

PRESENT

Members of the Council

THE MAYOR, CLLR DAVID LINDSAY
THE DEPUTY MAYOR, CLLR JANET EVANS

CLLR MONA ADAM	CLLR CEM KEMAHLI
CLLR SARAH ADDENBROOKE	CLLR LUCY KNIGHT
CLLR MONA AHMED	CLLR WILL LANE
CLLR KASIM ALI	CLLR SINA LARI
CLLR AARIEN ARETI	CLLR SOF MCVEIGH
CLLR MOHAMMED BAKHTIAR	CLLR LLOYD NORTH
CLLR TOM BENNETT	CLLR ABDULLAHI NUR
CLLR TOBY BENTON	CLLR WILL PASCALL
CLLR LAURA BURNS	CLLR JOSH RENDALL
CLLR ELIZABETH CAMPBELL	CLLR MARIE-THERESE ROSSI
CLLR ANNE CYRON	CLLR DORI SCHMETTERLING
CLLR EMMA DENT COAD	CLLR CLAIRE SIMMONS
CLLR MARWAN ELNAGHI	CLLR KIM TAYLOR-SMITH
CLLR JOANNA GARDNER	CLLR JOHNNY THALASSITES
CLLR STUART GRAHAM	CLLR PORTIA THAXTER
CLLR GREGORY HAMMOND	CLLR TIM VERBOVEN
CLLR GERARD HARGREAVES	CLLR LINDA WADE
CLLR PREETY HUDD	CLLR EMMA WILL
CLLR JAMES HUSBAND	CLLR SIDNEY YANKSON
CLLR DAHABO ISSE	CLLR SONIA ZVEDENIUK
CLLR EVA JEDUT	

1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 March 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor announced with sadness the deaths in service of the following Council Officers: Lee Evans – Senior Pay & Reward Advisor – HR Department, who passed away on the 20 March 2023 with 38 years' service. Ishrat Aziz – Social Worker for North Complex Adult Team – Adult Social Care, who passed away on the 29 March 2023 with 15 years' service and Lisa De Jesus –

Leasehold Alteration Officer – Housing, who passed away on the 1 April 2023 with 25 years' service.

4 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S COMMUNICATIONS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adourian, Faulks, Idris, Mackover, Marshall, and Weale.

5 PUBLIC SPEAKING

(i) Additional Funding for Children with Autism

Andrew Sundell gave some illustrative examples and asked if the parking permit charges for electric vehicles could be raised to provide more funding for children with autism. He pointed out that electric vehicles were more likely to be owned by wealthier residents of the borough, the vehicles attracted tax benefits, and that the low charges were not equitable.

Cllr. Cem Kemahli, Lead Member for Planning, Place and Environment, replied thanking Andrew for raising the issue and pointed out that there were statutory restrictions on how Councils could use the revenue from parking permits. He added that several neighbouring local authorities had no permit charges for such vehicles and that the charge in the Royal Borough had been increased from £22 to £40 for the new financial year.

Cllr. Emma Dent Coad added that, in her experience, the parking permits were not well enforced and that electronic vehicles presented a range of new environmental problems including their reliance on lithium and other heavy metals. She stated that the Council could find additional money to support autistic children in schools and their families, but that it was a matter of political will.

(ii) Streetscape scheme for Hogarth Road, Earl's Court

Kieran Terry, a resident of Earl's Court, welcomed the Council's 'al-fresco' policy and other initiatives to support and enhance local shopping streets. He noted that no streetscape schemes were proposed for Earl's Court and requested that one be considered for Hogarth Road or a similar street.

Cllr. Cem Kemahli, Lead Member for Planning, Place and Environment, replied thanking Kieran for his request and pointed out that the new Council Plan sought to have one streetscape scheme in each ward as, while they might not change the businesses, they could improve the area's appearance. He added that he would ask officers to consider Hogarth Road and noted these schemes could be funded from electric vehicle parking permits, revenue that other Councils did not have.

Cllr. Sina Lari added that while some schemes had brought benefits, such as ones in Westbourne Grove and Pavilion Road, there needed to be a balance between the needs of businesses as well as residents. Hogarth Road was a mixed retail and residential street, and he was concerned that there might be unruly behaviour, fewer parking bays for residents, and the additional

requirements for planning and enforcement. He also stated that the 'al fresco' policy should not distract from the 'cost of living' crisis.

(iii) Lack of provision for start-up arts and culture groups in North Kensington.

The Mayor read out a question on behalf of Paprika Skala-Williams, which pointed out the lack of cultural opportunities for people in North Kensington. She stated that 11 arches at Latimer Road opposite the station had been promised to the community after the Grenfell tragedy, but these were still empty. Her request was that the Council offer these units on a trial period at an affordable rent to locally based or connected craftspeople and arts workers as their work would attract others to the area.

Cllr. Sof McVeigh, Lead Member for Communities, replied, thanking Paprika for her question, and noted that North Kensington was an area noted for its arts and creativity. She pointed out that the Council did not own the arches in question, but that she would continue to work with their owners, Transport for London, and respond to the questioner. Cllr. McVeigh pointed out the courses and support provided through the Morley College and the Portobello Business Centre.

Cllr. Toby Benton restated the point that the Council had failed to address the needs of North Kensington's residents by not providing the workspaces that had been promised in 2017. He urged the administration to take responsibility and to deliver these workshops to the community, and that he was willing to facilitate meetings to develop an arts programme. He also stated that this was 40 years' failure that had denied the local community an opportunity to thrive.

(iv) Support for vulnerable tenants by the Council's Housing department

Michelle Douse asked the Council why, after the Grenfell Tragedy, the Housing Department was still failing vulnerable residents.

Cllr. Kim Taylor-Smith, Lead Member for Grenfell, Housing and Social Investment, replied, thanking Michelle for her question and offered a one-to-one meeting as it was not appropriate to discuss an individual case at this forum. He acknowledged the scale of the housing crisis across the whole of London, with over 2,100 on the Council's waiting list. He set out the local authority's response, namely the construction of new affordable and social rent homes, holding developers to account to deliver on their commitments to provide affordable homes, revising the housing allocations policy and buying temporary accommodation.

Cllr. Kasim Ali also thanked Michelle and stated that the Council needed to provide new homes as well as supporting those in existing accommodation. He supported the 4,000 new homes at the Canal-side development but requested that two thirds of them be for social rent or key worker accommodation. Cllr. Ali also stated that this was a significant issue on which both the Mayor of London and the government also needed to act. He also invited Cllr. Taylor-Smith to visit properties in the borough so that the Lead Member could see and hear first-hand what residents' experiences were.

(v) Closure and Re-provision of Community services in Chelsea.

Moramay Nunez-Trejos spoke about her experiences as a World's End resident for over 35 years and how her question had been co-produced by other residents. She asked why the World's End Neighbourhood Advice Centre, the under-fives provision and the food bank had been closed and that the Chelsea Theatre's costs put it out of reach for local groups to use. She set out, with examples, how the alternative services were not adequate and asked: what the Council's plans were for the units that would be left empty; what was the benefit of closing the foodbank; and when will residents be consulted.

Cllr. Sof McVeigh, Lead Member for Communities, replied, thanking Moramay for her question and offered to meet her separately to go through the problems she had raised. Cllr. McVeigh clarified that the World's End Neighbourhood Advice Centre was still funded to until end of June 2023 and had been told to continue providing support to clients. She noted that the new services from Citizens' Advice and Nucleus had only been in place a few weeks, but she would challenge them about their performance, as well as asking Chelsea Theatre to clarify what support and services it was providing.

Cllr. Claire Simmons also thanked residents for raising these issues that affected disadvantaged residents and noted that over 1,000 people had now signed a petition. She shared petitioners' concerns about the closure of the World's End Neighbourhood Advice Centre, which had provided reliable advice to Notting Dale residents after Grenfell and requested that Labour councillors be invited to meet with the Moramay. She also welcomed that Cllr. McVeigh was looking into the performance issues at the replacement services; however, funding should be restored and the organisations re-housed.

(vi) Provision of warden services.

The Mayor read a question on behalf of Noel Crosse stating that the warden service was not as good as its outsourced predecessor and that the Council should not continue with it.

Cllr. Emma Will, Lead Member for Community Safety, Culture and Leisure replied, thanking Noel for his question. She stated that this was a new service with the aim of more than one warden per ward. Already the wardens were having 175 interactions with the public per week and had also conducted 50 joint patrols with the police. Cllr. Will pointed out that there had been a pilot scheme in Earl's Court, but the contractor had been overly-focused on issuing tickets.

Cllr. Kasim Ali also thanked the questioner and, while Labour councillors welcomed the wardens, he noted that these were not the same as having extra police officers. He asked if the warden service was providing value for money and whether residents were being recruited to the posts. Cllr. Ali noted the benefit of people being protected by those who also lived in the Royal Borough. He looked forward to hearing the Lead Member comment on how to improve safety.

6 PETITIONS

Cllr. Marwan Elnaghi read the prayer and submitted the following petition:

'Help Us Keep Clarendon Road Safe! In recent months there has been a sharp increase in the number of crimes committed on Clarendon Road. Both residents and shop owners have been victims of multiple burglaries.

In the last month alone a van, motorbikes and bicycles have been stolen from our street and, both our shops have been broken into. Please sign our petition to ask the RBKC council to install CCTV to protect our street and find those responsible. We need at least 50% of residents' signatures in order for our request to be considered.'

The petition was passed to the Cllr. Emma Will, Lead Member for Community Safety, Culture & Leisure

Action: Governance Services

Cllr. Claire Simmons read the prayer of the following petition:

'Stop The Closure of the World's End Neighbourhood Advice Centre
For 40 years this service has been accessible to all residents in the area, providing the community with high quality and timely advice, information and support. This service is a trusted community resource with knowledge, expertise and committed staff, who understand the community they serve.

The alternative Citizens Advice Bureau has changed the way their service is delivered, creating barriers for the most vulnerable in our community and is no longer what it once was.

We must ACT NOW! to save a community resource that provides a level playing field to community members when dealing with issues and navigating the ever changing local and national systems and procedures, often out of reach to the most vulnerable in our community.'

The petition would be submitted at a later date.

Action: Cllr. Simmons

7 STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND RESPONSE BY THE LEADER OF THE MINORITY PARTY (STANDING ITEM)

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Council to address the meeting. The Leader then rose to speak:

'Thank you Mr Mayor. Tonight I thought I would update colleagues on the encouraging progress we are already making on the ambitions set out in our council plan.

Launched less than 30 days ago, we set out how we want to work with residents, business, councillors across this chamber, and partners right across this borough and London to make Kensington and Chelsea greener, safer, and fairer.

Speaking to our chief executive in the last few weeks, it is clear that our staff have taken on the challenge of becoming the best council – a mission given to us by the bereaved and survivors of Grenfell.

We have been looking at what we do across the board and seeing how we can provide support, assistance and services, with increasing levels of care and competence.

Staff and residents have been working together to co-design a new set of service standards that will ensure residents receive the best possible service when they call, email or access Council services in person.

Gradually, I hope people who use our services will soon notice the difference, we will listen and be empathetic, update residents with progress on their enquiry every step of the way and take responsibility – not pass the buck.

Mr Mayor, I made it my goal to deliver on plans, not just write them – and do so with energy, speed and consistency.

As promised, we are already investing in public spaces, and work is underway on key projects set out in our plan – we are doing exactly what we said we would do on housing.

Finishing what we started.

I have been with Kim to a number of sites across the Council, including Kensal Road and Haver Street – and it is so exciting to see projects moving from the paper they were planned on, to the bricks they are being built with.

We are making streets cleaner and safer – readying Cem and Johnny's street cleaning war chest and Emma's ASB-busting initiative which will kick off our drive to create and improve amazing spaces right across the borough.

The work we have done to tackle the cost of living and support people most in need is a clear indication of our commitment to fairness.

The debate and motion later this evening references the incredible effort officers and the voluntary sector have put in to help people through what has been a very difficult winter for so many.

We know residents have been affected by the rising cost of living.

The figures tell us there has been an increase in households that are struggling, and a 10 per cent increase in households in fuel poverty.

While the Council cannot tackle all the financial pressures people face, we continue to provide practical support for people, in partnership with Government and the voluntary sector.

We have put in place a 100 per cent Council Tax rebate for the poorest households, set aside £8 million in support, and put together an online Cost of Living hub.

Mr Mayor, We've made many changes and much progress across so many areas, making this borough greener, safer, and fairer.

We've opened the new Grenfell nursery.

Doubled down on our al fresco policies

Made it easier for people to make climate friendly changes to their homes.

Launched new school streets

Made our housing allocations scheme fairer.

Found a home for charities via our social investment strategy.

And launched a new smart city pilot in North Kensington to save money on energy bills

Yet, we are just getting started.

Mr Mayor, finally, as we get closer to the coronation bank holiday weekend I want to say thank you for the way residents have engaged with events and opportunities to celebrate, and for the way councillors the chamber have brought people together and made sure people who want to be involved can be.

Thank you to the officers who have helped to make things happen and who will no doubt be working over a series of bank holidays and the coronation itself.

We have a big screen in Holland Park and multiple roads closed for parties and gatherings.

It promises to be a unique month in the borough, and I hope everybody is looking forward to spending time with friends and family

Thank you.'

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Opposition to address the meeting. Cllr Dent Coad then rose to speak:

'Thank you, Mr Mayor. A word about the Coronation. There is a rumour flying about that I have BANNED Labour Group Councillors from attending anything Coronation-related. This is utter nonsense. Whether or not we share the belief systems of others, we are always ready to pay our respects at festivals, holy days and other momentous events. Being respectful to others' beliefs is a mark of decency that many of us will be pleased to demonstrate.

Mr Mayor, there are many things that make me angry and one of them is where money is mis-spent, especially funds this Council is spending unwisely, or frivolously.

Why, Mr Mayor, are we buying yet more paintings for Leighton House? The painting in question 'In My Studio' is being 'saved' for the nation from export and is being purchased for display in our blinged-out Leighton House that we have just improved at a cost of £10m – it may be more than that and I will do the calculations, as it might be more than we spent on Grenfell Tower. It matters not whether it's our own money or whether we have a team of officers applying to Arts Lottery Funds, WHY is this a priority? How much of our own money is being

spent on this? I asked the relevant director a week ago and had no response. Our priorities are entirely twisted!

The Council has been hustling Leighton House fans for donations of £50k towards buying the painting. So what is the full price? Alma-Tadema specializes in painting consumptive ladies sniffing flowers whose clothes are falling off. This one is valued at £890,000.

WHY is a Council being investigated for corporate manslaughter still pursuing the dream of 'art patron' using Council taxpayers' money? The Council needs to focus elsewhere! The refurb of Lancaster West is getting very messy indeed. Other refurbishment projects are in chaos.

Clearly we are hoping for 'Museum of the Year', another visit from a rapturous King Charles, and surely a peerage for someone, some time soon?

Meanwhile, Councillors in Notting Dale ward and others in North Kensington dealing daily with continued chaos, after nearly six long years, of Council mismanagement of the so-called Grenfell recovery in all its manifestations – Notting Dale Councillors are kept out of the newsround relating to settlement of civic cases, but find out instead from – gods help us – the Daily Mail!

It is very clearly a game of news management. It is a power game. And a Council under investigation for corporate manslaughter (yes I said that twice) should be working with – not against – Councillors dealing with the consequences of Council failure.

There is no statutory duty to act as care-free art patrons, to put together our own or other people's money to buy paintings of semi-naked women, to 'save them for the nation'. It is quite simply not our job.

Councillors' casework is growing. Labour Councillors have no admin support, unlike the Leadership office with its nine staff members, and are expected on – for some – very modest allowances, to take on the emotional and time-heavy burden of those failed by the Council.

Saving paintings of consumptive women smelling flowers, in the face of the near destitution of some of our residents, is quite simply barbarous.

Most Councillors are here to serve their communities. Some, sadly, may be here for the benefits they hope to reap.

Mr Mayor, our AGMs are coming, what on earth will happen in the annual game of musical chairs? Will you serve another term Mr Mayor? Will the Council Leader be supplanted by one of your keen ambitious young people? Will the Deputy Leader be eased aside by one of the new, keen, thrusting young bucks so fixated on power? Will I be here, or will one of our fine, gifted, eager, thrusting Councillors, of whom I am so proud, take my place?

It's just so very exciting!

So much to look forward to.

Mr Mayor - Happy Coronation to all! And see you there!

8 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Mayor confirmed that the order of business would be as printed on the agenda.

9 ADOPTION OF MUNICIPAL TIMETABLE 2023/2024

The reception of the report was moved by Cllr. Campbell and seconded by Cllr. Taylor-Smith.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed to adopt the Municipal Timetable for June 2023 to December 2024.

10 REPORTS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team referred no matters to Full Council.

11 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL-SIDE COMMITTEES

The reception of the report was moved by Cllr. Addenbrooke and seconded by Cllr. Campbell.

A short debate followed with a contribution from Cllr. Thaxter.

RESOLVED: That Council

(i) Confirmed the revised terms of reference for the Joint Health and Wellbeing board, attached at Appendix A to the main report.

(ii) Authorised the Chief Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to update the Council's Constitution to reflect these changes.

12 MATTERS REFERRED TO FULL COUNCIL FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OR SELECT COMMITTEES

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Select Committees referred no matters to Full Council.

13 QUESTIONS ASKED OF LEAD MEMBERS

(i) By Cllr. Lloyd North

Having seen the work from putting communities first and the role played by volunteers in supporting the warm hubs over the winter, as well as how those community groups had appreciated the commitment from the local authority, the Lead Member was asked for an update and what lessons had been learnt?

Cllr. Johnny Thalassites, Lead Member for Finance and Customer Delivery thanked Cllr. North and said that he and other councillors had visited some of the 24 warm spaces centres across the borough as part of the response to the cost-of-living crisis. The key lesson for the future was to redouble efforts to extend partnership working.

(ii) By Cllr. Tim Verboven

Given the publication of the Baroness Casey review and that the police Borough command unit structure was not working well, what discussions had the Lead Member had about returning to community policing as well as reversing the cuts in policing numbers, such as the 52% cut in PCSOs, which had been the largest in London.

Cllr. Emma Will, Lead Member for Community Safety, Culture & Leisure responded that she had read report and discussed it with the new Borough Commander, although the policing structure is up to MOPAC and London Mayor. She stated that the new Borough commander was focused on importance of neighbourhoods and had already made changes. These included: providing a dedicated superintendent for the borough, allocating Territorial Support Groups to respond to local needs and having neighbourhoods co-chair tasking and co-ordination groups. Cllr. Will was challenging the redeployment of officers – ‘abstractions’ – as well as the overall numbers of officers.

Cllr. Verboven to ask a supplementary question, noting that there were other steps the Council could take and that the Metropolitan Police Service was the only one that had not met its recruitment targets, often leaving Earl's Court without cover. Having had residents of Earl's Court and Redcliffe express their frustration, what other steps would the Lead Member consider to make people feel safe?

Cllr. Will to respond that safety was top priority, and that while the Council did not control police numbers, it was recruiting wardens, installing extra CCTV and pushing the police to do what they ought to do.

(iii) By Cllr. Kasim Ali

Following his councillor sessions and walkabouts, residents of Oakworth Road, Methwold Road, and Hill Farm Road have raised issues about major works failures and incorrect service charges. Will the Lead Member join him for a walkabout in Dalgarno Ward and meet residents? He stated that some residents had been sent invoices for thousands of pounds under the Tenants' Management Organisation (TMO) logo six years after the inadequate works were completed.

Cllr. Kim Taylor-Smith, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Grenfell, Housing and Social Investment, responded, pointing out that he had initially been sent a different question. However, he been to Oakworth Road recently and accepted that the work done by the TMO's contractor was of poor quality. He believed the residents had a good case and he would be willing to meet them; however, he would need to find out more about the other roads to which Cllr. Ali referred.

(iv) By Cllr. Dahabo Isse

There is a residential area, Powis Square, affected by noise and behaviour at a basketball court, which causes distress to those living around it. The Lead Member was asked if she had plans to take action to resolve this and respond to consultations, for example over the lack of toilets? The Lead Member was asked

to note that many who responded to the consultation were not who were most immediately affected, and residents' views needed to be considered.

Cllr. Emma Will, Lead Member for Community Safety, Culture & Leisure, responded that she was aware of Cllr. Isse's work supporting residents; however, there was no consensus over the past five years about how to use the area, which is a public open space and cannot be restricted only to residents. The basketball court is an important facility and has been there for over twenty years. Officers were taking measures including: noise reducing backboards and surfaces, introducing restricted opening and earlier closing times, undertaking sound assessments, and working with a local basketball coach to engage with young people on how to use the square. She added that the parks police did respond to issues of trespass and noise and the mobile CCTV was deployed to assist this response.

As a supplementary question, Cllr. Isse asked if Cllr. Will would visit with the area with her to see the problem. She added that people working at home were being affected by the noise, therefore, she asked if the opening hours could be reduced further.

Cllr. Will responded that she was happy to visit the area with Cllr. Isse. She pointed out that the hours had been reduced after consultation, the details of which she could share. However, although it was in a square, the area is a public park, therefore the consultation could not be restricted to those in the immediate vicinity.

(v) By Cllr. Sina Lari

The Leader of the Council was asked to respond to the problems faced by the residents of Hazlewood Tower, who were recharged for heating on an average system, regardless of how much energy was being used. He noted that this was to be abolished from 2023 onwards, but the process had left many residents with debt. Cllr. Lari asked if the Council could abolish the average charging system now and introduce a moratorium on payments until there was a fair system.

Cllr. Campbell, Leader of the Council, responded by acknowledging that there were issues with the contractors, but that both Adair and Hazlewood Courts were undergoing significant refurbishments to make them greener and reduce bills in the future. All the Council's district heating uses a pooled approach to billing, which is replaced by individual meters when systems are upgraded. Residents were being given time to change reduce their demand on energy. A hiatus would reduce the income available to the HRA by up to £10m, which would impair its financial stability. Tenants have been given a rebate during the refurbishment.

Cllr. Lari asked a supplementary question noting that the debt tenants were already facing for pooled heating costs that they cannot control, given the poor performance by the contractors was there a case for compensation.

At Cllr. Campbell's invitation, Cllr. Kim Taylor-Smith responded, explaining that the Council was spending £8m on each building. He accepted that there had been problems with the contract and the length of time to complete it, but having seen the refurbishments, he was confident the work would produce better homes

and cheaper bills. He did not agree that the other residents should be expected to fund compensation.

(vi) By Cllr. Greg Hammond

Following the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's conference and feedback on community safety, he asked the Lead Member what were the plans to address this area of concern.

Cllr. Emma Will, Lead Member for Community Safety, Culture & Leisure, responded by thanking Cllr. Hammond for organising the conference and she state that reducing crime and anti-social behaviour were key priorities.

She outlined how the Council was expanding its warden service, to provide one visible, uniformed person with local knowledge on the streets to meet residents' requests. Cllr. Will added that CCTV coverage was being expanded and that she was investigating how to make it easier for people to request cameras and to integrate their coverage across the borough better. There was no complacency and funds were agreed at the last Council meeting for more ward-based activities to address anti-social behaviour based on the successful Earl's Court pilot.

Cllr. Hammond asked a supplementary question, inviting the Lead Member to comment on the announcement that there were now 20,000 additional police officers, 3,5000 more than in 2010, and whether she would welcome more visible street policing to reassure residents and deter crime.

Cllr. Will Welcome the news and stated that residents and visitors would like to see more police on the street.

(vii) By Cllr. Dori Schmetterling

The Lead Member was asked to provide an update on the progress of the Council's New Homes Programme including the locations, move in dates, number of homes, and typical rents of the first tranche.

Cllr. Kim Taylor-Smith, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Grenfell, Housing and Social Investment, responded that after Grenfell the Council had committed to building 600 new homes that would not be for sale, of which a minimum of 50% would be socially rented. This came after a long period when the Council had not built any homes, nor did it have a wide range of sites. The local authority was also committed to providing mixed tenure developments. He stated that at Hewer Street and Kensal Road there will be 58 homes – 29 socially rented, 18 at key worker rents, to be completed in May 2023. There will also be a large medical centre in Kensal Road. Acklam Road will provide 32 homes. Of these 90 new homes, 75% would be affordable. Cllr. Taylor-Smith added that for phase two, work had commenced at Silchester and Barlby to provide 100 homes.

Lots Road will provide 65 socially-rented care homes, 28 socially rented homes and significant community and commercial space, too. A minimum of 50% of these will be socially rented. He added that given that there are 2100 on the waiting list, 600 homes will not be the end and the Council must obtain

allocations from developers. Cllr. Taylor-Smith stated that he would continue to work to address the needs of those in temporary accommodation.

14 MATTERS OF LOCAL CONCERN RAISED UNDER STANDING ORDER 11

Cllr. Bennett, spoke about the re-opening of the Beatrix Potter Globe, South Bolton Gardens (Bousfield Primary School) and the work down by Redcliffe Ward councillors to secure funding to bring it back into use. He advised Council that the first performances would commence on 28 June and encouraged Members to attend. Cllr. Wade added that the refurbishment was also supported by funds secured by Earl's Court councillors.

Cllr. Hargreaves spoke about the work of residents, Council and Chelsea Physic Garden to replant Chelsea Embankment Gardens. He stated how the project had demonstrated how people were proud of their local area and had got involved through a scheme that was co-designed with residents. Cllr. Hargreaves thanked the Parks and Leisure Team as well as the Lead Member while noting that the densely-populated Chelsea Riverside ward was looking forward to developing the Lots Road public space.

Cllr. Weeden-Sanz on behalf of Queen's Gate ward, thanked the local life fund which was supporting the Gloucester Road Coronation Party on 7 May. He added that all were welcome to join the celebrations as the party was the start of the vision to make the road a destination.

Cllr. Simmons brought to Council's attention the severe impact the increases in rents and service charges, which were not affordable given the cost-of-living crisis. She stated that the increases had not been agreed at the Tenants' Consultative Committee and that universal credit does not address the increased service charges. Cllr. Simmons added that councillors were receiving phone calls from distressed residents and that the mental impact on tenants had not been taken into consideration, indicating that the Council had not responded adequately to the effects of the Grenfell tragedy. She stated that it was wrong to require tenants to pay for the past failings of the Housing Revenue Account and national policy.

15 MOTION: COST OF LIVING

It was moved by Cllr. Hargreaves and seconded by Cllr. Idris that:

'We know residents have been affected by the rising cost of living across the borough. The figures tell us there has been a 10 per cent increase in households in poverty, from 7,227 to 7,948, including a 10 per cent increase in households in fuel poverty, from 8,231 to 9,067. While the Council cannot completely mitigate the financial pressures people will face over winter and beyond, we welcome the Council's package of practical support for people, produced in partnership with Government and the voluntary sector. In addition to existing schemes – like a 100 per cent Council Tax rebate for the poorest households –the Council has set aside £8 million of discretionary cost of living support and put together an online Cost of Living hub, so that Council, Government and voluntary sector support will be accessible in one place. There are also warm winter spaces for local people across the borough. As the winter progresses, we call on the Council to monitor

residents' changing needs and which targeted support packages work best. We also call on the Council to continue to help vulnerable residents.'

An amendment to the motion was moved by Cllr. Ahmed and seconded by Cllr. Elnaghi:

~~We know residents have been affected by the rising cost of living across the borough. The figures tell us there has been a 10 per cent increase in households in poverty, from 7,227 to 7,948, including a 10 per cent increase in households in fuel poverty, from 8,231 to 9,067. While the Council cannot completely mitigate the financial pressures people will face over winter and beyond,~~

~~We are currently living through the worst attack on living standards this country has experienced since the 1950s. Already our food banks are running empty with demands increasing almost threefold in recent months as the number of children living in food poverty has nearly doubled in the last year, Citizen's Advice Bureau queries relating to utility bill debts are up by 110% since April and all before our residents are hit with 30% rises in service charge and the 7% maximum in rent.~~

We welcome the Council's package of practical support for people produced in partnership with Government and the voluntary sector ~~and thank all the council officers for the additional work already carried out~~ to support residents amid this crisis. In addition to existing schemes – like a 100 per cent Council Tax rebate for the poorest households – the Council has set aside £8 million of discretionary cost of living support and put together an online Cost of Living hub, so that Council, Government and voluntary sector support will be accessible in one place.

~~There are also warm winter spaces for local people across the borough. As the winter progresses, we call on the Council to monitor residents' changing needs and which targeted support packages work best. However we recognise that there is much more to do both locally and nationally and that the support provided does not yet match the scale of the crisis facing many of our residents.~~

We call on the Council to continue to help vulnerable residents ~~with the following measures:~~

- ~~Monitor residents' changing needs and which targeted support packages work best.~~
- ~~Provide urgent funding for our struggling food banks~~
- ~~Commit to an urgent review of the staggering service charge increases including but not limited to the immediate community affected by the fire in Notting Dale.~~
- ~~Freeze the social precept and reversal of the 2% increase announce this year~~
- ~~Join other local authorities to lobby the government to restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20 introduced during the pandemic but cancelled by the Government. It's just as crucial now.~~

A debate ensued with contributions from Cllrs. Ali, Taylor-Smith, Thalassites, and Wade

The amendment to the motion was then put to the vote by the Mayor and declared not carried.

The original motion was then put to the by the Mayor and declared carried.

THE DEPUTY MAYOR, CLLR. JANET EVANS, IN THE CHAIR

16 MOTION: IMPROVING HOME CARE IN NORTH KENSINGTON

It was moved by Cllr. Dent Coad and seconded by Cllr. Thaxter that:

'A recent Age UK report highlights the current nationwide issues in the care sector, where poor pay, lack of staff and weak management is severely impacting our most vulnerable people. In the light of the catastrophic report from the Care Qualities Commission relating to MiHomeCare, service providers in North Kensington, this Council would like to review the process of 'target setting' for this service. This Council therefore calls upon the Lead Member for Adult Social Care & Health to commit to undertake a thorough and detailed rethink of the finances, oversight and outcomes for which MiHomeCare has so singularly failed, along with a study of how more successful Councils approach the care of elderly and disabled residents for whom we have a duty of care, in order to adopt good practice that has been tried and tested.

An amendment to the motion was moved by Cllr. Cyron and seconded by Cllr. Knight:

'A recent Age UK report highlights the current issues in the care sector, where poor pay, lack of staff and weak management is severely impacting our most vulnerable people.

In the *light context* of the *catastrophic* report from the Care Qualities Commission relating to MiHomeCare, *one of the* service providers in North Kensington, this Council *would like to review had already reviewed* the process of 'target setting' for this service *and put in place an action plan*.

~~This Council therefore calls upon~~ This Council recognises that there are issues in the north, centre and south of the borough and, therefore, calls on the Lead Member to commit to a thorough and detailed *rethink of the finances, oversight and outcomes for which MiHomeCare has so singularly failed, along with a study of how more successful Councils approach* *redesign of home care services for our* elderly and disabled residents for whom we have a duty of care, by working with residents, care agencies and national experts in order to adopt good practice that has been tried and tested.'

A debate ensued with contributions from Cllrs. Adam, Addenbrooke, Rossi, Schmetterling, and Wade

The amendment to the motion was then put to the vote by the Deputy Mayor, declared carried and became the substantive motion.

'A recent Age UK report highlights the current issues in the care sector, where poor pay, lack of staff and weak management is severely impacting our most vulnerable people.

In the context of the report from the Care Qualities Commission relating to MiHomeCare, one of the service providers in North Kensington, this Council had already reviewed the process of 'target setting' for this service and put in place an action plan.

This Council recognises that there are issues in the north, centre and south of the borough and, therefore, calls on the Lead Member to commit to a thorough and detailed redesign of home care services for our elderly and disabled residents for whom we have a duty of care, by working with residents, care agencies and national experts in order to adopt good practice that has been tried and tested.'

The substantive motion was then put to the vote by the Deputy Mayor and was declared carried.

THE MAYOR, CLLR. DAVID LINDSAY, IN THE CHAIR

17 MOTION: ANTI-SOCIAL E-BIKE PARKING

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

18 MOTION: ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN IN POVERTY

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

19 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

There were no appointments to be approved.

20 ANY OTHER ORAL OR WRITTEN ITEMS WHICH THE MAYOR CONSIDERS URGENT

No other matters were dealt with at the meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.27 pm

Mayor