

COUNCIL

Date Wednesday 26 October 2016

Agenda

2 Minutes

To agree the Minutes of the Council Meeting's held on 29 June 2106 and 27 July 2016.

No motion or discussion may take place upon the Minutes except as to their accuracy, and any question on this point will be determined by a majority of the Members of the body attending who were present when the matter in question was decided. Once confirmed, with or without amendment, the person presiding will sign the Minutes.

If you require further information about this meeting please contact the Committee Officer:

Jean Riddler

Telephone: 020 8921 5857

Fax: 020 8921 5864

Email: jean.riddler@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

COUNCIL Minutes

Place

Council Chamber - Town Hall, Wellington Street,
Woolwich SE18 6PW

Date

Wednesday 29 June 2016

Time

7.00 pm

Present

The Worshipful Mayor

Councillor Olu Babatola

Councillors:

Tonia Ashikodi

David Gardner

Clive Mardner

Barbara Barwick

Nuala Geary

Christine May

Linda Bird

Christine Grice

Sarah Merrill

Stephen Brain

Matt Hartley

Paul Morrissey

Geoffrey Brighty

John Hills

Matthew Morrow

Mandy Brinkhurst

Denise Hyland

Maureen O'Mara

Peter Brooks

Mark James

Cherry Parker

Matthew Clare

Rajinder James

Gary Parker

Angela Cornforth

Sizwe James

Harpinder Singh

Wynn Davies

Mehboob Khan

Aidan Smith

Spencer Drury

Chris Kirby

Jackie Smith

Mark Elliott

Averil Lekau

David Stanley

John Fahy

Chris Lloyd

Danny Thorpe

Bill Freeman

Allan MacCarthy

Miranda Williams

Minutes

Item No.

1 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Norman Adams, Don Austen, Mick Hayes, Clare Morris, Steve Offord, Denise Scott McDonald, and Ray Walker.

Apologies for lateness were given by Councillors Spencer Drury, Allan MacCarthy, and Harpinder Singh.

2 **Minutes**

Resolved -

That the minutes of the special meeting Council held on 23 March 2016, the minutes of the meeting of the full Council held on 30 March 2016, and the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 18 May 2016 be confirmed and signed as true and accurate records.

3 **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor congratulated those recognised in Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours which included MBEs for Gill Cooney, Head of Tenancy Services and Mrs Marian, a teacher at Gordon Primary School.

The Mayor was pleased to announce that the Council's Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills Directorate had been recognised in the Royal Institute British Architect's Design Awards in relation to the Council's Local Authority New Build bungalow project for older people's housing.

The Mayor noted that the Council's client Knight Dragon had won the "best small commercial building" award at the London Building Control Awards; the Mayor invited Councillor Danny Thorpe, Deputy Leader of the Council, to present the award to Peter Connell and Marcel Hurst from the Council's Building Control Section and Vicky Hurst from Knight Dragon.

The Mayor asked that the Council join him in wishing the departing Borough Commander and the Bishop of Woolwich well in their next endeavours.

The Mayor asked the Council to join him in a minute's silence in memory of Jo Cox MP, who had recently been murdered. (A minute's silence was held)

4 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Babatola, Barwick, Bird, Brain, Brooks, Cornforth, Elliott, Freeman, Geary, Grice, Hartley, Hills, Hisbani, James M, James S, Khan, Lekau, MacCarthy, Mardner, Morrissey, Parker C, Smith A, Stanley and Williams declared a personal interest in item 16, Motion regarding academies as school governors.

Resolved -

That the list of Councillors' memberships as Council appointed representatives on outside bodies, joint committees and school governing bodies is noted.

5 Notice of Members wishing to exceed the 5 minute rule

The Council noted that there had been no requests to exceed the five minute rule.

6 Petitions

The following petitions were presented at the meeting;

Subject and Number of Signatures	Presenting Councillor	Lead Department
Parking and speed controls on Vanbrugh Hill 14 signatures	Councillor Chris Lloyd	Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills
Restore free parking behind Eltham Station Remove pay and display spaces on western Glenlea Road 47 signatures	Councillor Matt Clare	Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills

Calling on the Council to help local shops survive the building work in Eltham High Street 764 signatures	Councillor Matt Clare (on behalf of Councillor Spencer Drury)	Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills
Keep Fairy Hill Park and Southwood Park locked overnight Circa 320 signatures	Councillor Matt Hartley	Director of Community Services
Introduction of a Controlled Parking Zone on Kidbrooke Grove 70 signatures	Councillor Geoffrey Brighty	Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills
Reconsider plans to close concierges on Woolwich Common Estate	Councillor Harpinder Singh	Director of Community Services

7 Public Deputations on matters not otherwise on the agenda

The Council noted that there had been no requests for public deputations.

8 Public Questions

The Mayor advised the meeting that notice had been received of 14 written questions by members of the public. The questions and replies, together with the supplementary submissions made during the meeting were attached as Appendix A to the minutes.

9 Questions from Members

The Mayor advised the meeting that notice had been received of 24 written questions. The questions and replies, together with the supplementary questions made during the meeting, were attached as Appendix B to the minutes.

Under procedures for oral question, the Mayor invited questions to Members of the Cabinet for response.

In response to a question from Councillor Sarah Merrill as to whether the Council had any plans following the vote for Brexit to protect its residents and businesses, Councillor Danny Thorpe, Deputy Leader of the Council (Regeneration and Sustainability) explained there were three strands to the Council's post-Brexit planning which broadly was to protect the Council's financial investments; to work with partners who had invested in the Borough to understand the impact of the vote; and the impact on community relations. The Deputy Leader suggested that as a result of the campaign there been an increase in fear and hatred which had led to an increase in hate attacks. Councillor Thorpe stated that he hoped that the Leader of the Opposition, who supported Vote Leave, would disassociate himself from the UKIP poster and condemn the increase in hate crime witnessed since the vote to the leave the European Union.

In response, Councillor Matt Harley stated that he deplored any incident of racism and racially aggravated crime and that the UKIP poster was despicable. However, it was wrong to blame the racist and violent actions of a few on all those that voted to leave the EU and this included 52,000 residents of the Borough.

As a point of clarification the Deputy Leader stated that it was important for all sides to condemn the outbreak of xenophobia and violence and this included those who led locally the Leave Campaign.

In response to a question from Councillor Geoffrey Brighty, as to whether it was acceptable that a number of residents who had written to Highways Officers regarding a controlled parking zone in Kidbroke Grove had received no reply or acknowledgement after two months, Councillor Sizwe James, Cabinet Member for Transport, Economy and Smart Cities, said that on the face of it that was unacceptable and that he would look into it.

10 Matters for early debate

The Mayor advised that no requests for matters to be taken early had been received.

11 Draft Report on the work of the Audit and Risk Management: Panel during 2015/16

Councillor David Stanley, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, introduced the report.

The Mayor put the matter to the vote and it was unanimously

Resolved -

That the report, setting out the issues considered by the Audit and Risk Management Panel during 2015/16 be noted.

12 Officer Employment Procedures - Constitution Part 4H

The Mayor introduced the report.

The Mayor put the matter to the vote and it was unanimously

Resolved -

That the revised Officer Employment Procedures (Part 4H of the Constitution) attached as an appendix to the report be agreed.

13 Freedom of the Royal Borough of Greenwich

The Mayor introduced the report.

Councillor Denise Hyland, Leader of the Council, thanked all Members for their support for awarding the Freedom of the Borough to Frank Zemke. It was stated that it was hoped to award the certificate in person to Mr Zemke in the near future as a number of Members were due to undertake a Town Twinning visit to Reinickendorf.

The Mayor put the matter to the vote and it was unanimously

Resolved -

That it be agreed to hold a special meeting of the Council on 11 July 2016 to consider awarding the Freedom of the Borough to Frank Zemke, the former Chief Executive of Reinickendorf Council.

14 Petition Responses

Resolved -

That the action taken in response to petitions presented at recent meetings of the Council be noted.

15 Decisions on Executive Functions taken under Urgency Procedures

Councillor Matt Hartley highlighted that it was the second time in about the last six months that a decision had been exempted from call-in and requested that decisions be scheduled earlier to avoid this. Councillor Denise Hyland, Leader of the Council, clarified the reasons for this particular exemption and noted the point made by Councillor Hartley.

Resolved -

That the decision on Executive Functions taken under Urgency Procedures be noted.

16 Motion regarding Academies signed by Councillors Miranda Williams, Linda Bird, Denise Hyland, Wynn Davies, Christine May, Sarah Merrill, Aidan Smith, Danny Thorpe

Councillors Babatola, Barwick, Bird, Brain, Brooks, Cornforth, Elliott, Freeman, Geary, Grice, Hartley, Hills, Hisbani, James M, James S, Khan, Lekau, MacCarthy, Mardner, Morrissey, Parker C, Smith A, Stanley and Williams declared a personal interest in item 16, Motion regarding academies as school governors.

The Mayor advised that an amendment to the motion had been circulated, and that he had received a request from a member of the public to address the Council on the motion to which he had agreed.

In moving the motion Councillor Miranda Williams, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People highlighted the performance of Greenwich schools and the substantial improvements that had been made over recent years to raise standards for its children. It was stated that the Council had resisted attempts for its schools to become sponsored academies and had worked hard to bring together schools to improve practice, both in teaching and leadership. She noted the work of governors, headteachers and support staff and their commitment to serving Greenwich school children and she stated Greenwich wanted to sustain and build on the excellent improvements of recent years. Greenwich's commitment to children's education was steadfast.

Councillor Williams stated that Greenwich's strategy was to increase capacity so that there were enough school places for the growing population and to put children first. The aim was to keep the local family of schools together but with budget cuts this was made more difficult. The National School's

Funding Formula was expected to have a hugely negative impact, and would surely lead to standards dropping across the country. In relation to ensuring that there was sufficient capacity all new build schools were required to be either academies or free schools and the need for consultation with parents about the conversion to academies had been removed by the Government who had also removed the need for there to be elected parent governors. Councillor Williams stated that the Government was obsessed with structures, removing any focus on the standards of children's' education, and had a dogmatic agenda on forcing all schools to become academies. It was stated that the Council shared the feelings of anger and frustration of teachers and parents and would continue to do all that it could persuade the Government to put children first.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Linda Bird noted the Council continued to challenge the intention of the government to privatise the education system. The motion dealt with the government's plan to convert all schools into academies while at the same time claiming to have executed a u-turn. However, the change in school's national funding was the mechanism for forced academisation. It was stated that Greenwich would lose £2.2 million for education through the national funding formula for schools and that Greenwich schools would have no alternative but to find alternative resources to maintain high education standards while at the same time trimming their budgets by at least 13% over the next three years. Councillor Bird commented that the government had created grave problems with state school provision. Greenwich needed to challenge that and also find ways of supporting Greenwich schools as they faced a difficult and uncertain future. The motion expressed the intent to form a not for profit company to continue school support, and challenged the government's removal of statutory consultation and parent voice, and demonstrated that Greenwich Council was joining other London councils in opposing the government's education reforms.

The Mayor invited Eileen Glover to address Council on the motion.

Ms Glover spoke in support of the motion, however, she felt grammar schools and free schools should be added to the mix. She explained that as a governor of Crown Woods she had voted for it to become an academy, but with deep reservation over the sponsorship. She noted as a result governors were removed from the new academy governing body. It was stated that that academies could be disconnected from their local community and sponsored schools would become businesses.

Councillor Matt Hartley moved the following amendment to the motion.

Delete the first five paragraphs and **replace** them with the following;

“This Council recognises that the education landscape is changing nationally, and that in the future all schools will become Academies outside of local authority control. This Council believes that it has a responsibility to support schools that choose to convert to Academy status in this transitional period, and that taking a pragmatic and non-ideological approach is in the best interests of Greenwich children.

This Council notes that school performance in the borough has significantly improved, and that in addition to the impact of central government policies such as the Pupil Premium since 2010, this has in part been achieved by schools working together to improve standards rapidly where required. This Council believes that this approach of schools working together, regardless of their status, should continue.

This Council therefore requests that the executive sets up a new Education Board to act as a collaborative strategic body to;

- *Ensure that school-to-school partnership working continues across Greenwich, regardless of schools’ legal status*
- *Allow the Council to retain an influence in broader education matters in the borough as its role in delivering education directly continues to decrease*
- *Maximise opportunities to link up school decision making with other areas of Council policy in the new education landscape*

The proposed Education Board should be based on the pro-active, forward-looking and pragmatic response to the government’s White Paper developed by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.

The Board would incorporate the existing Schools Forum, discharging its current statutory functions, act as a stakeholder engagement body in the new education landscape, and also make policy recommendations to the Council and the Greenwich family of schools, regardless of their legal status.

“The Education Board would ensure an effective vehicle for two-way consultation with all stakeholders and the Council, and would comprise the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, along with representatives from individual schools, Federations of schools, individual academies and Multi-Academy Trusts, with a role for the Regional Schools Commissioner and other local stakeholders.”

At the beginning of the sixth paragraph, starting “This Council will continue to take positive steps...”, insert the following

“Through the Education Board,”

Delete the final two paragraphs.

Councillor Hartley stated that he did not think his view was not that different from the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. He stated that the education landscape was changing and what was needed was to design a schools policy based on what was better for children, not what was best for Labour Councillors’ pride, the Council’s asset register, or NUT officials. He suggested the original motion changed nothing about the Council’s approach to academy conversion and was just political. He praised the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People for having taken a pragmatic approach when she was appointed to that position and he referred to the Cabinet Member’s letter to governors saying that the Council was going to do what’s right for the children and help schools find an arrangement that works for them. He publicly supported her approach because pragmatism was the right approach to take. Councillor Hartley refuted the claim that the Government’s policy was ideological, noting that academies were introduced by the Labour government. The academies programme had been expanded because it devolved power to the experts, teachers and head teachers, and allowed schools to innovate and drive up standards.

Councillor Hartley stated that the Government had stepped back from requiring all schools from becoming academies by a certain date, and that as local authorities played less of a role in the school system so the level of funding for their central services were being reduced, and that the removal of parent governors was about making sure governors were chosen and appointed because of their skills. He suggested that Greenwich should be forward looking and constructive in its response to the white paper and continue with the Council’s pragmatism. He proposed, using Southend Council’s Education Board, as an example of best practice, which would act as a collaborative strategic body to ensure regardless of a school’s legal standing they worked together to improve standards on a school to school level. It would allow the Council to retain an influence in broader education matters, and would maximise opportunities to link different areas of policy. Councillor Hartley in conclusion stated that all local authority schools in Greenwich would become an academy eventually, and they all needed to work together to find ways to make this new landscape work in the best interest of the children.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Mark Elliott. He recognised that collaborative working between schools was a huge factor in the improving performance in schools; first there had been the clusters defined by geography, then the soft federations defined by purpose or shared objective. That was the future if the Council was to continue the outstanding progress and improvement across schools. Councillor Elliott stressed the importance of collaboration between schools and that they should all be innovating and looking to the future. The proposal to establish an Education Board to share best practice between a wider range of schools, was supported as was the need for the Board to look at 3 further objectives: to look beyond the Borough to draw on ideas from schools across the UK and internationally, to provide close scrutiny of the new administrative functions for schools like procurement and human resources, and to work to ensure the interaction between schools and other children's services remained robust. The Council needed to support schools and their leaders, and dampen down the politically motivated hysteria which worried parents as it should be about pragmatic, evidence-based decision making.

Councillor Miranda Williams did not accept the amendment.

Councillor Denise Hyland, Leader of the Council, spoke in opposition to the amendment. She stated this was not about structures it was about school leadership; high quality teaching and learning; and about how vitally important schools were to their local community. The Leader gave thanks to the Director of Children Services and all her work and emphasised that the Director had been singularly focused on raising achievement within the Borough. The Leader asked Council to show appreciation to Gillian Palmer, Director of Children Services, who was retiring in August 2016.

(A round of applause was given for Gillian Palmer, Director of Children Services)

The Leader of the Council noted the recent news of an academy in another borough that they had got 'inadequate' right across the board in every single category. That academy had failed, and it was sad to note that Greenwich children and the children from that borough would be going to that school. It proved the point it was all about leadership and vision, about inspiring and motivating young people to achieve, and giving children a sense of aspiration rather than structures.

Councillor Hyland stated that the Council had made clear that community schools could stay with Greenwich as long as possible, but academies and any multi-academy trusts could also be part of that Greenwich family of schools.

While they would not stand in the way of a school becoming part of a multi-academy trust or sponsoring another school the Council remained completely and utterly opposed to forced academisation. The government was condemned for taking the school community and parents out of the consultative process and off governing bodies as that was a fundamental affront to democracy.

In relation to the amendment the Leader said that an Education Board would be superfluous as they had an Executive with an able Cabinet Member, the Schools Forum, and a Headteachers forum, they did not need another tier of bureaucracy which would just detract from the impetus of what they were doing to improve schools.

Councillors Mark James, Christine Grice, David Stanley, Wynn Davies, John Fahy, Linda Bird, spoke against the amendment. It was not felt that there was any substantial or credible evidence to support academisation, rather the evidence was clear that a well-led and -run local authority, like Greenwich, working in co-operation with schools was the best way to raise standards. It was felt that structural change did not drive forward improvement, and that public money was being wasted on a top-down reorganisation. It was highlighted that lots of academies had performed badly, and reference was made to comments made by the government's own Chief Inspector, the Sutton Trust, fullfact.org and various Conservative councillors from around the country. It was highlighted that there were concerns over governance and financial mismanagement, there would be a loss of accountability in removing parents and consultation, and that removing public accountability invited abuse and fraud of public money. It was felt that forced academisation was part of a long term ideological plan to privatise education; that it sought to end national collective bargaining; end local accountability; and deny parents the right to be actively engaged with their schools at all levels. It was stressed that schools were a place of learning not a business. It was commented that the Labour Party established academies to support schools, with the aim of addressing the significant underperforming of a very small number of schools in weak local authorities that were not addressing that problem with vigour. It was recognised that Greenwich had an effective track record of supporting schools and helping them to improve, that it achieved its results through the leadership of the Director of Children's Services and her staff, and by working collectively with all schools. The extensive opposition to forced academisation was noted and it was suggested that they should use the opportunity to encourage schools to think again before they switched to academy status. The setting up of a non-profit company to work with local

schools, whether academies of community schools, and the establishment of a working party, was welcomed.

The Mayor put the amendment to the vote and the amendment was not carried.

Councillors Sarah Merrill, Stephen Brain, Mehboob Kahn, Paul Morrissey, Allan MacCarthy, Aiden Smith, and Jackie Smith spoke in support of the motion. It was commented that having all academies was not the Labour Party policy when introduced, and they were always done in consultation with the community, and of the 267 academies then created the Ofsted reports all showed marked improvement but this was a different policy, it was an ideological approach. It was highlighted that education performance had dropped across England under the Conservative Government, and if it continued, further erosion in education standards would lead to the worst performance in a generation and affect young people's opportunities. It was suggested that the problem was the government was not considering what was needed locally and was not working with everyone in the local community. It was about centralisation, and schools were no longer accountable to their local community but to Whitehall.

It was stated that the government should reinstate parent and local authority governors. Furthermore, the view was that the government was seeking a free market solution and that the policy had been a poor use public money with Ofsted reporting that academies carrying a £100million surplus, money which should be spent on education. Members contended that the government wanted to make all schools academies, and all new schools have to be free schools or academies, and that was ideological. The achievement of Greenwich's Children's Services in challenging, supporting and in bringing all schools together to do what was best for children was recognised but it was feared that all of that work could now unravel.

Councillor Matt Hartley gave thanks to Gillian Palmer, the Director of Children's Services. He contended that the motion was for show and would not change the Council's pragmatic approach. He said that forced academisation, privatisation, the end of parent governors were all things that were not happening. They all agreed that schools, whatever their legal status, should stay in the Greenwich family of schools, and the amendment suggested a way of doing that. He commented that Britain had previously been near the bottom of international league tables for education, but now Britain was rising up them. He said they should all do what is best for Greenwich and its children.

In closing the debate Councillor Miranda Williams said that the government was playing politics with children and schools and that they should leave high performing boroughs like Greenwich to get on with the job they had proven they were more than capable of doing; the government believed that structures not standards were what mattered.

The Mayor put the motion to the vote and it was

Resolved –

The Royal Borough of Greenwich opposes this Government's ideological drive to force all our schools to become academies.

This council believes that no single system of school organisation has a monopoly on success and that a one size fits all model as proposed by the White Paper would not deliver the educational outcomes that Greenwich schools have achieved.

While the Government has partially u-turned on proposals outlined in their white paper we know that the Tories' determination for an all academy system remains unchanged and the National Funding Formula is just one mechanism to achieve this. This council is appalled at the reduction of the Education Services Grant to the Local Authority and the effect it will have on Greenwich children.

The Royal Borough has demonstrated over many years that it is not structural change that raises educational standards; Royal Greenwich has proven that an effective partnership between the council, parents, teachers, governors and central government is the best way to work with schools to achieve high standards for our children.

This Council believes that the removal of statutory consultation with school communities when school governing bodies are considering academy conversion is irresponsible, which along with the removal of parent governors from governing bodies, is an affront to democracy. This council believes that these issues need to be re-addressed by the Government and that both consultation and parent governors be reinstated under statute.

This Council will continue to take positive steps to support schools in the Greenwich family of schools, with this in mind, the Council will set up a working group, consisting of governors, teachers and trade unions to consider best practice for schools that convert to academy status to recommend best practice for schools considering conversion to academy

status including consultation, governance and measures to maintain high standards and fairness in education provision.

This Council supports the setting up of a non-profit making company that can trade with our schools to continue to support school improvement.

This Council calls on the Secretary of State for Education to demonstrate how the gradual erosion of Local Authority funding and the conversion of all schools to academy status will improve the educational outcomes for all children in Royal Greenwich.

The Council re-affirms its commitment to support those schools who wish to remain as community schools for as long as they can, and to continue to work with the Greenwich family of schools whatever their organizational structure, to deliver excellence in educational provision. The Council further calls on the government to recognise that what matters is the leadership and high quality teaching and learning - not the type or structure of school.

17 Motion regarding Help Eltham High Street signed by Councillors Matt Hartley, Mark Elliott, Geoff Brighty, Mandy Brinkhurst, Matt Clare, Spencer Drury, John Hills, Nuala Geary (as amended by Councillors Thorpe and Bird)

The Mayor advised that an amendment to the motion had been circulated, and that he had received a request from a member of the public to address the Council on the motion to which he had agreed.

Councillor Matt Clare moved the motion as follows:

‘Council notes that while Eltham High Street should ultimately benefit from the current improvement project, in the shorter term, shops on the High Street have been seriously hit by a decline in footfall and trade since the improvement works started in April. In particular Council understands that sentiments expressed in an editorial in the June edition of the SE9 magazine reflect the fact that many shoppers are choosing to go elsewhere, as under a section entitled “The High Street”, Mark Wall wrote:

“Anyone been there lately?

Followed by:

I am ashamed to say I have been not visiting the High Street as often as usual for shopping....”

Council acknowledges that many businesses are struggling and this is having a devastating effect on smaller, independent traders. While the long term plan to regenerate Eltham High Street intends to bring more shoppers there, the short term effect of the reduced parking, difficulty in navigating the pavements and disruption to travel along the road means that there has been a substantial reduction in trade.

Specific examples of the impact include:

- The White Hart public house experiencing a decline of £2,500 in year on year takings for the week starting 13th June.*
- Cafe SE9 seeing the minimum take for a day drop by 40%, leading to the proprietor falling behind on her rent.*
- In common with other shops in the Eltham Arcade takings at Coffee Town have at least halved. As a result, Coffee Town have laid off one member of staff and Business Rates were not paid for June.*
- The footfall to the Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice Shop has dropped by 1,000 compared to the same quarter last year.*

Council acknowledges the risk that many independent traders will go out of business if they do not receive help during the 18-month regeneration programme and that action urgently needs to be taken to help Eltham's shops (of all sizes) survive the disruption.

To help Eltham High Street through the disruption, Council requests that the administration implements one or more of the following on an urgent basis;

- A time-limited business rate exemption for all Eltham High Street shops to be in place at least until the pavements are navigable again.*
- Introduction of free parking in Eltham while the regeneration works are going on, to be considered in the Sainsbury's and/or Orangery Road car park.*
- An advertising campaign around the High Street to remind people that the shops remain open during the works.*

Beyond these urgent interventions, Council requests that Officers produce a report to the next Cabinet meeting evaluating further options which might help Eltham High Street's shops survive the disruption.'

Councillor Clare stated that the work to the High Street was welcome but that consideration needed to be given of the impact on business. It was questioned whether the works should have been phased to minimise disruption and whether further consideration could be given to the parking

situation. Councillor Clare proposed that given the loss of income consideration should be given to introducing a time limited business rate relief.

Councillor Spencer Drury seconded the motion, stating that the traffic in Eltham High Street was dreadful and people no longer going to the High Street. Councillor Drury stated that he had met with local businesses and that as a result of the disruption shops might have to lay off staff or cut overtime. Whilst supporting the regeneration works it was felt that more needed to be done to protect the livelihood of small businesses which had seen a substantial drop in trade. The suggested exemption for business rates had been done before in other situations and would help address some of the financial concerns. Councillor Drury also advised that further work was required in relation to consultation with and involvement of the local traders in the regeneration works.

The Mayor invited Eileen Glover to address Council on the motion.

Ms Glover raised the problems caused to disabled people and those with buggies by the regeneration works. She suggested yellow banding on the barrier feet for the visually impaired, and also better signage for pedestrians. She asked that the Council work with GAVS on the matter.

Councillor Danny Thorpe, Deputy Leader of the Council (Regeneration and Sustainability) moved an amendment to the motion. He stated that the Council was proud of the scheme to redevelop Eltham High Street and the extent of the works. It was stated that the works were being undertaken to ensure completion by Christmas, which was the busiest time for the High Street, and that had meant a phased approach was not appropriate. Councillor Thorpe stated that the Council was in constant communication with the businesses on the High Street and the priority was to deliver a successful scheme.

Councillor Linda Bird seconded the amendment and stated that small businesses had visited her surgery with issues regarding access, inconvenience and noise. It was stated that the concerns were relayed to Clive Efford MP and the Cabinet Member and the issues addressed.

Councillor Clare did not accept the amendment.

The Mayor put the amendment to the vote and the amendment was carried.

Councillor Wynn Davies stated all ward councillors were in favour of the regeneration scheme and questioned the number of complaints that Councillor Drury had received; and whether they had been forwarded onto the Cabinet Member and Officers. The importance of all parties working together to bring about the regeneration of Eltham High Street was stressed.

Councillor Danny Thorpe closed the debate.

The Mayor put the motion as amended to the vote and it was

Resolved –

Council notes the on-going work taking place on Eltham High St, as part of the Council led regeneration scheme. Council is proud to acknowledge the hard work of many residents and business representatives, who have been involved in the design and creation of the scheme from the start. As well as a large number of Council led meetings, Council notes the hard work of Clive Efford MP, who has held a number of public meetings to engage and involve the community in this scheme.

Council is keen to ensure that the works to the High St are completed as quickly as possible, in particular before the very important Christmas shopping season gets underway, which is a very busy time for the High St.

In the interim, Council reaffirms its support to work with all businesses on the High Street to minimise the impact of disruption. Both the Council and its contractors continue to liaise with affected businesses on a daily basis. A drop in shop is open daily and the Regeneration Team are liaising with businesses up and down the High Street to address any issues as they happen. The Leader, Deputy Leader and Clive Efford MP will also be hosting a coffee morning on the High Street this coming weekend.

Council is also continuing to ensure that Eltham is a vibrant and attractive place to shop and socialise during this work. Council is sure that the forthcoming Eltham Music Festival and Greenwich & Docklands International Festival (with events taking place in Well Hall Pleasaunce) will generate additional opportunities for local shops and businesses.

Council will continue to monitor the situation over the coming weeks and months and will work with businesses to understand any issues of concern and ensure the project is delivered on time and on budget.

18 Motion regarding Free cash machines and financial inclusion signed by Councillors Matt Hartley, Mark Elliott, Geoff Brighty, Mandy Brinkhurst, Matt Clare, Spencer Drury, John Hills, Nuala Geary

The Mayor stated that the mover of the motion Councillor Matt Hartley, following discussions with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Anti-Poverty, Councillor Averil Lekau, had agreed to amend the wording. The Mayor stated that paragraph 7 and its bullet points should be deleted and replaced with “*Council calls upon the executive to develop a package of measures to deliver a wider network of Link machines*”. The Council agreed that the change to the motion.

The Motion, as amended, was moved by Councillor Matt Hartley who highlighted the importance to residents having access to free cash machines and the difficulties caused where charges were applied. It was stated that a range of measures, including those detailed in the original motion, needed to be pursued to ensure an increase in the availability of free to use cash machines.

Councillor Averil Lekau, Cabinet Member for Housing & Anti-Poverty, seconded the motion as amended. Councillor Lekau stated that the Council took anti-poverty seriously and acknowledged that the location of free to use cash machines exacerbated inequality in the Borough. The Council was informed that discussions were being with Link’s Head of Customer Affairs for Link on the matter.

Councillor Denise Hyland, Leader of the Council, added that Teresa Pearce MP was campaigning on this issue and to establish a wider network of free to use cash machines.

Councillor Nuala Geary welcomed the cross-party support for the motion.

Councillor Matt Hartley closed the debate.

The Mayor put the amended motion to the vote and it was

Unanimously Resolved –

Council notes the importance of cash as a budgeting tool for many residents in the borough, and particularly for those on low incomes.

Council notes that Link ATM network data shows there are 65 fee-charging cash machines in or on the edge of the Royal Borough of Greenwich – 34% of

the total. These 65 machines charge anywhere between £0.99 and £1.99 per transaction – equating to a fee of between approximately 10% and 20% for the smallest commonly available withdrawal of £10.

Research by Toynbee Hall has previously found that people on low incomes who rely on pay-to-use machines spend between £3.70 and £9.25 every week on charges just to access their cash. Not only is this money lost from often stretched household budgets, but much of it is lost to the local economy.

Council is concerned that while our high streets and town centres are currently well served by free cash machines, many smaller shopping parades and corner shops in residential areas either have no cash machine or only a fee-charging ATM, often available only at certain times.

Council further notes that there are three significantly sized areas in the borough where there is no free access to cash withdrawals – in a sizeable part of Woolwich, the whole of Shooters Hill, and in the entirety of residential Thamesmead – and further small pockets where access could be improved.

Council therefore requests that the administration develops a package of measures to increase the availability of free cash machines where needed, and to raise awareness of their availability, as part of its Anti-Poverty Strategy.

Council calls upon the executive to develop a package of measures to deliver a wider network of Link machines.

Council supports the London Fairness Commission’s recommendation that the Mayor of London should “work with banks and the Link consortium to raise awareness about the number of fee-charging cash machines in London areas”.

Council further supports the efforts of Frank Field MP to secure a commitment from the Government to introduce an effective regulatory system to monitor and improve access to free-to-use ATMs across the UK, and requests that the Leader writes to the Economic Secretary to the Treasury to support further action on a national level.

The meeting closed at 10.14 pm

Chair

COUNCIL Minutes

Place

Council Chamber - Town Hall, Wellington Street,
Woolwich SE18 6PW

Date

Wednesday 27 July 2016

Time

7.00 pm

Present

The Worshipful Mayor

Councillor Olu Babatola

Councillors:

Norman Adams	Mick Hayes	Paul Morrissey
Tonia Ashikodi	John Hills	Matthew Morrow
Don Austen	Denise Hyland	Maureen O'Mara
Barbara Barwick	Mark James	Steve Offord
Linda Bird	Rajinder James	Gary Parker
Geoffrey Brighty	Sizwe James	Denise Scott-
Peter Brooks	Mehboob Khan	McDonald
Matthew Clare	Chris Kirby	Harpinder Singh
Angela Cornforth	Averil Lekau	Aidan Smith
Mark Elliott	Chris Lloyd	Jackie Smith
John Fahy	Allan MacCarthy	David Stanley
David Gardner	Clive Mardner	Danny Thorpe
Nuala Geary	Christine May	Ray Walker
Christine Grice	Sarah Merrill	Miranda Williams
Matt Hartley	Clare Morris	

Minutes

Item

No.

1 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mandy Brinkhurst, Stephen Brain, Wynn Davies, Spencer Drury, Bill Freeman, Ambreen Hisbani and Cherry Parker.

2 **Minutes**

The Mayor informed the meeting that the Minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Council had not been published in time to be considered at this meeting. It was stated that draft minutes had been published to the Council's website and that they would be submitted to the next ordinary meeting for confirmation.

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 11 July 2016 be confirmed and signed as a true and accurate record.

3 **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor made the following announcements;

That GS Plus had won the prestigious 'Nan Berger Memorial Award' trophy at the Lead Association for Catering in Education (LACA) Awards ceremony which had been held at the 'Hilton Metropole' in Birmingham on Thursday evening .

That the Council had won the Private Rented Sector Award at the 2016 Housing Design Awards for Creekside Wharf. Councillor Thorpe, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Sustainability, presented the certificate to Alex Smith, Assistant Area Planning Manager.

That the Council had been awarded just under £1m by the Mayor of London following a successful bid to the Mayor's Air Quality fund and that this funding would be combined with another £1m previously secured as part of the Horizon 2020 European programme, to introduce a Low Emission Neighbourhood in parts of Greenwich West and Peninsula wards over three years.

That, as part of the recent Government reshuffle, former Greenwich Councillor, Liz Truss, was appointed as the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and will be the first female Lord Chancellor in 950 years of that post existing. The Mayor stated that this was obviously a major achievement for one of the Council's former Members.

That the Freedom of the Borough certificate had been presented formally to Mr Frank Zemke on a recent Members' visit to Reindickendorf . Council noted that Mr Zemke was very thankful, honoured and surprised to receive the award.

It was with regret that the Mayor informed the Council of the death of former Councillor Chris Jeffrey who was a councillor between 1974 and 1986 and amongst many roles served as the Chair of the Establishment Committee. Councillor Adams and MacCarthy addressed the Chamber stating that Mr Jeffrey was a dedicated Councillor and his commitment to the Borough and residents was unwavering. The Council rose to observe a minutes silence in memory of former councillor Chris Jeffrey.

The Mayor requested that the Council take this opportunity to remember the innocent people killed in the recent terrorist attacks in Nice, Munich, Ruen and Baghdad.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Resolved -

That the list of Councillors' memberships as Council appointed representatives on outside bodies, joint committees and school Governing Bodies be noted.

5 Notice of Members wishing to exceed the 5 minute rule

The Council noted that there had been no requests to exceed the five minute rule

6 Petitions

The following petitions were presented at the meeting;

Subject and Number of Signatures	Presented by	Lead Department
Block 3, Greenwich Square; object to the Minor Material Amendment Application 125 signatures	Councillor Chris Lloyd	Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills
Request to for action on non-resident parking in Reventlow/Gaitskell/Nov ar Roads 59 signatures	Councillor Matt Clare	Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills

7 Public Deputations on matters not otherwise on the agenda

The Mayor informed the Council that he had agreed to Lucy Isiah, Woolwich Common Tenant and Residents' Association, addressing the Council in relation to the closure of the Woolwich Common Concierge Service.

In making her deputation Lucy Isiah stated that the Tenants and Residents Association was objecting to the closure of the Concierge Service which was introduced to address the high level of anti-social behaviour in the area and assist vulnerable residents to access Council Services. She stated that the Concierge Service was beneficial to residents, the Council and the local police; and that its costs were covered by achieving savings elsewhere, an example of reducing incidents of anti-social behaviour was quoted.

Ms Isiah questioned how the consultation was carried out by the Council. She told the Council that the Tenant and Residents Association had conducted their own consultation which showed that residents did not want the Concierge Service to be removed. She also questioned why no consultation had been undertaken with the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Lucy Isiah questioned why the Woolwich Common Estates, as an area of high unemployment, drug use and anti-social behaviour had not been offered regeneration and instead having services removed.

In response, Councillor Lekau, Cabinet Member for Housing and Anti-Poverty, stated that the Concierge Services, in some Council blocks, were being subsidised by all residents of the Borough. She continued that the Council needed to look at the cost of a range of services provided; their productivity; effectiveness; and value for money. She assured Ms Isiash, and the Council, that the Authority took the safety of all its residents seriously but that the Concierge Service was never intended to be an extension of the Police Service or permanent.

Councillor Lekau added that consultation letters were hand delivered to all flats and only 12% responded.

8 Public Questions

The Mayor advised the meeting that notice had been received of 30 written questions by members of the public. The questions and replies, together with the supplementary submissions made during the meeting are attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

9 Questions from Members

The Mayor advised the meeting that notice had been received of 24 written questions. The questions and replies, together with the supplementary questions made during the meeting, are attached as Appendix B to these minutes.

Under procedures for oral question, the Mayor invited questions to Members of the Cabinet for response, the full details of which can be viewed on the online meeting webcast.

Councillor Bird asked the Leader of the Council for an update on the Cinema in Eltham to which Councillor Hyland replied that a contract had now been signed with Vue Cinema and that positive progress was being made in relation to this development. All Members were invited to an upcoming event on Eltham High Street to mark the signing of the contract with Vue Cinema.

Councillor Hartley asked the Leader of the Council to look into the concerns of the Headteacher, and teachers, of St Joseph's School regarding the timing of the Council's decision to evict the travellers in Horn Link Way, Greenwich. Councillor Hyland, the Leader of the Council, responded that the action was timed so as not to disrupt the children's education and August was the month when, traditionally, the traveller community travelled and

children were not in school. It was stated that the decision to evict the travellers was only taken after a long period of negotiation and offers of alternative accommodation being refused.

In response to Councillor Clare's request that some of the money from the Low Emissions Neighbourhoods (LENs) be used to bring the Santander Cycles to the Borough the Leader of the Council, Councillor Hyland, stated that the funding for the LEN was for Greenwich West and Peninsula wards as stated in the bid. It was stated that it would cost the Council £2million to introduce Santander Cycles to the Borough.

10 Matters for early debate

The Mayor advised that no requests from the party whips for matters to be taken early had been received. However, as members of the public had requested to speak on Item 13, the Petition Responses report, this would be taken as the first item of business.

11 Statement of Accounts 2015/16

The Mayor advised that the Royal Borough's accounts, the Pension Fund accounts and the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 had been circulated on a Supplementary Agenda. Further that the accounts and the Auditor's Findings Report were considered by the Audit and Risk Management Panel and the Pensions Fund Investment and Administration Panel. Neither Panel had any further comments for the Council's consideration.

The Mayor invited Mr Dosset, Grant Thornton's Engagement Lead and external auditor, to introduce the Report

Mr Dosset was pleased to note that the Royal Borough of Greenwich had produced its financial statements at the end of May, demonstrating that the Authority had been well prepared for the impending changes including the requirement of financial statements to be submitted by July. Mr Dosset advised that the Council had produced a high quality statement of accounts and that no adjustments were required. He continued that as the Auditor, he proposed to give an Unqualified Opinion on the financial statements and an Unqualified Value for Money Conclusion on the Council's arrangements. It was stated that the opinion reflected how the Council was facing and managing the on-going fiscal challenges.

Members had no questions for the external auditor.

Councillor Hyland, Leader of the Council, moved reception of the report, thanking the external auditors, Grant Thornton and Mr Dosset and his team for their report and comments. The Leader stated that it was re-assuring that the independent audit had noted the Council's continued sound financial governance. Councillor Hyland thanked the Director of Finance and her Team for their excellent work in producing the accounts on time, particularly in light of the Council's recent workforce transformation programme.

Councillor Hyland was pleased to note that the Council was one of the few authorities in the Country already working to the Government's new target for the production of draft accounts by 31st May each year, due to be in place by 2018. As a result of these changes the Leader stated that the July meeting of the Council could be held a week earlier than usual.

Councillor Austen addressed the Council, as the Chair of the Pension Fund Investment and Administration Panel, reporting that the Panel had worked well with officers and was pleased with the outcome. He was pleased that the members of the Council's Pension Fund could be assured that the Pensions Fund was being prudently managed, administered and in a healthy state.

Councillor Hartley expressed his thanks, and that of the Conservative Group, to the Director of Finance and her team and the external auditor for their work on the Statement of Accounts. He advised that he understood that the accounts of ancillary or subsidiary companies of the Council were produced in line with their individual governance arrangements and that there was no obligation to publish them alongside the full accounts. Councillor Hartley requested that the accounts of these companies be published in future in conjunction with the Council's Statement so as to enable Members' scrutiny of all of the Council's financial interests.

The Leader of the Council formally closed the debate.

Unanimously Resolved -

1. That the Audit Findings Report (AFR); Royal Borough of Greenwich at appendix 1b to the report and Pension Fund at appendix 2b, be noted.
2. That it be noted that the Audit and Risk Management Panel and Pension Fund Investment and Administration had considered the Audit Findings report and had no comments for consideration by Council.

3. That the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016, at Appendix 1d, incorporating agreed amendments be approved.
4. That it be agreed that the Mayor sign and date the revised Statement of Accounts.

12 Treasury Management Outturn Report 2015/16

The Mayor advised that the report had been considered by the Audit and Risk Management Panel and Cabinet and that neither had any further comments for the Council's consideration.

Councillor Hyland, Leader of the Council, advised that the report covered the period before the EU referendum; and that the Council's approach to borrowing had been consistent over a number of years. Councillor Hyland confirmed that no new borrowing had been undertaken.

The Leader confirmed that the prudent management of the Council's resources continued to be at the forefront of its decision making. It was stated that regular monitoring reports were considered by the Cabinet and the Audit and Risk Management Panel and Councillor Hyland thanked the Members of the Panel for their work in scrutinising this complex area.

Unanimously Resolved -

That the Treasury Management Outturn Report for 2015/16 be agreed

13 Petition Responses

The Mayor advised that a member of the public had requested to speak on this report and, as such, it was taken as the first item of business. The Mayor invited Sian Stringer to address the Council with regard to the petition relating to mobile libraries.

Ms Stringer expressed her grave concern regarding the closure of the mobile library service despite the Council's own consultation indicating support for its retention. It was stated that whilst a new library had been built in Greenwich, this was a leisure centre, with a library in it and served the local and mobile population. Further, that despite assurances given as part of the consultation process, the mobile library service would not be closed until the enhanced home library service was in place, the service was due to close this Friday, with no alternative ready.

Ms Stringer expressed concern that alternative provision had not been made for residents, schools and nurseries that made use of the current service. The suggested proposals were also inadequate and that effectively the Authority was not providing a comprehensive library service and not meeting the needs of residents. It was stated that the proposed deposit / collection arrangements for schools and libraries were inadequate. Ms Stringer stated that the current outreach service, in the form of the mobile library service met the needs of the community and this should be developed and built upon.

In conclusion it was stated that it was felt that the Council had failed the Service; failed to promote the service or allowed staff to input in a meaningful way on how to improve or promote the service, and left it to deteriorate.

Ms Stringer was pleased that there would be no redundancies but staff had not been concerned about their jobs but about the provision of service to the children of the Borough and it was felt that the Council was letting them down. Mr Stringer urged the Council to reconsider its position on the future of the mobile library service.

In response, Councillor Scott-MacDonald, Cabinet Member for Creative Industries and Community Wellbeing thanked Ms Stringer for her address and advised that the Council was committed to delivering a high quality library service. It was stated that the Council had made substantial financial investment to its library services, across the Borough with positive results. Furthermore, the changes were being introduced following extensive consultation with the unions, library staff, service users and the public. Consequently, it was agreed that there was a need for the service to modernise as the numbers using the mobile service were in decline.

Councillor Scott-McDonald stated that she believed that the approach set out will improve the existing home delivery library service and the service provided to residents.

A member of the public made a vocal outburst from the Public Gallery and following warnings the Mayor asked the named individual to leave the meeting. The warnings were not heeded and the Mayor asked for the meeting to be adjourned to allow for the named member of the public to be removed from the Chamber and order to be restored.

At 20:25 the meeting was adjourned and reconvened at 20:40pm

Councillor Scott-MacDonald declined the Mayor's invitation to continue her response.

Councillor Hartley requested that his thanks to Councillor Smith for the response to the Petition relating to Fairy Hill Park and Southwood Park in New Eltham which addressed the residents' concerns be put on the record.

Resolved

That the action taken in response to petitions presented at recent meetings of the Council be noted.

14 Motion regarding community cohesion signed by Councillors Jackie, Smith, Matt Hartley, Denise Hyland, Tonia Ashikodi, Barbara Barwick, Geoff Brighty, Mandy Brinkhurst, Stephen Brain, Matt Clare, Angela Cornforth, Wynn Davies, Spencer Drury, Mark Elliott, John Fahy, Nuala Geary, Christine Grice, Mick Hayes, John Hills, Mark James, Mehboob Khan, Averil Lekau, Steve Offord, Maureen O'Mara, Paul Morrissey, Matthew Morrow, Cherry Parker and Miranda Williams

In moving the motion, Councillor Jackie Smith, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Environment, stated that she had brought the motion forward as someone who had always stood up to racism. Councillor Smith recounted that the Borough had, sadly, seen a number of racist incidents in the 1980s and 90s, however, the Council, Police, faith and community groups and voluntary organisations working together with the local community had tackled this and reduced hate crimes in the Borough. Councillor Smith stated that one of the Borough's strengths was its diversity and that communities lived harmoniously together. It was stated that the recent spike in hate crime across the country was worrying and that every effort had to be made to ensure incidents did not occur in the Borough.

Councillor Smith noted that since the EU referendum, there had been a nationally reported increase in hate crime and, whilst it was too soon to tell if this was a trend, there was no time for complacency. The Mayor of London had spoken out on this issue and stated that the addressing of hate crime would be a priority for the Metropolitan Police Service.

Councillor Smith concluded by quoting murdered MP Jo Cox, "we have far more in common than that which divides us" and urged all the Members to support the Motion.

Councillor Hartley seconded the motion, thanking Councillor J Smith for the opportunity to work with her on the wording but regretting its necessity. He continued that the Council was speaking with one voice, that there was no room for racism, xenophobia or hate crime in the Borough. The Greenwich Together campaign was welcomed and seen as a necessary response to the reported increase in hate crime in the Borough.

Councillor Hartley stated that some bigoted people may have been emboldened by the outcome of the EU Referendum to use racist and xenophobic language and justify hate attacks. This was not acceptable and the majority of people who voted Leave were horrified that racist and xenophobic incidents had increased and they condemned them. Councillor Hartley stated that anyone using racist, xenophobic language or perpetrated hate crime should be condemned and prosecuted.

Councillor Hartley felt that Greenwich Together should also mean bringing the Borough back together after a divisive, on both sides, referendum campaign.

Councillor Hartley thanked Councillor O'Mara for organising an event in September 2016 for EU Citizens as a welcome step and one he hoped would reassure European Union citizens that they were valued residents of the Borough. He concluded that whoever we were, wherever we were from, we were one Borough in one nation and that this cross-party motion was a message to anyone who would have it otherwise.

Councillor Lloyd spoke on the proposed motion, citing a personal incident recently and this highlighted the importance of all working together to make the Borough a tolerant and safe place for all residents. He also praised the work of organisations such as Greenwich Inclusion Project (GrIP).

Councillor O'Mara also recounted a recent incident where she faced someone who feared that, as an EU citizen, she would no longer be welcome in the Borough or Country. Councillor O'Mara stated that she hoped that the event for EU Citizens in September would be but one small step in reassuring them that they were part of and wanted in the Borough.

Councillor J Smith closed the debate by noting that all the Members had spoken from the heart and all Borough residents should feel reassured of the Council's determination to promote community cohesion.

Unanimously Resolved

That this Council is committed to ensuring that everyone in the Royal Borough of Greenwich could feel safe and proud of who they were, regardless of their background

That this Council is committed to bringing together residents from all communities and all backgrounds, including through its #greenwichtogether campaign

That the Council unequivocally condemns all incidents of racism, xenophobia and hate crime in all its forms. Council reaffirms its commitment to supporting community cohesion in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, and working with its partner organisations and other agencies to ensure that anyone experiencing any form of hate crime receives the support they need.

15 Motion regarding the National Health Service signed by Councillors David Gardner, Denise Hyland, Don Austen, Mick Hayes, Mark James, Averil Lekau, Allan MacCarthy, Maureen O'Mara, Clare Morris, Cherry Parker and Jackie Smith

The Mayor advised that an amendment from the Conservative Group had been published and could be accessed on line as well as paper copies being available.

Councillor Gardner moved reception of the motion praising the hard work and dedication of health service professionals but commented that regardless there were issues that needed to be addressed. The Council was informed that the United Kingdom spent less as a percentage of its GDP on health and social than neighbouring European countries. The Government's proposal to invest in the NHS was welcomed but Councillor Gardner stated that this was not enough and also had to be seen in light of the on-going efficiency savings.

Councillor Gardner informed the Council that Public Health had been the subject of significant funding reductions and that savings were having an impact on the residents of the Borough and were short sighted. A number of recent controversial savings, including the closure of facilities and service reductions, agreed by the CCG were highlighted. In conclusion Councillor Gardner stated that he believed that there needed to be a pooling not fragmentation of resources; greater collaboration between the Health Service and social care; proper resourcing; and that the continuing cuts to public health provision needed to end as it was resulting in reduced and stretched

services which effected all walks of life, including those with learning disabilities and additional needs support.

Councillor Hyland, Leader of the Council, formally seconded the motion, reserving her right to speak.

Councillor Hartley moved the following amendment to the motion:

Delete the second and third paragraphs and **replace** them with the following paragraphs:

“This Council notes that despite the fact that the NHS in England is now receiving an increase in funding of £10 billion a year by 2020, in line with the NHS Five Year Forward View (an increase that has been frontloaded, with £6 billion set to be delivered by the end of 2016/17), increasing demand for health services and demographic pressures mean that many NHS organisations are struggling with deficit budgets.

“This is also true in our local context. Council notes that while the funding allocation for the Greenwich Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is increasing from £345.61 million last year, to £359.36 million this year (2016/17), to £403.84 million by 2020/21, increasing demand, demographic pressures and the fact that not enough savings were achieved by the CCG in 2015-16 mean that the CCG has been unable to set a balanced budget this year.

Delete the fifth paragraph and **replace** it with the following paragraph:

“This Council calls on the Government to continue to substantially increase spending on the NHS between now and 2020, in line with the NHS Five Year Forward View, as it committed to do in the November 2015 Spending Review. Furthermore, in the wake of the referendum on the UK’s EU membership, this Council calls upon the Government to prioritise increasing spending on the NHS – above and beyond the £10 billion a year already committed by 2020 – when considering how to spend the public funds saved from no longer paying into the EU budget, in order to help the NHS further as it deals with demographic pressures.

Add the following additional paragraphs at the end of the motion:

“In addition to calling on the Greenwich CCG to continue funding “The Source” until a new arrangement is secured, this Council believes more

should be done by all the relevant stakeholders to pro-actively find an alternative solution that would secure the future of the facility.

“This Council notes that the Greenwich CCG has now written to the seven Greenwich GPs within a mile’s radius from “The Source” to ask for expressions of interest in delivering an alternative solution, with a deadline of next Monday, 1st August. This Council calls on the Greenwich CCG to extend this deadline, and calls on the executive to pro-actively call a meeting of all surrounding GPs to explore alternative options. This Council further calls on the executive to consider how its other public health services could make redeployed to “The Source” to make an alternative solution financially viable, if necessary.”

In moving the amendment Councillor Hartley stated that, if agreed, the motion would now solely address issues relevant locally to the NHS and would be a motion that all Members could agree to. Councillor Hartley disputed a number of the political statements in the original motion, highlighting the rationale and benefits of the Health and Social Care Act; the additional funding that the Government had made available to the National Health Service; and that increasing demand and pressures on the Health Service were adding to the current difficulties. Further that additional funding for the NHS should be the top priority from any savings arising from leaving the European Union.

Councillor Hartley highlighted where the original motion and the proposed amendment were in accord and in particular he wished to acknowledge the dedication of NHS staff; and the pressures that were being faced despite the additional funding being made available. Councillor Hartley expressed his concern regarding the recent decisions of the Greenwich CCG and the impact that these had on local residents, in particular the closure of the Source and reduced funding for people with learning difficulties. The work undertaken by the Cabinet Member to save the Source was commended and Councillor Hartley requested Council agree the amendment and unite in support of local services.

Councillor Elliott seconded the proposed amendment stating that he felt that members agreed on more points than they disagreed on and the services to residents were what mattered. Members were informed of the likely impact of the closure of the Source on the community in Horn Park and the need for alternative provision to be identified. It was stated that time and creative solutions were required to ensure that services provided by the Source could continue.

Councillor Gardner did not accept the amendment.

Councillors Thorpe, MacCarthy, Hyland, M. James and Khan spoke in objection to the proposed amendment. In speaking against the amendment Members highlighted the impact that national funding decisions had on the provision of local services. It was stated that the reality of the NHS was that services were failing and that the improvements made during the last Labour Government were being lost. In order to protect services it was necessary for all to stand up for greater funding for the Borough and services for local residents.

In speaking against the amendment Members highlighted the negative impact of the Health and Social Care Act; the top down reorganisation of services; and the increased emphasis on the 'competitive market place'. Members also highlighted the problems caused by recent funding reductions in public health and the impact on local services and residents. The lack of Government and CCG consultation on the reductions was raised and it was stated that it was not feasible for the Council to keep bailing out public health.

In relation to the Source, Councillor James (M) informed the meeting of the history of the Source and the impact of the proposed withdrawal of funding would have on an already deprived community.

Councillor Kirby proposed given the lateness of the hour that the Council move to the vote on the amendment. The Mayor put this to the vote and it was agreed to move to the vote on the amendment. The amendment was lost.

In relation to the motion Councillor Hartley stated that he was disappointed that it was not possible to have cross party agreement. In relation to other comments made it was stated that additional funding had been made available to the NHS and that the amount was greater than promised by the Labour Party. Councillor Hartley stated that all members had a personal stake in the health service and its continuing improvement. In conclusion he stated that he would like to work on a cross party basis to help save the Source.

The matter was put to the vote.

Resolved:

That the Royal Borough of Greenwich Council reiterates its emphatic support for the National Health Service, the best in the world, in promoting the wellbeing and health of our citizens, treating the sick, injured and those

suffering long-term conditions with high quality and compassionate treatment and care, free to all at the point of use. The Council salutes the dedication and professionalism of the thousands of clinicians, care and support staff who devoted themselves to the users of the NHS and social care services in the Borough.

However, this Council is increasingly concerned at the strains on the local NHS and care services caused by increased demand, tighter funding and exacerbated by the fragmentation and adversarial commissioner-provider relationships following the 2012 Health and Social Care Act. The Council believes it is simply unacceptable for its residents to be waiting on hospital trolleys in corridors for treatment or for weeks for a GP appointment.

This Council supports the NHS England view that emphasis must be moved from treating to preventing illness, promoting healthy living and helping to prevent and then manage long term conditions so people could live as normal and active life as possible. However, the Government had spectacularly failed to support Public Health, cutting a devastating £2m from the Royal Borough of Greenwich budget this financial year with more cuts to follow. Further, the Greenwich Care Commissioning Group (CCG) has stopped £1.1m of funding to the Royal Borough's award winning public health programmes.

This Council is concerned, both at the Greenwich CCG financial position with a £15.4m shortfall in this financial year and the manner of some of their decisions to stop certain funding including the excellent nurse-led facility in Horn Park "The Source", public health projects and £950,000 for the most vulnerable people with learning disabilities. At the same time, the Council notes the continued progress being made in co-ordinated care supporting people with seamless support on leaving hospital, with continued low delayed discharges and reducing re-admissions.

This Council calls upon the Government to substantially increase spending on the NHS and to ensure greater equity of funding in primary and secondary care across London, to reverse the public health cuts and to continue the process of devolution of healthcare to be integrated with social care within a local democratically accountable framework, and to replace the focus on competition with one on a duty to collaborate. Further, the Council calls upon the Government to deliver on the promise of the Leave Campaign for an extra £350m a week for the NHS, equivalent to a £76m annual boost for Greenwich NHS.

Further, this Council calls upon the Greenwich Health and Wellbeing Board to continue the excellent promotion of our Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the development of the Greenwich Co-ordinated Care programme as part of a roadmap to integration, to ensure a collaborative approach to resourcing and commissioning, to establish a Greenwich Healthcare Economy strategy to ensure the Royal Borough had the right clinical and support professionals to meet future needs, and calls upon the Greenwich CCG to continue funding “The Source” until a new arrangement was secured and to reconsider its unilateral cut supporting the MCCH learning disabilities contract until new arrangements were agreed.

16 Motion regarding webcasting signed by Councillors Matt Hartley, Mark Elliott, Geoff Brighty, Mandy Brinkhurst, Matt Clare, Spencer Drury, Nuala Geary and John Hills

The Mayor advised that an amendment from the Labour Group had been published and could be accessed on line as well as paper copies being available.

Councillor Hartley moved the following motion:

‘Council welcomes the introduction of live and recorded web streaming of Full Council meetings, with a total of 524 users having watched meetings online in the programme’s first six months.

Council further notes that the cabling facilities exist to stream meetings in Town Hall meeting rooms where other committees of Council take place.

Council believes in the principle of transparency in the conduct of its work, including in relation to matters that are often of particular and topical interest to residents.

Council therefore requests that the executive instructs officers to develop plans to extend live and recorded web streaming of meetings of the Planning Board and Highways Committee, as a further step in opening up our local democracy to public access and scrutiny.’

In moving the motion Councillor Hartley advised that there had been a positive response to the webcasting of the Council Meetings and that the motion sought to expand the service to other meetings. Councillor Brighty seconded the motion, reserving the right to speak.

Councillor Hyland moved an amendment and this was accepted by Councillor Hartley. The motion as amended was to put to the vote and it was

Resolved unanimously

That Council welcomes the introduction of live and recorded web streaming of Full Council meetings, with a total of 524 users having watched meetings online in the programme's first six months.

That the Council commits to monitoring the webcasting of full Council meetings with a view to looking at extending webcasting to other meetings to which the public and press are invited, when resources become available, and it is technically possible and practical to do so in order to ensure that the Council is as accessible, open and transparent in its business, as it can be.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Chair