

# MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 25 November 2020 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Damien Egan (Mayor), Obajimi Adefiranye, Tauseef Anwar, Chris Barnham, Paul Bell, Peter Bernards, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Andre Bourne, Bill Brown, Juliet Campbell, Suzannah Clarke, Patrick Codd, Liam Curran, Brenda Dacres, Sophie Davis, Amanda De Ryk, Joe Dromey, Colin Elliott, Aisling Gallagher, Leo Gibbons, Alan Hall, Carl Handley, Sue Hordijkeno, Coral Howard, Mark Ingleby, Liz Johnston-Franklin, Caroline Kalu, Silvana Kelleher, Louise Krupski, Paul Maslin, Sophie McGeevor, Joan Millbank, Hilary Moore, Pauline Morrison, John Muldoon, Olurotimi Ogunbadewa, Lionel Openshaw, Jacq Paschoud (Chair), 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 Octavia Holland and Councillor Jim Mallory.

## 103. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on October 21 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## 104. Declaration of Interests

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

## 105. Announcements or Communications

### *Lewisham Winter Appeal*

The Mayor launched the Lewisham Winter Appeal and called for support to be given which was particularly important in this time of unprecedented pandemic. He indicated details of how to make contributions could be found on the Council's website.

### *White Ribbon Day*

Councillor Brenda Dacres presented this announcement marking November 25 as White Ribbon Day which heralded sixteen days of action to end violence against women.

### *Covid Support for Businesses and Small Business Saturday*

Councillor Joe Dromey made a joint announcement about two Council

supported initiatives designed to support local businesses in a time of economic crisis.

### *Supporting People Experiencing Homelessness*

Councillor Paul Bell presented this announcement and displayed a short video explaining how proxy addresses were generated allowing homeless people to access vital services.

### *Sanctuary Borough*

Councillor Kevin Bonavia was pleased to report Lewisham was on track to become a Borough of Sanctuary for refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants.

### *Free School Meals*

The Council noted measures taken to ensure local children continued to receive free school meals over the school holidays.

## **106. Petitions**

Councillor John Paschoud presented an online petition bearing 861 names which called for a full review of road safety at Mayow Road and proposed a series of safety measures be put in place:

The Speaker indicated his strong support for the petition in his role as a Lewisham representative on the Road Safety Council and he asked the Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm to respond within 14 days.

## **107. Public Questions**

93 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.

## **108. Member Questions**

19 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.

## **109. Statement of Council Accounts**

Councillor Amanda De Ryk, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by

Councillor James Rathbone, Chair of Audit Panel. Following a contribution from Councillor Alan Hall, Councillor Amanda De Ryk agreed to a suggestion that the Audit Panel receive a report on exit packages and it was then unanimously:

RESOLVED that

- (1) the adjustments to the financial statements in the Audit Findings Reports be noted;
- (2) the Action Plans set out in the reports be approved;
- (3) the Letters of Representation on behalf of the Council be approved;
- (4) the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) be approved;
- (5) the 2019/20 audited Statement of Accounts (including Main accounts, Group accounts and Pension Fund accounts) be approved; and
- (6) delegated authority be given to the Executive Director for Corporate Resources approval to make final adjustments to the Statement of Accounts if required by Grant Thornton, prior to the 30 November 2020

## **110. Motions**

The first motion was moved by Councillor Kim Powell and seconded by Councillor Chris Barnham. Following contributions from Councillors Obajimi Adefiranye and Caroline Kalu, the motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

### *Decolonising the Curriculum*

The Macpherson report into the murder of Lewisham resident Stephen Lawrence, published in 1999, asked that “consideration be given to amendment of the national curriculum aimed at valuing cultural diversity and preventing racism, in order better to reflect the needs of a diverse society”.

This Council notes:

- That since the publication of the report, the Government has made relatively little progress in building a curriculum that helps prevent racism. In recent years, history in the national curriculum has if anything been narrowed.
- That conversely, significant progress has been made in Lewisham with regards to “decolonising the curriculum”, and adequately representing Black History as a standardised part of History teaching in our schools.

This Council resolves:

- To write to the Secretary of State for Education, calling on him to urgently review as a matter of priority the current curriculum, ensuring that Black and minority ethnic history is taught across the themes of the history curriculum; teaching about Black civil rights history and reflecting the contribution of Black people across the ages, locally in the UK and more widely.

The second motion was moved by Councillor Susan Wise and seconded by Councillor Sophie Davis. The motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

**RESOLVED** that the following motion be agreed:

The Law Commission is currently reviewing all current hate crime legislation to consider whether any additional characteristics, including sex or gender, should be granted legal protection, and is due to report back to Parliament in 2020. Misogyny, or the hatred of women, is not currently recorded as a hate crime by the vast majority of police forces in the UK, outside of a handful of trial areas.

**Lewisham Council notes:**

- That this review has been put in place thanks to the work and support of Stella Creasy MP, as well as groups such as Citizens UK, HOPE Not Hate, Southall Black Sisters, Tell MAMA UK, and the Fawcett Society.
- That a 2020 Citizens UK report of over 1000 people's experiences showed that 33.5% of hate crimes already have gender as a motivating factor
- That studies have shown that the intersectional nature of discrimination means that women with additional protected characteristics, such as those who are BAME, disabled or LGBT+, are even more likely to experience harassment, discrimination and abuse.
- That the adoption of misogyny as a hate crime was successfully implemented in Nottingham, with analysis showing that the vast majority of people interviewed wanted the scheme to continue, and seven other constabularies have since following suit.

**Lewisham Council resolves:**

- To make a submission to the Law Commission's Consultation at the earliest opportunity in favour of strengthening hate crime legislation and making misogyny a hate crime.
- To call on the Government to urgently act on any recommendations the commission makes to strengthen the law on hate crime.
- To call on the Metropolitan Police Service to record harassment of women as a hate crime, following successful trials in Nottingham and elsewhere.
- To call on the Government to provide the resource and funding for
- police forces across the UK to effectively tackle violence against

women and girls.

The third motion was moved by Councillor Chris Best and seconded by Councillor John Muldoon. The motion was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:

*National Safeguarding Adults Week*

This Council notes that:

National Safeguarding Adults Week is marked each November by the Ann Craft Trust, a national safeguarding charity which supports organisations to safeguard adults and young people at risk. It aims to initiate nationwide conversations around adult safeguarding and draw attention to key safeguarding themes, such as adult grooming, organisational abuse, financial abuse and disability hate crime. In 2019, over 150 organisations supported National Safeguarding Adults Week, helping to raise awareness through social media, podcasts, blogs and community events. Currently, National Safeguarding Adults Week is not officially recognised by Lewisham Council or the Department for Health and Social Care.

This Council believes that:

Everyone has the right to be treated with respect and dignity and we have a vital role to play in raising awareness about adult safeguarding, both in Lewisham and beyond. National Safeguarding Adults Week is an important opportunity to raise awareness about adult safeguarding and we should show our support for it. As a local authority, we should show leadership in this area by working with the Ann Craft Trust to encourage other local authorities to participate and put pressure on the Department for Health and Social Care to recognise this important week.

This Council resolves to:

1. Officially recognise National Safeguarding Adults Week and work with the Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board to help promote it in future years;
2. Work with other Safeguarding Adults Boards, Local Authorities and organisations including the Ann Craft Trust to help increase participation in National Safeguarding Adults Week;
3. Work with other Safeguarding Adults Boards and organisations including the Ann Craft Trust to lobby the Department for Health and Social Care to officially recognise National Safeguarding Adults Week.

## **111. Revised Statement of Licensing Policy**

Councillor Brenda Dacres, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Councillor

Eva Stamirowski, the Chair of the Licensing Committee, and it was then unanimously:

RESOLVED that the revised Statement of Licensing Policy for 2020-2025 be published for implementation with immediate effect.

**112. Approval of the draft Local Plan for public consultation**

Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning moved that the recommendations be approved and this was seconded by Councillor McGeevor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport. Following a contribution from Councillor Suzannah Clarke and a response by the mover, it was then unanimously:

RESOLVED that the following documents be approved for statutory public consultation

(a) Draft Lewisham Local Plan - Regulation 18 stage “main issues and preferred approaches” document (Appendix 1) and the corresponding Proposed Schedule of Changes to the Policies Map (Appendix 2)

(b) Interim Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) (Appendix 3a) and IIA Non-technical Summary (Appendix 3b) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appendix 4)

(c) Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) (Appendix 5)

The meeting closed at 9.33pm