ingleby presented a petition bearing 88 names from residents of Oakshade Road and nearby streets objecting to the re-routing of the 336 bus without consultation, claiming that this had resulted in significant traffic jams.

### **126. Public questions**

54 questions were received from members of the public which were answered by the Cabinet Member indicated. Thirty minutes were made available at the meeting for questioners 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.

### **127. Member questions**

18 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.

### **128. Council Budget 2021-2022**

The Budget proposals were introduced by the Mayor who pointed out that in addition to enforced governmental austerity, the Council also faced the incredible financial strain arising from the Covid 19 pandemic. He believed only the election of a future Labour Government would permit rational budgetary planning to take place. He paid particular thanks to Councillor De Ryk and to the Executive Director for Corporate Resources and her senior staff for their help throughout the budget setting process.

The Mayor confirmed that he was proposing a Council Tax rise of 4.99% and

that a balanced budget would be achieved without calling upon reserves.

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 3 and 10 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 Pat Codd. During the debate on the budget the 5 minute limit on speeches for the Mayor and Councillors De Ryk and Codd was suspended.

Under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was conducted on this item with the following result:

*In favour 47*

Damien Egan (Mayor), Obajimi Adefiranye, Tauseef Anwar (Chair), Chris Barnham, Paul Bell, Peter Bernards, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Andre Bourne, Bill Brown, Juliet Campbell, Suzannah Clarke, Patrick Codd, Liam Curran, Brenda Dacres, Amanda De Ryk, Joe Dromey, Colin Elliott, Aisling Gallagher, Leo Gibbons, Alan Hall, Carl Handley, Octavia Holland, 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, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Stephen Penfold, Kim Powell, James Rathbone, Joani Reid, Sakina Sheikh, Jonathan Slater, Alan Smith, Luke Sorba, Eva Stamirowski, James-J Walsh and Susan Wise.

*Against nil*

*Abstention nil*

- 1.1 RESOLVED that the Council approves the recommendations shown below in respect of the 2021/22 Budget;
- 1.2 That, having considered the views of those consulted on the budget, and subject to proper process, as required, Council:
- 1.3 notes the projected overall variance of £3.2m (or 1.3%) against the agreed 2020/21 revenue budget of £248.714m as set out in section 6 of this report and that any year-end overspend will be met from corporate reserves and provisions;
- 1.4 endorse the budget cut proposals of £28.016m as per the Mayor and Cabinet meetings of the 9 December 2020 and 3 February 2020, as set out in section 6 of the report and summarised in Appendix Y1 and Y2;
- 1.5 agree the allocation of £6.500m in 2021/22 be set aside and use of £1.500m reduced contribution for concessionary fares for corporate risks and pressures;
- 1.6 agree the allocation of £19.685m of corporate risks and pressures, social care precept, new homes bonus, social care grant, lower tier grant and legacy s31

monies in 2021/22 to be invested in funding quantified budget pressures and opportunities, both recurring and once-off as set out in section 6;

- 1.7 agrees a General Fund Budget Requirement of £243.100m for 2021/22 be approved;
- 1.8 agree to a 4.99% increase in Lewisham's Council Tax element. This will result in a Band D equivalent Council Tax level of £1,379.96 for Lewisham's services and £1,743.62 overall. This represents an overall increase in Council Tax for 2021/22 of 5.91% and is subject to the GLA precept for 2021/22 being increased by £31.59 (i.e. 9.5%) from £332.07 to £363.66, in line with the GLA's draft budget proposals;
- 1.9 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 6 of the report and is set out in more detail in Appendix Y4;
- 1.10 approve the Executive Director for Corporate Resources Section 25 Statement at Appendix Y5;
- 1.11 agree the draft statutory calculations for 2021/22 as set out at Appendix Y6;
- 1.12 note the prospects for the revenue budget for 2021/22 and future years as set out in section 6;

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

- 1.13 note the adjustments to and impact of various specific grants for 2021/22 on the General Fund as set out in section 7 of this report;

#### **Dedicated Schools Grant and Pupil Premium**

##### Schools Block

- 1.14 notes that the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant allocation of £222.769m be the Schools' Budget (Schools Block) for 2021/22;
- 1.15 agrees, (as recommended by Schools Forum) the once-off transfer £1.068m of Dedicated Schools Grant to the High Needs Block and the set aside of £1.24m to support schools through measures such as the growth fund and the falling rolls fund;

##### Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

- 1.16 note the construct and allocation of £4.261m for the CSSB block allocation for 2021/22;

##### High Needs Block (HNB)

- 1.17 note the provisional High Needs Block £62.4m to support the Council's statutory duty with regards Special Education Needs. This is a net increase of £5.99m relative to 2020/21;

##### Early Years Block (EYB)

1.18 notes the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant allocation of £24.17m to the block;

#### Pupil Premium

1.19 notes that the pupil premium will continue in the 2021/22 financial year. The funding rates in the year will be same as 2020/21 but the census date has changed to January.

#### **Housing Revenue Account**

1.20 notes the consultation report on service charges to tenants' and leaseholders in the Brockley area, presented to area panel members on 16 December 2020, as attached at Appendix X2;

1.21 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 2020 as attached at Appendix X3;

1.22 sets an increase in dwelling rents of 1.5% (an average of £1.46 per week) – as per the formula rent calculations outlined in section 9 of this report;

1.23 sets an increase in the hostels accommodation charge by 1.5% (or £0.53 per week), in accordance with formula rent calculations;

1.24 approves the following average weekly increases/decreases for dwellings for:

1.24.1 service charges to non-Lewisham Homes managed dwellings (Brockley) to ensure full cost recovery and 2.1% inflationary uplift for 2021/22;

• caretaking	2.10%	(£0.66)
• grounds	2.10%	(£0.80)
• communal lighting	2.10%	(£0.06)
• bulk waste collection	2.10%	(£0.03)
• window cleaning	2.10%	(£0.00)
• tenants' levy	0%	(£0.00)

1.24.2 service charges to Lewisham Homes managed dwellings:

• caretaking	1.99%	(£0.13)
• grounds	1.94%	(£0.04)
• window cleaning	26.00%	(£0.02)
• communal lighting	2.55%	(£0.03)
• block pest control	2.20%	(£0.04)

- waste collection 23.20% (£0.11)
- heating & hot water 1.62% (£0.17)
- tenants' levy 0% (£0.00)
- bulk waste disposal 0.00% (£0.00)
- sheltered housing 0.00% (£0.00)

1.25

approves 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

1.26

approves an increase in garage rents by 1.1% (£0.17 per week) for Brockley and Lewisham Homes residents;

1.27

notes that the budgeted expenditure for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2021/22 is £269.9m, split £117.1m revenue and £152.8m capital, which includes the decent homes and new build programmes;

1.28

agrees the HRA budget strategy cut proposals in order to achieve a balanced budget in 2021/21, as attached at Appendix X1;

### **Treasury Management Strategy**

1.29

approves the prudential indicators and treasury indicators, as set out in section 10 of this report;

1.30

approves the Annual Investment Strategy and Creditworthiness Policy, set out in further detail at Appendix Z2;

1.31

approves the update to the Investment Strategy as set out in section 10 of this report, namely to allow investment in UK building societies with a minimum credit rating of BBB- from Fitch (or equivalent) for up to 3 months, and no more than

£10m per institution;

1.32

notes that the Capital Strategy 2021/22 will be brought forward during the year;

1.33

approves the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy as set out in section 10 of this report;

1.34

agrees to delegate to the Executive Director of Corporate Resources authority during 2021/22 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;

1.35

approves the overall 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 Executive Director for Corporate Resources;

1.36

approves a minimum sovereign rating of AA- for non-UK investments;

### **Capital Programme**

1.37

notes the 2020/21 Quarter 3 Capital Programme monitoring position and the Capital Programme potential future schemes and resources as set out in section 11 of this report;

1.38

notes the significant proposed rise in prudential borrowing of more than £308m by 2023/24, primarily to fund the Building for Lewisham programme capital plans;

1.39

approves the 2021/22 to 2023/24 Capital Programme of £556.3m, as set out in section 11 of this report and attached at Appendices W1 and W2.

## **129. Motions**

The motion was moved by Councillor Sheikh and seconded by Councillor McGeevor . Following a contribution from Councillor Curran the motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

### **Adopting the UN Sustainable Development Global Goals Motion**

#### **Lewisham Council notes:**

(i) The importance of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

that address the global challenges we face including poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation and prosperity.

(ii) That we have a decade of action if we are to deliver the Goals by 2030.

(iii) That in 2019 the cross-party Local Government Association unanimously adopted a motion recognising the vital role that councils could play in planning, implementation and monitoring the UK's progress on meeting the ambitions of the Agenda 2030.

**Lewisham Council believes:**

(i) That all levels of government work together and that local government is a key component to successful domestic implementation of the SDGs.

(ii) The holistic framework the SDGs offers is significant and the importance of looking at the challenges for the planet and people in a holistic and systems way. Each of the goals are intrinsically linked which will require coordinated, multi-disciplinary action.

(iii) That Lewisham Council's existing work complements the priorities of the SDGs. For example, the council's Climate Emergency Action Plan addresses goals: SDG 3 good health and well-being, SDG 7 affordable and clean energy, SDG 10 reduced inequalities, SDG 11 sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12 responsible consumption and production, SDG 13 climate action and SDG 15 life on land.

**Lewisham Council resolves to:**

(i) Lobby central government for them to recognise the vital role local government must play in terms of the planning, implementation and monitoring in local areas, and fully resource councils to do that work, to deliver the UK's progress on meeting the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda.

(ii) Recognising that we will only be able to achieve the Goals by working with local partners, the Council re-commits to engaging our areas through local partnerships and with our citizens to share research and engagement with our networks, partners and citizens, particularly given our sector's continuing funding pressures.

(iii) Formalise our commitment to the Goals and therefore adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), agreeing to pursue the Goals in the work undertaken by the Council.

(iv) Work to map out which targets are relevant using the LGA and UKSSD Sustainable Development Guide.

**130. Executive Composition**

The Mayor informed the Council that the members, listed below, will serve as members of the Cabinet in the remainder of this municipal year.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
Damien Egan	Mayor of Lewisham
Cllr Chris Best	Deputy Mayor of Lewisham and Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care
Cllr Chris Barnham	Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Performance
Cllr Paul Bell	Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning
Cllr Kevin Bonavia	Cabinet Member for Democracy, Refugees and Accountability
Cllr Brenda Dacres	Cabinet Member for Safer Communities
Cllr Sophie McGeevor	Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Cllr Joani Reid	Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs and Skills (job share)
Cllr André Bourne	Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs and Skills (job share)
Cllr Amanda de Ryk	Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources
Cllr Jonathan Slater	Cabinet Member for the Community Sector

**RESOLVED** that the constitution and composition of the Executive for the municipal year 2020/21 be noted.

The meeting closed at 10.04pm