

Council

25 January 2012

Motions

Key to shading:

Bold - additions

~~Strikethrough~~ - deletions

Motion 1: Councillor Ashley Lumsden

The Localism Act

Council applauds the coalition government for the introduction of the Localism Act, which will give power back to councils and local communities to free them to use innovative ideas to improve their neighbourhood and quality of life.

Council welcomes the new powers and rights for local communities, including:

- Community right to challenge

The Act gives voluntary and community groups and local authority employees the right to express an interest in taking over poorly managed services.

- Community right to bid

Local authorities will be required to maintain a list of assets of community value, which have been nominated by the local community. If/when a listed asset comes up for sale or change of ownership, community groups are given the time to develop a bid and raise the money to bid to buy the asset when it is put on the open market.

- Right to approve or veto excessive Council Tax rises

Local communities will be asked to approve or veto any Council Tax rise which is above a limit set by central government.

- Transparency over senior council officers' pay

Councillors will need to vote on and publish a statement on their policies on pay; including the salaries of senior officers and the lowest paid employees.

- Getting rid of fines and charges for rubbish collection

The Act has removed the ability to charge families for overfilling bins and introducing extra charges to taking away household waste. Plus, extra support is being given to councils to continue/offer weekly bin collections.

Council further welcomes the new powers that the Localism Act gives to local authorities:

- General power of competence

Councils will be freed to do anything that an individual can, provided that they do not break the law.

- Abolition of the Standards Board

Local authorities will now draw up their own codes and it will become a criminal offence for councillors to deliberately withhold or misrepresent a financial interest.

- Clarifying the rules on predetermination

The Act makes clear that it's proper for Councillors to be involved in local discussions, such as on planning applications, without fear of legal challenge or accusations of bias.

- Greater control over local business rates

Councils will have more freedom to offer business rate discounts to attract more businesses and jobs.

- Greater powers on housing investment and economic development

Homes and Communities Agency and London Development Agency work will now be the responsibility of the Mayor.

- Other freedoms for Councils

Greater freedoms on how area committees can be set up.

Greater flexibility on how councils can scrutinise the work of other local public bodies, such as the NHS.

The option to change the council's governance system to the Committee system.

Council further welcomes the reforms to the planning system, as a result of the Localism Act:

- Abolition of regional strategies

No longer will central government decide housing targets and development needs for different areas.

- Duty to cooperate

Local authorities and other public bodies – such as other local authorities – will now be required to work together on planning issues that affect all their residents.

- Neighbourhood Planning

A new right for communities to draw up a neighbourhood plan, which can say where new houses, businesses and shops should go, and what they should look like. Local authorities will be required to provide technical advice and support to help neighbourhoods draw up their proposals.

- Community Right to Build

A community organisation formed by the local community, will be able to bring forward development proposals, which if this meets certain minimum criteria and is voted for through a referendum, will be able to go ahead without requiring separate planning permission.

- Requirement to consult communities before submitting certain planning applications

Developers will be required to consult local communities before submitting planning applications for certain developments.

- Strengthening enforcement rules

Local authorities' powers to tackle abuses of the planning system will be strengthened.

- Reforming the Community Infrastructure levy

The Act will allow some of the levy to be spent on things other than infrastructure, will give local authorities greater freedom in setting the rate developers should pay and some of the money raised will have to go to the neighbourhoods where the development takes place.

- Reform the way local plans are made

The Act will limit the discretion of planning inspectors to insert their own wording into local plans and the focus will shift to reporting progress on making plans to local communities rather than to central government.

- Nationally significant infrastructure projects

Decisions on nationally significant infrastructure will now be made by ministers rather than an unelected and unaccountable body (the Infrastructure Planning Commission).

Council also welcomes the reforms to ensure that decisions about housing are taken locally:

- Social housing allocations reform

The Act gives local authorities greater freedom to set their own housing allocation policies; for example councils could set policies that ensure that those who have no need of social housing cannot join a waiting list.

- Reform of council housing finance

Allowing local authorities to keep the rent collected, which will give them a more predictable base on which to plan long-term spending.

- National home swap scheme

Enabling people who would like to swap their social home to access details of all other tenants who might be a suitable match.

- Reform of social housing regulation

Landlords will be expected to support tenant panels – or similar bodies – to give tenants the opportunity to scrutinise the services being offered. There will also be only one Ombudsman for dealing with complaints about social housing.

Council resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to report back to Council with details of what preparations Council is making in order to take advantage of and enact these measures as soon as they come into force.

Amendment 1: Councillor John Whelan

Add at end:

Council notes that the Coalition Government inherited one of the most centralised local government funding systems in the world. It had the perverse effect of creating a dependency mindset in local government, with councils including Lambeth Council under Labour investing their efforts in lobbying central government for funding and demonstrating deprivation, rather than investing in local growth.

The Localism Act will give Lambeth Council a huge incentive to engage with business, actively seek out investment in our local area, and drive

decisions on planning, business regulation, and other local business-facing services. Introducing a business rate retention scheme will allow councils to raise over 80 per cent of their revenues locally and will give the council a tangible stake in supporting local shops and local firms.

Amendment 2: Councillor Clare Whelan

Add at end:

Council notes that the Localism Act complements the Coalition Government's other reforms to council tax: cancelling Labour's council tax revaluation which would have forced up bills for millions of homes; working with local councils such as Lambeth Council to deliver a two-year council tax freeze; and giving Lambeth residents a new right to veto excessive council tax increases. This contrasts with the Labour's approach, which resulted in council tax bills more than doubling.

Amendment 3: Councillor Steve Reed

~~Council applauds~~ **is disappointed that** the coalition government's ~~for the introduction of the~~ Localism Act **is all talk and no action and does not deliver anywhere near as much** ~~which will give~~ power back to councils and local communities **as promised by Eric Pickles and has failed to properly** free them to use innovative ideas to improve their neighbourhood and quality of life. **Council agrees with former Lib Dem Leader Richard Kemp that Lambeth, like other authorities has "...little need of new directions on localism because for years we have been pushing at the bounds of what is legal and what is acceptable to try and involve people to the full.."** most recently through the development and delivery of the Cooperative Council.

Council ~~welcomes~~ **notes** the **token** new powers and rights for local communities, including:

- Community right to challenge

The Act gives voluntary and community groups and local authority employees the right to express an interest in taking over poorly managed services **but Council notes that Lambeth is already working closely with residents to deliver the Cooperative Council and for example, new models of ownership in children's services will be implemented from April 2012.**

- Community right to bid

Local authorities will be required to maintain a list of assets of community value, which have been nominated by the local community. If/when a listed asset comes up for sale or change of ownership, community groups are given the time to develop a bid and raise the money to bid to buy the asset when it is put on the open market **as is**

already happening in Lambeth which has seen the largest asset transfer in the country take place in recent months.

- Right to approve or veto excessive Council Tax rises

Local communities will be asked to approve or veto any Council Tax rise which is above a limit set by central government **but as Labour in Lambeth has frozen council tax four years in a row it is unlikely that residents will have the opportunity to exercise this new power.**

- Transparency over senior council officers' pay

Councillors will need to vote on and publish a statement on their policies on pay; including the salaries of senior officers and the lowest paid employees. **Council also notes that the current Administration had a manifesto commitment to publish expenditure of £1000 or more.**

- Getting rid of fines and charges for rubbish collection

The Act has removed the ability to charge families for overflowing bins and introducing extra charges to taking away household waste. Plus, extra support is being given to councils to continue/offer weekly bin collections **although Council notes that Conservative-led authorities such as Torbay and East Devon are refusing to take up this support and will continue with fortnightly collections and this is further evidence of the government's hypocritical tactics – claiming to be devolving power whilst controlling local government from the centre.**

Council further welcomes the **notes the cautious** new powers that the Localism Act gives to local authorities:

- General power of competence

Councils will be freed to do anything that an individual can, provided that they do not break the law. **Council also notes that local government was already recognised as the most efficient and innovative part of the public sector and that Labour in Lambeth has been driving through an innovative and genuine community agenda, unlike the local Lib Dems with their record of running a highly centralised council when they were in charge.**

- Abolition of the Standards Board

Local authorities will now draw up their own codes and it will become a criminal offence for councillors to deliberately withhold or misrepresent a financial interest.

- Clarifying the rules on predetermination

The Act makes clear that it is proper for Councillors to be involved in local discussions, such as on planning applications, without fear of legal challenge or accusations of bias.

- Greater control over local business rates

Councils will have more freedom to offer business rate discounts to attract more businesses and jobs.

- Greater powers on housing investment and economic development

Homes and Communities Agency and London Development Agency work will now be the responsibility of the Mayor **despite the fact the HCA in London predicted that by 2014/15 the outturn figure of affordable homes either being started or completed would be zero due to government cuts.**

- Other freedoms for Councils **which merely re-enforce the centralising grip of central government rather than localising power.**

Greater freedoms on how area committees can be set up.

Greater flexibility on how councils can scrutinise the work of other local public bodies, such as the NHS.

The option to change the council's governance system to the Committee system.

Council further welcomes the reforms to the planning system, as a result of the Localism Act:

- Abolition of regional strategies

No longer will central government decide housing targets and development needs for different areas **but notes that this is irrelevant in London as the London Plan will remain in place**

- Duty to cooperate

Local authorities and other public bodies – such as other local authorities – will now be required to work together on planning issues that affect all their residents **and council notes that London boroughs have been working together on a range of issues, including planning, for many years. The Vauxhall Nine Elms development is an excellent example of Lambeth working in partnership with Wandsworth and the Mayor of London.**

- Neighbourhood Planning

A new right for communities to draw up a neighbourhood plan, which can say where new houses, businesses and shops should go, and what they should look like. Local authorities will be required to provide technical advice and support to help neighbourhoods draw up their proposals. **Council also welcomes the fact that Lambeth is already working closely with businesses and residents to develop genuine community control.**

- Community Right to Build

A community organisation formed by the local community, will be able to bring forward development proposals, which if this meets certain minimum criteria and is voted for through a referendum, will be able to go ahead without requiring separate planning permission.

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Council also welcomes the reforms to ensure that decisions about housing are taken locally:

- Social housing allocations reform

The Act gives local authorities greater freedom to set their own housing allocation policies; for example councils could set policies that ensure that those who have no need of social housing cannot join a waiting list.

- Reform of council housing finance

Allowing local authorities to keep the rent collected, which will give them a more predictable base on which to plan long-term spending **but at the same time creating significant instability in London as the coalition's housing benefit cuts start to take effect.**

- National home swap scheme

Enabling people who would like to swap their social home to access details of all other tenants who might be a suitable match.

- Reform of social housing regulation

Landlords will be expected to support tenant panels – or similar bodies – to give tenants the opportunity to scrutinise the services being offered. There will also be only one Ombudsman for dealing with complaints about social housing.

Council resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to report back to Council with details of what preparations Council is making in order to take advantage of and enact these measures as soon as they come into force **and identify where greater powers or fewer obstacles would have allowed the Council to more easily deliver the Cooperative Council.**

Amendment 4: Councillor Alex Davies

Add at end:

Council resolves to investigate the case and long-term financial benefits of reducing business rates in areas of the borough with most empty shop units, in order to attract new firms and increase revenue in the long term. Council further resolves to investigate reducing business rates for an introductory period in areas with newly agreed Business Improvement Districts to assist in the transition to higher business rates payments by local businesses.

Amendment 5: Councillor Alex Davies

Add at end:

Council resolves to ensure that the community right to bid is used to assist the Clapham Omnibus Group in their bid to manage the old Clapham Library as a community asset.

Amendment 6: Councillor Alex Davies

Add at end:

Council resolves to develop a policy on how the Council will implement Community Infrastructure Levy to ensure money is a) distributed fairly; b) used near or in communities affected by development; c) made fully transparent with charges made through the levy and spending of it made fully accountable to Members and the public.

Amendment 7: Councillor Ashley Lumsden

Add at end:

Council welcomes the Localism Act for the benefits and powers it brings to local people and their local elected representatives.

Amendment 8: Councillor Jeremy Clyne

Add at end:

Council notes that the funds raised for libraries through Section 106 have been almost non-existent and deplores the failure of the Labour Administration to use the current S106 regime to secure adequate funding for these and other facilities in the borough. Council calls on the Administration to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the new Community Infrastructure Levy to invest in the needs of the borough.

Motion 2: Councillor Lib Peck

Welfare reform

Council continues to be extremely concerned about the very real threat to many Lambeth residents posed by this Tory-Lib Dem government's proposed changes to the welfare system.

Council notes that the impact of welfare reform is likely to be one of the biggest challenges that Lambeth residents and the council will face in the next few years.

Council is particularly concerned about a rise in homelessness and welcomes the cross cutting work that is underway throughout the organisation, such as the Tenancy Rescue Service, to try and prevent people becoming homeless.

Council notes that the consequences of welfare reform are likely to be profound and cumulative for particular groups and welcomes the establishment of the Welfare Reform Cabinet Sub-Group, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Housing, to oversee and drive this agenda and to identify

opportunities to lobby government and work with partners where it will make a difference locally. Council notes that this work has been greatly aided by the Housing Scrutiny Commission on housing benefit which has been chaired by Councillor Imogen Walker.

Council calls on the Tory-Lib Dem coalition to recognise the difficult situations that many hard working families are already facing with increased cost of living, localised deprivation and economic uncertainty. Council also calls on the government to apply some discretion to ensure that we do not unintentionally punish certain groups by applying ill thought out blanket rules to all.

Amendment 1: Councillor Peter Truesdale

Add at end:

This council supports the policy aim that people should be better off in work than on benefits.

Amendment 2: Councillor Ashley Lumsden

Add at end:

Council notes with grave concern the last government's mismanagement of the country's finances that have necessitated changes to the welfare system.

Council reminds Labour Councillors that the last Labour Government recognised the excessive cost of Housing Benefit and had pledged in its manifesto to introduce caps to housing benefit payments.

Council welcomes the proposals for the introduction of a new Universal Credit to unify many complex welfare benefits into a single cost-effective payment, structured to replicate salary payments to help people into work.

Council recognises that the Government is listening to constructive criticism of proposals as shown by the abandonment of the suggestion that Housing Benefit should be cut by 10% for those out of work for one year.

Motion 3: Councillor Sally Prentice

Youth unemployment

Council notes:

- That after breaking the one million barrier in November, youth unemployment rose again in December, reaching its highest level since records began in 1992, at 1.027 million.

- That one in five 16-24 year olds is now looking for a job.
- That in Lambeth there has been a 1.8% increase in 18-24 years olds claiming Job Seekers Allowance between October 2010 and September 2011 and now 1 in 10 young people in this age group is a JSA claimant.

Council further notes that:

- Young people who have worked hard at school, college and university have completed their studies only to find that the Coalition has pulled the rug from underneath them.
- The government's plan for the economy is clearly failing and we need strong, decisive action now to protect the future of young people in this borough.
- Young people need our support, now more than ever, to find further training opportunities or work.

To date, this Administration has supported employment and training opportunities by:

- Working with Tesco and the hub in Streatham to create local employment
- Supporting the 100 in 100 apprenticeships drive and taken on our own apprentices
- Driving inward investment so that companies like TK Maxx bring business and employment opportunities
- Working with the Vauxhall Nine Elms Battersea developers and local Job Centre Plus to ensure local employment opportunities are maximised.

Finally, this Council, in order sign up to London Council's procurement pledge, commits itself to encouraging the creation of jobs and training opportunities through its supply chain.

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Finally, this Council, in order sign up to London Council's procurement pledge, commits itself to encouraging the creation of jobs and training opportunities through its supply chain.

Council welcomes the work being done by the coalition government to help young people into training and work, including:

- **The Youth Contract - a £1bn scheme to help get young people into work or training, including 410,000 new work places for 18-24 year-olds over three years.**
- **Apprenticeships - more than 440,000 new apprenticeships started in 2010/11, a 50% increase on the previous year.**

Motion 4: Councillor Florence Nosegbe

Lambeth's libraries

Council welcomes that this Labour Administration has guaranteed the future of Lambeth's library service despite savage Government cuts. Council notes that the Tory-Lib Dem Government has chosen to hit Lambeth harder than many other boroughs and other boroughs in London have closed as many as half their libraries. Council values Lambeth's libraries and the benefits they bring to young readers, adult learners and many others. Council notes that this Labour Administration will protect the library service in every part of the borough by working more closely with the local community as part of our plan to make Lambeth Britain's first cooperative council.

Council is excited about the brand new library opening in Clapham early in the new year. Council notes that this is a significant achievement particularly in the current economic circumstances and it is being delivered at no capital cost to the tax payer. It will be a flagship facility for Lambeth residents providing

not only a brand new library but also a state-of-the-art leisure centre and swimming pool. Council welcomes the improvements that will be made to libraries as a result of the Libraries Commission. Every library will be upgraded with WiFi and self service technology. Council would like to thank the Commissioners for their hard work, energy, insight and enthusiasm.

While other boroughs have been forced to close libraries thanks to Government funding cuts, in Lambeth the Labour Administration has found a better way. Council welcomes that Lambeth's library service is secure for the future.

Amendment 1: Councillor Alex Davies

Add at end:

Council regrets that the Cabinet Member responsible for libraries was unable to confirm, when pressed at a meeting of the Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee that at least nine libraries will continue to operate in Lambeth. Council notes that the clear corollary of the Cabinet Member's refusal to confirm nine as a minimum number of libraries in Lambeth is that the this Labour Administration intends to follow in the footsteps of the 1998-2002 Labour Council, which tried to close five community libraries, including South Lambeth, Carnegie and Durning, and succeeded in closing Streatham Vale and Clapham Park Libraries.

Amendment 2: Councillor Jeremy Clyne

~~Council welcomes that~~ **calls on** this Labour Administration ~~has to~~ guaranteed the future of Lambeth's library service ~~despite savage Government cuts.~~ Council notes that ~~the Tory Lib Dem Government has chosen to hit Lambeth harder than many other boroughs and other boroughs in London have closed as many as half their libraries.~~ **the latest proposals by Labour councillors to close down the borough's libraries follow the closures and planned closure programme under a previous Labour administration.** Council values Lambeth's libraries and the benefits they bring to young readers, adult learners and many others. Council ~~notes that~~ **calls on** this Labour Administration ~~will to~~ protect the library service in every part of the borough ~~by~~ **and to start** working ~~more closely~~ with the local community, **with library Friends and library staff** ~~as part of our plan to make Lambeth Britain's first cooperative council.~~ **to enhance and protect this vital service.**

~~Council is excited about~~ **notes** the brand new library **facility** opening in Clapham ~~early in the new year.~~ **but will be curious to see how the very unusual design will function as a library, and is concerned that this facility is not simply another headline-grabbing vanity project of the sort favoured by this Labour administration.** Council notes that this is a significant achievement particularly in the current economic circumstances and it is being delivered at no capital cost to the tax payer. ~~It will be a flagship facility for Lambeth residents providing not only a brand new library but also a~~

~~state of the art~~ Council welcomes the return of swimming to Clapham with the opening of the new leisure centre and swimming pool but notes that to build it Labour demolished the existing pool, closed down swimming in Clapham for 18 months (at the same time as shutting the Streatham pool) after a dishonest and misleading attack on an existing proposal that would have ensured continuity of swimming in Clapham. Council ~~welcomes the improvements that will be made to libraries as a result~~ notes with concern the recommendations of the Libraries Commission and observes with alarm that this Labour administration has decided that not a single library in Lambeth, apart from Brixton, is safe from closure, relocation or replacement; apart from Brixton and Streatham no library is safe from being turned into a so-called “library service point” in a “community hub”. ~~Every library will be upgraded with~~ Council notes the proposal to introduce WiFi and self service technology and demands that the Administration begin investing in all aspects of the neglected library service, including the book stock and the state of the buildings. Council would like to ~~thank the Commissioners for their hard work, energy, insight and enthusiasm.~~ is concerned at the lack of independence of the Libraries Commission, which was chaired by the Cabinet Member for Culture and Sport - the commissioners included three Labour Cabinet members but not a single representative of the library staff or opposition Party, or even a backbench Member.

~~While other boroughs have been forced to close libraries thanks to Government funding cuts,~~ With the West Norwood library closed down owing to Labour neglect and replaced with a grossly inadequate and inconvenient temporary outlet, with the Upper Norwood library facing closure because of a failure to negotiate with Croydon in Lambeth and with other library buildings in a crumbling and dilapidated state, Council condemns the Labour Administration ~~has found a better way.~~ for its neglect of the borough’s libraries. Council ~~welcomes that~~ is deeply fearful for the future of the Lambeth’s library service. ~~is secure for the future.~~ under this Labour administration.

Motion 5: Councillor Alex Bigham

Vauxhall Nine Elms Battersea

Council notes that this Labour Administration will ensure that local residents get the maximum benefit from the regeneration proposals for Vauxhall Nine Elms Battersea. We will ensure that the necessary infrastructure and public services will be provided for local residents affected by the developments. Council notes that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to transform this riverside community and this means ensuring the developers make a substantial contribution to improving our local parks infrastructure, sports pitches, leisure centre and other key services that are accessible to all. Council will ensure that young people across the area have the chance to access new jobs, education and training opportunities. Council notes that this Labour Administration will develop a new Community Endowment Fund of at

least £1million which will provide an annual pot of money for local groups to ensure that the benefits of the regeneration continue after the building has finished. In addition, funding that comes from new developments for improving the community will be ring fenced so it cannot be used to cross subsidise any overspend on the planned Northern Line Extension.

In transport, this Labour Administration pledges to support:

- An extended Northern line to run from Kennington to Nine Elms and Battersea
- New bus services along Wandsworth Road and Nine Elms Lane.
- A cycle bridge at Pimlico and new boat services.
- New walkways and improved access to the river.
- The extension of the Transport for London bike hire scheme further South through Oval and Stockwell.
- Traffic calming measures and other improvements to allow the smooth flow of traffic and prevent 'rat runs' through residential areas.

To protect open spaces, this Labour Administration pledges to:

- Preserve and improve Vauxhall Park, Spring Gardens and Larkhall Park.
- Support a new linear park which will run through the development area.
- Lobby Transport for London to remove the Vauxhall gyratory to improve the area for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Ensure that any new tall buildings do not have a detrimental effect on quality of life by significantly overshadowing parks and other buildings.

In public services and culture, this Labour Administration pledges to:

- Create extra school places, support the provision of more doctors and efforts to ensure hospital services are not adversely affected.
- Support efforts to ensure police numbers reflect the population growth and that police are not diverted by protecting the new US Embassy.
- Develop new cultural provision in the area, including events in the linear park and new cultural spaces.
- Support library services and the arts, media and music.

- Provide extra sports and leisure provision such as community centres, multi-use sports pitches and school sports facilities.

To support local businesses and jobs, this Labour Administration pledges to:

- Support the creation of 25,000 new jobs in the area.
- Ensure developers offer apprenticeships for young Lambeth residents and the long-term unemployed.
- Work to provide new spaces for retail outlets and street markets.

Amendment 1: Councillor Ishbel Brown

Council ~~notes that this Labour Administration will ensure~~ **recognises the importance of ensuring** that local residents get the maximum benefit from the regeneration proposals for Vauxhall Nine Elms Battersea. ~~We will~~ **Council therefore resolves to work with partners to** ensure that the necessary infrastructure and public services will be provided for local residents affected by the developments.

However, Council is concerned that the absence of a coherent plan makes it difficult to determine what the infrastructure and public services requirements are.

Council notes that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to transform this riverside community and this means ensuring the developers make a substantial contribution to improving our local parks infrastructure, sports pitches, leisure centres, **as well as providing contributions for schools and health services** and other key services that are accessible to all.

In order to understand the needs, Council resolves to undertake consultation with the local community to ensure that the area is developed in a way sympathetic to the current residents.

Council will ensure that young people across the area have the chance to access new jobs, education and training opportunities. Council notes that this Labour Administration will develop a new Community Endowment Fund of at least £1million which will provide an annual pot of money for local groups to ensure that the benefits of the regeneration continue after the building has finished. In addition, funding that comes from new developments for improving the community will be ring fenced so it cannot be used to cross subsidise any overspend on the planned Northern Line Extension. **Council is concerned at the high percentage of S106 money that is going towards the Northern Line Extension and not into community infrastructure, as the Northern Line Extension is not in fact privately financed.**

In transport, this Labour Administration pledges to support:

- An extended Northern line to run from Kennington to Nine Elms and Battersea

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- Traffic calming measures and other improvements to allow the smooth flow of traffic and prevent 'rat runs' through residential areas.

To protect open spaces, this Labour Administration pledges to:

- Preserve and improve Vauxhall Park, Spring Gardens and Larkhall Park.
- Support a new linear park which will run through the development area **and ensure that the linear park is in fact a park that can be used and enjoyed and not just an avenue of trees.**
- Lobby Transport for London to remove the Vauxhall gyratory to improve the area for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Ensure that any new tall buildings do not have a detrimental effect on quality of life by significantly overshadowing parks and other buildings.

In public services and culture, this Labour Administration pledges to:

- Create extra school places, support the provision of more doctors and efforts to ensure hospital services are not adversely affected.
- Support efforts to ensure police numbers reflect the population growth and that police are not diverted by protecting the new US Embassy.
- Develop new cultural provision in the area, including events in the linear park and new cultural spaces.
- Support library services and the arts, media and music.
- Provide extra sports and leisure provision such as community centres, multi-use sports pitches and school sports facilities.

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- Work to provide new spaces for retail outlets and street markets.

Amendment 2: Councillor Roger Giess

Council notes that this Labour Administration will ensure that local residents get the maximum benefit from the regeneration proposals for Vauxhall Nine Elms Battersea. We will ensure that the necessary infrastructure and public services will be provided for local residents affected by the developments. Council notes that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to transform this riverside community and this means ensuring the developers make a substantial contribution to improving our local parks infrastructure, sports pitches, leisure centre and other key services that are accessible to all. Council will ensure that young people across the area have the chance to access new jobs, education and training opportunities. Council notes that this Labour Administration will develop a new Community Endowment Fund of at least £1million which will provide an annual pot of money for local groups to ensure that the benefits of the regeneration continue after the building has finished. In addition, funding that comes from new developments for improving the community will be ring fenced so it cannot be used to cross subsidise any overspend on the planned Northern Line Extension.

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- The extension of the Transport for London bike hire scheme further South through Oval and Stockwell.
- Traffic calming measures and other improvements to allow the smooth flow of traffic and prevent 'rat runs' through residential areas.
- **Whatever the outcome of the possible extension to the Northern Line to Battersea, Council affirms its desire to see extension of the Underground network southwards in Lambeth to serve Streatham and resolves to take all appropriate steps to set out and lobby for this outcome.**

To protect open spaces, this Labour Administration pledges to:

- Preserve and improve Vauxhall Park, Spring Gardens and Larkhall Park.
- Support a new linear park which will run through the development area.

- Lobby Transport for London to remove the Vauxhall gyratory to improve the area for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Ensure that any new tall buildings do not have a detrimental effect on quality of life by significantly overshadowing parks and other buildings.

In public services and culture, this Labour Administration pledges to:

- Create extra school places, support the provision of more doctors and efforts to ensure hospital services are not adversely affected.
- Support efforts to ensure police numbers reflect the population growth and that police are not diverted by protecting the new US Embassy.
- Develop new cultural provision in the area, including events in the linear park and new cultural spaces.
- Support library services and the arts, media and music.
- Provide extra sports and leisure provision such as community centres, multi-use sports pitches and school sports facilities.

To support local businesses and jobs, this Labour Administration pledges to:

- Support the creation of 25,000 new jobs in the area.
- Ensure developers offer apprenticeships for young Lambeth residents and the long-term unemployed.
- Work to provide new spaces for retail outlets and street markets.

Motion 6: Councillor Matthew Bennett

Upper Norwood Joint Library

Council notes with regret the decision of the Conservative Administration in Croydon to withdraw all funding from the Upper Norwood Joint Library and to withdraw, without the required twelve month notice period, from the Upper Norwood Joint Library Agreement following eighteen months in which they have sought to exclude local community representatives from the governance of the library. Council shares in the concerns of library users, staff and the wider Upper Norwood community at Croydon's approach to the library.

In contrast, Council notes that the Lambeth Libraries Commission and the subsequent Cabinet report clearly restated Lambeth's commitment to the Upper Norwood Library. Council joins with the local community and ward councillors in backing the Lambeth's Administration's call for Croydon to return to the negotiating table with the necessary funding to secure a viable future for the Upper Norwood Library.

Amendment 1: Councillor Ashley Lumsden

Add at end:

Council regrets the deliberate non-attendance of the Labour Councillors from Lambeth appointed to the Upper Norwood Joint Library Committee - action taken without first considering legal advice and action which prompted Croydon Council to start termination proceedings. Council considers that those Labour Councillors have failed in their duty to the borough to do all possible to secure the future of the Upper Norwood Joint Library.

Motion 7: Councillor John Whelan

Reducing the cost to the taxpayer of trade union representation in Lambeth

Council welcomes the commitment by Human Resources officers to forward proposals to reduce the costs of trade union representation which it regrets have reached astronomic proportions. After a six month delay to Members Enquiries about the numbers of union officials and Freedom of Information requests, answers about the true cost of the arrangements were finally produced by Lambeth officers. They showed that a total of £317,517 a year is spent on salaries, pensions, and on costs for 9.7 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) from the Unison, GMB, and Unite unions. In addition, £141,411 is spent to support 2.6 FTEs from the teaching unions – principally the NUT and the NASUWT. Officers said in response to the FOI by Councillor Clare Whelan that indirect costs were “not easily quantifiable” but on appeal to the Executive Director of Finance and Resources an estimated cost of £4,600 per FTE in indirect costs for office support, equipment and communication costs was finally provided on 20 December 2011.

Council is grateful that these costs have now been disclosed. However, members are appalled that in a time of budget reductions and austerity in the public sector Lambeth Council is paying £503,548 a year to subsidise trade union officials. Comparable figures for the London Borough of Southwark and London Borough of Wandsworth released under FOI to the Taxpayers Alliance and published on the Web are £126,866 and £49,927 respectively (excluding indirect costs).

Council recognises that unions have a role to play in representing the views of their members but considers that it is intrinsically unfair for Lambeth taxpayers to be shouldering this bloated burden for political activists whose unions pay 89p for every £1 given to the Labour Party nationally. Council believes that trade unions should pay for representation within public sector organisations themselves, using their subscription income from their members who are not forced to join or indeed go on strike. Council considers that the right way forward is for the voluntary members of trade unions to fund their unions’

political activity rather than the taxpayer and looks forward to a new approach in 2012-2013.

Amendment 1: Councillor Jackie Meldrum

Council welcomes the commitment by **management** ~~Human Resources officers~~ to forward proposals to reduce the costs of trade union representation ~~which it regrets have reached astronomic proportions. After Council regrets~~ a six month delay to Members Enquiries about the numbers of union officials and Freedom of Information requests, answers about the true cost of the arrangements were finally produced by Lambeth officers. They showed that a total of £317,517 a year is spent on salaries, pensions, and on costs for 9.7 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) from the Unison, GMB, and Unite unions. In addition, £141,411 is spent to support 2.6 FTEs from the teaching unions – principally the NUT and the NASUWT. Officers said in response to the FOI by Councillor Clare Whelan that indirect costs were “not easily quantifiable” but on appeal to the Executive Director of Finance and Resources an estimated cost of £4,600 per FTE in indirect costs for office support, equipment and communication costs was finally provided on 20 December 2011.

Council is grateful that these costs have now been disclosed. However, members are ~~appalled~~ **recognise** that in a time of budget reductions and austerity in the public sector ~~Lambeth Council is paying £503,548 a year to subsidise trade union officials~~ **is a cost effective way to deal with industrial relations in the workplace. Massive cuts, too far too fast, forced on Lambeth by the government have resulted in unprecedented staff changes and restructurings where unions play an important role in scrutinising job plans, making amendments and supporting individual members through life changing decisions. They also perform excellent work on health and safety and basic skills training at minimal cost to council.**

Although ~~Comparable figures for the London Borough of Southwark and London Borough of Wandsworth released under FOI to the Taxpayers Alliance and published on the Web~~ **suggest that they pay** ~~are £126,866 and £49,927 respectively (excluding indirect costs)~~ **the same data suggests that Croydon and Havering have a higher number of union officials than Lambeth, so making simple comparisons between councils can be misleading. Council fully commits to the principle that as the number of staff at the local authority reduce, there should be a corresponding reduction in union FTE and indirect costs.**

Council recognises that unions have a **very important** role to play in representing the views of their members ~~but~~ **and** considers that it is ~~intrinsically~~ **would be** unfair for Lambeth taxpayers to be **paying** ~~shouldering this bloated burden for any political activists. That is why Lambeth Council does not pay a penny towards the political activity of Unions. whose unions pay 89p for every £1 given to the Labour Party nationally. Council believes that working with the trade unions should pay for representation within public sector organisations themselves, is beneficial and can result in~~

improved business performance. ~~using their subscription income from their Council staff members who are~~ **should not be forced, against their will,** to join or indeed go on strike. **and** Council considers that the right way forward is for the ~~voluntary members of trade unions to~~ **continue to work constructively with the Council as we mutually** ~~fund their unions' political activity rather than the taxpayer and looks forward to~~ **find** a new approach in 2012-2013.

Motion 8: Councillor Peter Truesdale

ALMO Performance

Council notes with frustration that in the various risk, audit and performance reports presented to Corporate Committee on 8 December 2011, Lambeth's ALMOs were quite clearly shown as the worst performing services.

Council is concerned that the *Lambeth Living-HRE shared risk register* states that the following areas are high or medium risk:

- 'Governance of TMO's is not clear' because the '[r]ole and responsibilities for TMOs between HRE, LL and TMOs is not defined to mutual satisfaction.'
- 'Effectiveness and Value for Money (VfM) of new contractors does not deliver' because of '[p]oor performance by suppliers. Weak commercial management by LL due to staff / skill shortages'
- 'Improving Resident satisfaction against an ongoing difficulty to complete some repairs.'

Furthermore, the *United Residents Housing-HRE shared risk register* states that the following areas are high or medium risk:

- 'Negotiate (sic) 1 year capital and planned Allowances' which means that the '[l]ack of funding has implications for stock condition and progress towards achieving DH...URH overspent on 5 year capital allocation and presently in negotiations.' (sic)
- 'Lack of Fire risk Assessments and Fire safety.'
- 'Lack of Decent Homes Strategy/ Stock condition data.'
- 'Failure to deliver capital and planned programmes on time.'
- 'Partnership relations/ Governance arrangements- Protocal (sic) between URH and the TMOs.'
- 'Lack of effective planning to ensure URH viability abd (sic) success going forward.'

Council is hugely disappointed, although unsurprised, that the *Corporate Complaints Digest 2011-12* lists the continued failure of Lambeth Living to deal with complaints and Members' Enquiries:

- 'Focusing on Lambeth Living the performance is not as positive...the volume of complaints at Stage 1 and 2 have increased and the number of complaints upheld at all stages (including LGO) has increased. This

suggests that while complaints are being answered there is still an issue about quality and about actually resolving the complaint.'

- 'All departments of the council achieved the corporate target...[i]n contrast performance in the ALMOs has worsened with both showing significant increases in the volume of escalated complaints. This suggests that Stage 1 Complaints are not being resolved to the satisfaction of customers who feel the need to escalate their complaint.'
- 'As with MEs, there was a consistent backlog of unanswered and overdue S1s during the first six months of the year, predominantly with LL.'
- 'Most significantly there was a 25% reduction in the number of S2s received about council departments. This was a result of HRE resolving more complaints at S1. In contrast LL had a 16% increase in S2s in the same period.'
- 'The overall figure, including the ALMOs, was rather less positive with only 84% of S2s responded to on time. This was due to poor performance by LL who only responded to 77% of S2s within 15 working days.'
- 'Poor performance in responding to S3s about LL was due to the lack of quality, timely information being received from LL.'
- 'Including the ALMOs 37% of S3s were upheld or part upheld. This was largely due to LL where 58% of S3s had some aspect of the complaint upheld.'
- '...the Ombudsman felt it necessary to issue a report of maladministration against the council. The report related to three repairs cases that the Ombudsman investigated (all captured under one report) and found that there had been significant failings in the way LL had dealt with these cases.'
- 'During the first six months of 2010-11 the Ombudsman made decisions on 62 cases involving Lambeth, including the ALMOs. Of these, 18 were 'upheld', representing 29% of the overall total. This exceeds the national average for 2010-11 of 27.1% (the last year for which we have figures). That said, it is an improvement on our own performance last year when 35% of complaints were upheld and does suggest that we are 'moving in the right direction'. There is still a concern with LL where 47% of decisions were upheld, although this, too, does represent an improvement.'
- 'In the first six months of the year a total of £42,803.01 was paid in compensation in 92 separate cases. The majority of this money (£25,062.60) related to complaints made against LL.'

Council despairs that this poor performance is also seen in Lambeth Living's response to audit reviews and that the report on *Management responsiveness to Audit Reviews and Investigations* sets out that Lambeth Living failed to respond on time to all of the audit reports sent to them and that of the audits completed, the assurance score awarded was either 'none', 'limited' or 'moderate'.

Finally, Council is despondent that problems with the ALMOs are also reported in the *Whistleblowing activity update November 2011*, such as the:

- ‘...prosecution of the former senior board member of an ALMO (the then Chair of Lambeth Living Board, Asuman Ozkan), resulting in a sentence of 65 weeks imprisonment, suspended for 2 years.’
- ‘Corrective actions have been recommended and/or taken at three TMOs/RMOs to ensure proper governance and financial management practices are in place.’
- ‘Three complaints were received around malpractices at Tenant Management Organisations, which triggered major reviews of TMOs operations and the clienting framework executed by Lambeth Living, URH and HRE.’

Council resolves to report back to the next Full Council meeting with details of how the administration intends to secure improvements.

Amendment 1: Councillor Lib Peck

Council notes ~~with frustration that in the various risk, audit and performance reports presented to Corporate Committee on 8 December 2011 regarding Lambeth’s ALMOs were quite clearly shown as the worst performing services.~~

Council ~~is concerned~~ **notes** that the *Lambeth Living-HRE shared risk register* ~~states that~~ **refers to** the following areas ~~are high or medium risk:~~

- ~~‘Governance of TMO’s is not clear’ because the ‘[r]ole and responsibilities for TMOs between HRE, LL and TMOs is not defined to mutual satisfaction.’~~ **where a huge amount has been done and all TMOs have undergone health checks to properly identify and address historical issues.**
- ~~‘Effectiveness and Value for Money (VfM) of new contractors does not deliver’ because of ‘[p]oor performance by suppliers. Weak commercial management by LL due to staff / skill shortages’~~ **and notes that progress is being made with an increased number of repairs being completed compared to this time last year**
- ~~‘Improving Communication with Residents satisfaction against an ongoing difficulty to complete some repairs.’~~ **continues to improve.**

Council also notes that as reported to the Housing Performance Cabinet Advisory Panel (HPCAP) in November 2011, both URH and Lambeth Living are performing above target in the following areas:

Lambeth Living

- **Rent Collection (in-year)**
- **BV66a - % Rent and Arrears Collected**
- **DHS 9 - % Service Charge Collection (Day-by-day)**
- **Service charge Collection (Section 20)**
- **Total number of Empty Homes**
- **BV212 - Average Time taken to Relet Homes**
- **% Stage 1 Complaints (15 working days)**
- **% Stage 2 Complaints (10 working days)**

- MEs

URH

- BV66a - % Rent and Arrears Collected
- Rent Collection (in-year)
- Former Tenant Rent Arrears
- BV212 - Average time to re-let empty homes
- Number of Squatted homes
- Number of unauthorised occupants
- MEs
- % Stage 2 Complaints (10 working days)

Council also notes that as reported to HPCAP in November 2011 URH and Lambeth Living are reaching performance targets set in the following areas:

Lambeth Living

- % RTR completed on time
- Gas Servicing (non-compliance)
- Number of Squatters

URH

- % Stage 1 Complaints (15 working days)

Furthermore, the *United Residents Housing-HRE shared risk register* states that **refers to** the following areas: ~~are high or medium risk:~~

- 'Negotiate (sic) 1 year capital and planned Allowances' which means that the '[I]ack of funding has implications for stock condition and progress towards achieving DH...URH overspent on 5 year capital allocation and presently in negotiations.' (sic)
- ~~'Lack of Fire risk Assessments~~ **have been completed** and Fire safety **issues addressed.**
- ~~'Lack of Decent Homes Strategy/ Stock condition data.'~~ **The Lifespan database has been updated and URH has undertaken a series of surveys on Loughborough as part of the DH / CESP work.**
- ~~'Failure to deliver capital and planned programmes on time.'~~ **To date the Decent Homes programme is on schedule**
- ~~'Partnership relations/ Governance arrangements- Protocol (sic) between URH and the TMOs.'~~ **a Performance management framework is now in place between URH and its partner TMOs**
- ~~'Lack of effective planning to ensure URH viability and (sic) success going forward.'~~

Council **also notes** ~~is hugely disappointed, although unsurprised,~~ that the *Corporate Complaints Digest 2011-12* lists the ~~continued failure of a~~ **snapshot of Lambeth Living's performance in** ~~to dealing~~ with complaints and Members' Enquiries:

- ~~'Focusing on Lambeth Living the performance is not as positive...the volume of complaints at Stage 1 and 2 have increased and the number of complaints upheld at all stages (including LGO) has increased. This suggests that while complaints are being answered there is still an issue about quality and about actually resolving the complaint.'~~
~~'All departments of the council achieved the corporate target...[i]n contrast performance in the ALMOs has worsened with both showing significant increases in the volume of escalated complaints. This suggests that Stage 1 Complaints are not being resolved to the satisfaction of customers who feel the need to escalate their complaint.'~~
- ~~'As with MEs, there was a consistent backlog of unanswered and overdue S1s during the first six months of the year, predominantly with LL.'~~
- ~~'Most significantly there was a 25% reduction in the number of S2s received about council departments. This was a result of HRE resolving more complaints at S1. In contrast LL had a 16% increase in S2s in the same period.'~~
- ~~'The overall figure, including the ALMOs, was rather less positive with only 84% of S2s responded to on time..This was due to poor performance by LL who only responded to 77% of S2s within 15 working days.'~~
- ~~'Poor performance in responding to S3s about LL was due to the lack of quality, timely information being received from LL.'~~
- ~~'Including the ALMOs 37% of S3s were upheld or part upheld. This was largely due to LL where 58% of S3s had some aspect of the complaint upheld.'~~
- ~~'...the Ombudsman felt it necessary to issue a report of maladministration against the council. The report related to three repairs cases that the Ombudsman investigated (all captured under one report) and found that there had been significant failings in the way LL had dealt with these cases.'~~
- ~~'During the first six months of 2010-11 the Ombudsman made decisions on 62 cases involving Lambeth, including the ALMOs. Of these, 18 were 'upheld', representing 29% of the overall total. This exceeds the national average for 2010-11 of 27.1% (the last year for which we have figures). That said, it is an improvement on our own performance last year when 35% of complaints were upheld and does suggest that we are 'moving in the right direction'. There is still a concern with LL where 47% of decisions were upheld, although this, too, does represent an improvement.'~~
- ~~'In the first six months of the year a total of £42,803.01 was paid in compensation in 92 separate cases. The majority of this money (£25,062.60) related to complaints made against LL.'~~
- **Corporate complaints advise that even though the volumes of ME has risen in 2011/12 year to date 88% are responded to on time compares to 74% in 2010/11.**
- **Stage 1 and Stage complaint handling has also increased from 72% and 66% in 2010/11 respectively to 87% and 80% in 2011/12.**

- **Whilst percentage wise this may not be seen as significantly high it is a marked improvement from 2009/10 when LL were sporting a backlog of Complaints, ME etc.**

~~Council despairs that this poor performance is also seen in notes Lambeth Living's response to audit reviews and that the report on *Management responsiveness to Audit Reviews and Investigations* sets out that Lambeth Living failed to respond on time to all of the audit reports sent to them and that of the audits completed, the assurance score awarded was either 'none', 'limited' or 'moderate'.~~

- **A more rigorous monitoring of TMO governance and financial probity has been introduced by both LL and URH in 2011/12 to address and strengthen underlying weaknesses identified by the PWC Audits carried out in 2010/11**
- **A Governance workshop is planned for all 15 TMOs in February 2012, to focus on best practice financial probity and good governance**
- **Both ALMOs will be tasked with supporting TMOs in achieving NAFTMO Kitemark which amongst other things assesses TMOs against industry standard and best practice in terms of board governance, financial probity and risk management**

~~Finally, Council is despondent~~ **recognizes** that problems with the ALMOs are also reported in the *Whistleblowing activity update November 2011*, **and are being tackled robustly rather than ignored as was the case when the Lib Dems ran the council** ~~such as the:~~

- '...prosecution of the former senior board member of an ALMO (the then Chair of Lambeth Living Board, Asuman Ozkan), resulting in a sentence of 65 weeks imprisonment, suspended for 2 years.'
- 'Corrective actions have been recommended and/or taken at three TMOs/RMOs to ensure proper governance and financial management practices are in place.'
- 'Three complaints were received around malpractices at Tenant Management Organisations, which triggered major reviews of TMOs operations and the clienting framework executed by Lambeth Living, URH and HRE.'

~~Council resolves to report back to the next Full Council meeting with details of how the administration intends to secure~~ **notes that the Housing Performance Cabinet Advisory Panel meets regularly to monitor improvements and the performance of URH and Lambeth Living and that membership of this panel includes the Chair of Tenants Council.**

Amendment 2: Councillor John Whelan

Add at end:

Council is further concerned about instances where Lambeth Living fails to conclude consideration of a stage 1 or stage 2 complaint making

it extremely difficult for tenants or leaseholders to refer the matter to the Ombudsman. Even more worrying is a case where Lambeth Living simply failed to act on advice tendered by Lambeth Legal Services aimed at seeking to settle a dispute over rent for a family decanted due to major repairs which is currently being investigated by the Ombudsman.

Motion 9: Councillor Alex Davies

Street Cleaning

Council notes with concern the serious decline in street cleanliness in the borough following the cuts to cleaning services implemented by the Labour Administration. Council notes that the Chief Executive took the unprecedented step to write to staff telling them that the streets were so litter-strewn he was reduced to picking up litter himself.

Council believes that Lambeth's streets are too dirty and believes that the frequency of street sweeping and litter clearing in our Town Centres and residential roads is too low.

Council resolves to increase the frequency of street cleaning in both town centres and residential side roads with immediate effect.

Amendment 1: Councillor Lorna Campbell

Council notes ~~that ensuring~~ with concern the serious decline in street cleanliness in the borough **is very important for our residents** following the cuts to cleaning services implemented by the Labour Administration. Council notes ~~that the Chief Executive took the unprecedented step to write to staff telling them that the streets were so litter-strewn he was reduced to picking up litter himself.~~

Council ~~believes~~ **notes that this labour administration is committed to that keeping** Lambeth's streets **clean with regular** ~~are too dirty and believes that the frequency of street sweeping and litter clearing in our Town Centres and residential roads is too low—~~ despite the pressures from government cuts.

Council ~~resolves~~ **notes that there is a budget proposal** to increase the frequency of **night time** street cleaning in both town centres and residential side roads with immediate effect **and other areas that suffer from the impact of the night time economy.**

Motion 10: Councillor Christine Barratt

Post Offices

Council welcomes the fact that after more than 20 years of reductions of service and closure of Post Offices the current government is investing £1.34 billion to stabilise, improve and extend the services of Post Offices throughout the UK.

It notes the recent request from Post Office Minister Edward Davey for councils to enter into strategic relationships with the Post Office to:

- Review the current location of Post Offices
- Review the services in which they specialise
- Look at ways of enhancing co-operation between the Post Office and all public sector bodies but particularly councils
- Develop methods for working together to deal with the problems of financial inclusion

Accordingly it requests the Chief Executive to write to the Post Office to invite talks for the establishment of such a partnership in Lambeth

Amendment 1: Councillor Jackie Meldrum

~~Council welcomes the fact that after more than 20 years of reductions of service and closure of Post Offices the current government is investing £1.34 billion to stabilise, improve and extend the services of Post Offices throughout the UK.~~ **recognises the challenge with which the Post Office must contend and accepts that, having lost almost one third of its customer base since 2000, this national institution must adapt to survive.**

Council notes the government's promise not to sell the Post Office, welcomes its endorsement of the Cooperative agenda and acknowledges the promotion of greater interaction between local branches and the local authority.

~~It notes the recent request from Post Office Minister Edward Davey for councils to enter into strategic relationships with the Post Office to:~~

- ~~• Review the current location of Post Offices~~
- ~~• Review the services in which they specialise~~
- ~~• Look at ways of enhancing co-operation between the Post Office and all public sector bodies but particularly councils~~
- ~~• Develop methods for working together to deal with the problems of financial inclusion~~

Accordingly, it **Council** requests **that** the Chief Executive ~~to~~ write to the Post Office ~~to invite~~ **inviting exploratory** talks for ~~the establishment of such a~~ **on the possible formation of strategic** partnerships **here** in Lambeth.

Motion11: Councillor Jeremy Clyne

Council Overspend

Council is concerned at the recently reported deterioration in the Authority's financial position, showing an increase in the forecast overspend to £5.5m.

Council condemns the Labour Administration's failure to manage the borough's finances and instead rely on using £2m from the New Homes Bonus, Government funding which is meant to be used by the council to increase the stock of homes available, in particular affordable housing, with a view to promoting growth and regeneration in the borough.

Council equally condemns the proposed diversion of £1.8m from the Repair and Maintenance Budget. These funds are in the words of a council report "underutilised". This is because of the Administration's dismal failure to repair and maintain libraries and other publicly owned buildings in Lambeth.

Amendment 1: Councillor Paul McGlone

~~Council is concerned at~~ notes the recently reported deterioration in change to the Authority's financial position, **as described in the November 2011 Finance Monitor and Savings Tracker, an initiative introduced by the Labour Administration this year, which showings** an increase in the forecast overspend to £5.54m. **This is a favourable movement on the October position and much improved from the projected £14.7m overspend forecast in the July Finance Review.**

~~Council condemns the Labour Administration's~~ **Coalition Government's failure to manage slashing of** the borough's finances **by a third amounting to £94.5m by 2014/15, with 'front loaded' cuts of £37 million this year alone.. Council is and instead rely on** using £2m from the New Homes Bonus, Government funding which is ~~meant~~ to be used by the council to increase the stock of homes available, in particular affordable housing, with a view to promoting growth and regeneration in the borough.

~~Council equally condemns the proposed diversion of £1.8m from the Repair and Maintenance Budget. These funds are in the words of a council report "underutilised". This is because of the Administration's dismal failure to repair and maintain libraries and other publicly owned buildings in Lambeth.~~

Council unites in instructing the Chief Executive and Executive Director for Finance and Resources to ensure budget management controls throughout the council to eliminate the projected overspend before the end of the financial year.

Motion 12: Councillor Clive Bennett

Subletting

Council is pleased to acknowledge the work carried out by officers in an attempt to address the abuse of subletting and the wholly unacceptable level of local authority based fraud that this generates.

Whilst the current initiative being undertaken by Lambeth Living and the Fraud team has been able to measurably improve the rate of detection from 0.86% to 6.0%, such an exercise in essential governance was long overdue and in execution has revealed a far higher rate of abuse than that of 2.5% estimated by the Audit Commission, as representing the level of subletting abuse in London.

This situation is cause for considerable concern and council would urge officers to use their best efforts of detection in bringing long-term perpetrators of abuse to court and to turn these illegally occupied properties around without delay, so that the lives of so many families and individuals who must rely on an overstretched system of bidding can be given opportunities to reach their full potential as members of our immediate society.

Amendment 1: Councillor Lib Peck

Council is pleased to acknowledge the work carried out by officers in an attempt to address the abuse of subletting and the wholly unacceptable level of local authority based fraud that this generates.

Whilst the current initiative being undertaken by Lambeth Living and the Fraud team has been able to measurably improve the rate of detection from 0.86% to 6.0%, ~~and as such an exercise in essential governance was long overdue and in execution~~ has revealed a far higher rate of abuse than that of 2.5% estimated by the Audit Commission, as representing the level of subletting abuse in London. **This is why this administration challenged council officers and Lambeth Living to do more and we been working in partnership to implement an innovative approach to tackle this historic problem. We have made the necessary funding available and appointed extra staff to ensure this work is successful.**

This situation is **quite rightly** cause for considerable concern and council ~~would urge officers~~ **will ensure, through the Cabinet Member for Housing, that all involved** to use their best efforts of detection in bringing long-term perpetrators of abuse to court and to turn these illegally occupied properties around without delay, so that the lives of so many families and individuals who must rely on an overstretched system of bidding can be given opportunities to reach their full potential as members of our immediate society.

Amendment 2: Councillor Shirley Cosgrave

Add at end:

Council welcomes the announcement by the Coalition Government that Council tenants who sub-let their homes will face up to two years in prison under proposals by the government. The plans would see a new criminal offence of tenancy fraud, with a fine of up to £50,000 also possible. Officials estimate that tenants who sub-let their homes to other people are costing the taxpayer £5 billion a year.

Amendment 3: Councillor Roger Giess

Add at end:

Council re-affirms its clear position that council tenants subletting their homes is unacceptable and resolves to respond positively to consultation from Government on proposals to create an offence of subletting a council home and instructs Lambeth Living to report to the Council on how it will reduce the number of improperly sublet homes in the stock in manages.

Motion 13: Councillor Kita Ogden

Streatham Libraries

Council is determined to ensure that any rebuilding, reconfiguration or replacement of the current Streatham library will provide a library that is at the minimum equivalent to what exists at present in terms of floor space, book stock and all other facilities.

Amendment 1: Councillor Florence Nosegbe

Council is determined to ensure that any rebuilding, reconfiguration or replacement of the current Streatham library will provide a **sustainable modernised library service that includes wi-fi and self service technology, and with the principles of the co-operative council a library service that is designed to reflects the needs of local residents and users.** ~~that is at the minimum equivalent to what exists at present in terms of floor space, book stock and all other facilities.~~
