

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

**TO: THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council, which will be held in the Council Chamber, Lewisham Town Hall, Catford, SE6 4RU on **WEDNESDAY, 23 APRIL 2008** at 7.30 p.m. for the transaction of the business set out in the agenda below.



Chief Executive

Lewisham Town Hall
Catford
London SE6 4RU
15 April 2008

A G E N D A

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1. Minutes

To approve as a true record the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 26 March 2008.

2. Declarations of Interests

Members are asked to declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda.

Personal interests

There are two types of personal interest :-

- (a) an interest which you must enter in the Register of Members' Interests*
- (b) an interest where the wellbeing or financial position of you, (or a "relevant person") is likely to be affected by a matter more than it would affect the majority of inhabitants of the ward or electoral division affected by the decision.

*Full details of registerable interests appear on the Council's website.

("Relevant" person includes you, a member of your family, a close associate, and their employer, a firm in which they are a partner, a company where they are a director, any body in which they have securities with a nominal value of £25,000 and (i) any body of which they are a member, or in a position of general control or management to which they were appointed or nominated by the Council, and (ii) any body exercising functions of a public nature, or directed to charitable purposes or one of whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy, including any trade union or political party) where they hold a position of general management or control,

If you have a personal interest you must declare the nature and extent of it before the matter is discussed or as soon as it becomes apparent, except in limited circumstances. Even if the interest is in the Register of Interests, you must declare it in meetings where matters relating to it are under discussion, unless an exemption applies.

Exemptions to the need to declare personal interest to the meeting

You do not need to declare a personal interest where it arises solely from membership of, or position of control or management on:

- (a) any other body to which you were appointed or nominated by the Council
- (b) any other body exercising functions of a public nature.

In these exceptional cases, unless your interest is also prejudicial, you only need to declare your interest if and when you speak on the matter .

Sensitive information

If the entry of a personal interest in the Register of Interests would lead to the disclosure of information whose availability for inspection creates or is likely to

create a serious risk of violence to you or a person living with you, the interest need not be entered in the Register of Interests, provided the Monitoring Officer accepts that the information is sensitive. Where this is the case, if such an interest arises at a meeting, it must be declared but you need not disclose the sensitive information.

Prejudicial interests

Your personal interest will also be prejudicial if all of the following conditions are met:

- (a) it does not fall into an exempt category (see below)
- (b) the matter affects either your financial interests or relates to regulatory matters - the determining of any consent, approval, licence, permission or registration
- (c) a member of the public who knows the relevant facts would reasonably think your personal interest so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

Categories exempt from being prejudicial interest

- (a) Housing – holding a tenancy or lease with the Council unless the matter relates to your particular tenancy or lease; (subject to arrears exception)
- (b) School meals, school transport and travelling expenses; if you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or a school governor unless the matter relates particularly to the school your child attends or of which you are a governor;
- (c) Statutory sick pay; if you are in receipt
- (d) Allowances, payment or indemnity for members
- (e) Ceremonial honours for members
- (f) Setting Council Tax or precept (subject to arrears exception)

Effect of having a prejudicial interest

If your personal interest is also prejudicial, you must not speak on the matter. Subject to the exception below, you must leave the room when it is being discussed and not seek to influence the decision improperly in any way.

Exception

The exception to this general rule applies to allow a member to act as a community advocate notwithstanding the existence of a prejudicial interest. It only applies where members of the public also have a right to attend to make representation, give evidence or answer questions about the matter. Where this is the case, the member with a prejudicial interest may also attend the meeting for that purpose. However the member must still declare the prejudicial interest, and must leave the room once they have finished making representations, or when the meeting decides they have finished, if that is earlier. The member cannot vote on the matter, nor remain in the public gallery to observe the vote.

Prejudicial interests and overview and scrutiny

In addition, members also have a prejudicial interest in any matter before an Overview and Scrutiny body where the business relates to a decision by the Executive or by a committee or sub committee of the Council if at the time the decision was made the member was on the Executive/Council committee or sub-committee and was present when the decision was taken. In short, members are not allowed to scrutinise decisions to which they were party.

3. Announcements or Communications

To receive any announcements or communications from the Mayor or the Chief Executive.

4. Petitions

To receive petitions (if any)

5a. Public Questions

<u>Question</u>	<u>Questioner</u>
1.	Mr P Richardson
2.	Mr P Richardson
3.	Ms T Adams
4.	Mr P Richardson
5.	Mrs P Richardson
6.	Ms M McLeod (Grove Park User Group Committee)
7.	Mr R Atkinson
8.	Mr G Ambrose
9.	Mr G Ambrose
10.	Mr G Ambrose
11.	Mr G Ambrose
12.	Mr G Ambrose
13.	Mr G Ambrose

5b. Question from Members of the Council

Section C, paragraph 14 of the Constitution, provides for questions relevant to the general work or procedure of the Council to be asked by Members of the Council. Copies of the questions received and the replies to them will be circulated at the meeting.

6. Local Development Framework: Adoption of Revised Local Development Scheme, Version 4

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to revise its Local Development Scheme (LDS) each time new documents are proposed to be added to the Local Development Framework (LDF), or the timetable for production of existing documents is revised; and to submit the revised LDS to the Secretary of State for approval. The documents listed in the LDS will form the LDF for Lewisham.
- 1.2 The revised LDS was reported to the Mayor and Cabinet meeting in February 2008 and submitted to the Government Office for London (GOL) for assessment and approval by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State notified the Council on 18 March 2008 that she approved the LDS as submitted. This report sets out the details of the revised LDS and seeks the adoption of the LDS.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To adopt the revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) Version 4 (2008).

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 The LDF is part of the Council's Policy Framework as set out in the Constitution. The Council's policy framework currently includes the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and this will be replaced by the documents listed in the LDS.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 It is recommended to adopt and bring into effect from 23 April 2008, the revised Local Development Scheme at Appendix 1. (circulated separately)

5. Background

- 5.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the Act) has resulted in substantial changes to the planning system in England. The key outcome of the changes is the LDF which will eventually replace the UDP.
- 5.2 The LDF will be a portfolio of planning documents, prepared by the Council, which collectively will deliver the planning strategy for Lewisham. It will contain:
- Development Plan Documents (DPD) documents setting out the spatial strategy and land uses, development policies, and site allocations for the Borough and specific areas
 - Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) for specific issues or areas

- Procedural documents about how the planning system is to operate locally (the LDS), how and when the community can become involved (Statement of Community Involvement), and how the Council has performed on a range of indicators (the Annual Monitoring Report).

- 5.3 The Lewisham LDS is a procedural document in the LDF. It is a project plan that outlines what planning documents the Council is preparing and the timelines for their preparation. The last version of the LDS was approved by the Secretary of State and adopted by the Council at its meeting on 17th October 2007.
- 5.4 The Act requires that the Local Development Scheme is kept up to date. Each new planning document the Council intends to produce must be included in a revised LDS and submitted to the Secretary of State for approval. In addition any revision to the adopted timetable must be reflected in the revised LDS.
- 5.5 Version 4 of the LDS was prepared in the light of the results of annual monitoring (see the Lewisham Annual Monitoring Report 2007), the implications of new government planning guidance, alterations to the London Plan, changing local circumstances, and staff resources. These are the main factors which necessitated changes to the LDF programme.
- 5.6 Version 4 of the LDS was considered by the Mayor and Cabinet on 13th February 2008 and approved for submission to the Secretary of State. The Government Office for London (GOL) approved the LDS on 18th March 2008. A copy has been circulated separately as Appendix 2.

6. Comments made by the Secretary of State

- 6.1 The Secretary of State on behalf of the Government Office for London (GOL) notified the Council on 18th March 2008 that she did not intend to direct changes and the LDS was approved. The letter is included as Appendix 2.
- 6.2 GOL advised that they wished to be consulted on the Supplementary Planning Documents for Planning Obligations (Section 106 agreements) and the Deptford Creekside.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The cost of consultation and related printing and publishing of any LDF document will be met from the existing Planning Service budget and does not create additional cost.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 Regulations made pursuant to the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required the local planning authority to submit the first Local Development Scheme to the Secretary of State by March 2005. Any subsequent revision to the LDS is subject to exactly the same process as the

first LDS. That is, the Mayor and Cabinet approve the revisions for submission to the Secretary of State, GOL acting for the Secretary of State, then have 28 days during which time they can direct the Council to make changes to the LDS. No changes were directed.

- 8.2 Under the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations made under it, the preparation of the draft LDS for submission to the Secretary of State is an Executive function to be undertaken by the Mayor. The preparation of Development Plan Documents is specified in amending regulations as a non-Executive function and such documents will therefore have to be approved by full Council. Functions relating to Local Development Documents which are not Development Plan Documents continue to be an Executive function to be undertaken by the Mayor. The Local Development Scheme is a Local Development Document.

9. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 9.1 The LDF allows for a spatial planning approach rather than a more narrow land-use approach to policy which was typical of the UDP. The focus will remain on implementing the land-use and design aspects of crime and disorder issues. Each Development Plan Document or Supplementary Planning Document will address crime and disorder issues and contain policies to control identified issues.

10. Equalities Implications

- 10.1 Equalities considerations will be built into the production of each of the documents comprising the LDF. It is anticipated that all policy documents will be subject to the Lewisham Equality Impact Assessment and hence will comply with our duties as a public authority under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

11. Environmental Implications

- 11.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from submitting the LDS to GOL. However, the production of the planning policy documents specified in the LDS will have considerable environmental implications. The new planning regulations require a Sustainability Appraisal for all DPD and these regulations incorporate the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Appraisal Directive.

Background documents and originator

Short Title Document	Date	File Location	File Reference	Contact Officer	Exempt
UDP	July 2004	Laurence House	Planning Policy	Brian Regan	No
PPS 12		Laurence House	Planning Policy	Brian Regan	No
LDF Regulations	October 2004	Laurence House	Planning Policy	Brian Regan	No

If you have any queries on this item, please contact Brian Regan, Planning Policy Manager, 5th floor Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, Catford SE6 4RU, telephone 020 8314 8774.

7. Review of Constitution

The Constitution Working Party met on Thursday April 10 2008 and considered the report attached as Appendix 1 to this item.

The Working Party asks the Council to consider recommendations concerning the Standards Committee, as shown in paragraphs 4.4 to 4.6 of Appendix 1 and described in Appendix 2 to this item.

The Working Party asks the Council to consider changes concerning Local Area Agreements as described in paragraphs 4.7 to 4.16 and from the options available wishes to recommend that the adoption of the draft Local Area Agreement for submission to the Secretary of State should be a matter for the Council, while all matters relating to the prior preparation, submission and modification of the draft Local Area Agreement be an Executive function for the Mayor and that the Constitution be amended to reflect this.

The Working Party asks the Council to approve the separately circulated Appendix 3 which also contains a series of minor amendments, shown as tracked changes.

Recommendations

That the Council:

- (1) Agrees a revised role for the Standards Committee and the associated amendments to the Constitution.
- (2) Agrees the amendment to Part 3 of the Constitution regarding the draft Local Area Agreement.
- (3) Agrees the Constitution be amended as shown in Appendix 3 to this item.

Item 7 Appendix 1

CONSTITUTION WORKING PARTY		
Report Title	Review of Constitution	
Key Decision	No	Item No. 4
Ward		
Contributors	Head of Law	
Class	Part 1	Date: 10 April 2008

1 Summary

This reports seeks the recommendation of the Constitution Working Party (CWP) to the Council to approve minor amendments to the Constitution as shown at Appendix 1 (copies circulated separately). The proposed amendments which are clear from Appendix 1, are required to tidy up the drafting of the Constitution where clarity could be improved and to reflect changes occasioned by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

2 Policy Context

The Council is under a legal duty to keep its Constitution up to date, and the Council's own constitutional requirements set out that the provisions of the Constitution should be reviewed at least once in every 2 years. In practice this review is a continuing process with a series of amendments having been recommended by the CWP and accepted by the Council.

3 Recommendation

The CWP is asked to endorse the amendments set out at Appendix 1 for approval by the Council.

4 Background

- 4.1 The Council adopted its Constitution in accordance with the provisions of the LGA 2000 to take effect from May 2002. Shortly after, it established the CWP to make recommendations to the Council about the operation of the Constitution and to make any proposals for amendment. It has done so on a number of occasions.

- 4.2 In October 2007, the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 was given Royal Assent. Its provisions are being brought in piecemeal, so the Act does not yet have full impact in Lewisham.
- 4.3 However, two of the provisions which are now in force, will impact on the Lewisham Constitution and require amendments to be made. The first relates to the operation of the Standards Committee.

Standards committee

- 4.4 Attached at Appendix 2 is a briefing that was considered by the Standards Committee in Lewisham in November 2007. It shows that the ethical framework in local government is to operate on a local level with the Standards Committee being the first point of reference for all complaints of breach of the Member Code of Conduct. Complaints will be assessed locally as to whether they fall within the remit of the Code of Conduct at all, and if so whether they should be investigated. If so, subject to a right of appeal, the Standards Committee will determine the complaint, unless it is one which is appropriate for referral to the Standards Board for England.
- 4.5 The criteria for such referrals are yet to be established by the Secretary of State, and the regulations about the conduct of business locally by the Standards Committee have at the time of writing yet to be made. Notwithstanding the lateness of the regulations and guidance, DCLG still intend that the new regime will be operative from 1st May 2008. To enable the Standards Committee to operate in this new role, the terms of reference of the Committee should be amended to reflect its proposed new activities.
- 4.6 In addition the LGPIHA 2007 provides that applications for exemption from the political restriction provisions in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 should in future be for the Standards Committee to determine. Previously, these were dealt with by an independent adjudicator, but their role is being abolished by the Act. Proposals to include this role in the Standards Committee Terms of Reference are also included at Appendix 1.

Local Area Agreements

- 4.7 Under the LGPIHA 2007, the regime associated with Local Area Agreements is given a statutory basis for the first time. London Boroughs are amongst those authorities defined as “responsible authorities” for the LAA. “Partner authorities” include agencies such as the police, PCTs, fire authorities, TFL, NHS trusts, Arts Council, HSE etc.
- 4.8 Responsible and partner authorities are under a statutory duty to co-operate in the drafting of a local area agreement for approval by the Secretary of State. The draft must specify local improvement targets and state to which authority they relate. In drawing up the plan, the authority must have regard to the community strategy and in exercising functions the Council must have regard to its local improvement targets.

- 4.9 Targets may be designated by the Secretary of State. Where this happens, the target may not be changed save with the approval of the Secretary of State. Other local improvement targets may be changed following consultation with the partners to whom it relates.
- 4.10 The Secretary of State has the power to issue directions in relation to the drafting of LAAs, and such a direction was issued on 5th March 2008. It requires authorities to submit the draft LAA to the Secretary of State by 31st May this year. The direction also informs authorities that new regulations have been issued (SI 2008/516) effective from 31st March 2008 that the functions relating to the preparations, submission and modification of the LAA is a local choice function.
- 4.11 In legal terms this means that they become functions which may be (but need not be) the responsibility of the Executive. This means that full Council has to decide whether it is to be for the full Council to adopt the draft LAA prior to submission to the Secretary of State, or whether this should be a matter for the Mayor. Once this decision has been made, it will be included in the Council's Constitution and will remain in force unless and until it is amended.

Implications of delegation options

- 4.12 The LAA is a detailed document, concerned with % improvements as targets, heavily numbers based and steeped in detail. It is not the stuff of debate for the Council Chamber. It is suggested that if the power to approve the draft plan for submission to the Secretary of State is reserved to full Council, the preparation of the draft plan and the proposal of it to Council is delegated to the Mayor
- 4.13 The LAA and targets in it are often the subject of intense, delicate, negotiation between the Council and its partners through the LSP. Though the Council is the lead partner in the development of the plan, the legal requirement is to do so in co-operation and consultation with other agencies. The scope for the Council to move outside a position agreed between the parties whilst possible is extremely limited in practice.
- 4.14 As Chair of the LSP, the Mayor is in an ideal position to ensure that the Council's position is reflected in negotiations with the LSP partners
- 4.15 Timescales are extremely tight for sign off of the draft plan for submission to the Secretary of State, requiring submission to a Council meeting (particularly if the Mayor is to make a subsequent recommendation to the Council for approval.)
- 4.16 It might be said that sign off by full Council would demonstrate commitment by the Council as a whole to the draft LAA, despite the limited scope for the Council to amend it against the partners' wishes.

5 Financial implications

There are none arising

6 Legal Implications

These are largely dealt with in the body of the report. Only Council may make amendments to the Constitution which must then in its amended form be available for public inspection.

7 Human Rights/Equalities/Environmental/ Crime and Disorder implications

There are no specific implications arising.

ITEM 7 Appendix 2

STANDARDS COMMITTEE		
Report Title	Implications of the new Code of Conduct and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007	
Key Decision		Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Head of Law	
Class	Part 1	Date: 22 November 2007

1 Summary

This report informs members of the Standards Committee of the implementation of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (LGPIHA), and its impact on the ethical framework for local authorities. It asks for the views of the Committee in relation to its membership and the establishment of sub committees to perform the changed roles which the Standards Committee will have.

2 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to ensure that the Council is compliant with the new legislation and in a position to fulfil its new roles from April 2008.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That the Standards Committee recommend to full Council that its membership be increased to 12 (6 independent and 6 councillors) as set out in this report
- 3.2 That responses to consultation on draft regulations and guidance in relation to the Act be delegated to the Head of Law, having first sought the views of the Chair of the Committee
- 3.3 To agree in principle that a sub committee of this Standards Committee be established to carry out an initial assessment of referrals, as set out at Paragraph 5.2.d below and to request officers to bring a further report back at the earliest opportunity on the terms of reference and other matters once regulations and guidance are issued under the LGPIHA

4 Timing

- 4.1 The LGPIHA was given Royal Assent at the end of October. A full briefing on the Bill was referred to the Standards Committee at its meeting in May this

year. Its implementation in relation to the new ethical framework, is to be the subject of both regulation and guidance which is anticipated some time in the New Year. We anticipate that the effective date for the new provisions will be 1st April 2008

5 **The main provisions of the LGPIHA affecting the conduct of members**

These are as follows: _

5.1 Scope of Code

(a) **Applicability**

The Act reverses the problem arising out of the Livingstone decision by indicating that the Code of Conduct, General Principles and Model Code of Conduct do not only apply to a member's official capacity. Instead the Act amends the LGA 2000 to give a statutory basis to certain provisions contained in the new model code which was adopted by the Council in July. The new model Code contains provisions that it will apply when a member acts other than in an official capacity if they are convicted of an offence in relation to any of the following:-

- Intimidation of a complainant, witness or administrator in relation to an investigation under the Code
- Bringing their office or the Council into disrepute
- Using the position of member improperly to secure advantage or disadvantage for him/herself or others

This provision could not be enforced without the change to the primary legislation made by the LGPIHA

(b) **A new undertaking to observe the Code**

The Act requires that within a prescribed period to be set out by Order of the Secretary of State, members must sign a new undertaking to observe the Code of Conduct omitting the reference to compliance "in performing his/her functions". The prescribed period is yet to be fixed

5.2 Dealing with complaints

(a) *Referrals go to the Standards Committee*

Whereas in the past all allegations in writing of alleged breach of the Code of Conduct had to be made to the Standards Board in the first instance, from April 2008, complainants may refer written allegations of breach to the local Standards Committee.

(a) *A first assessment*

Once an allegation is received, the Standards Committee will be bound by law to decide whether:-

- To refer the matter to the Monitoring Officer for investigation
- Refer the matter to the Standards Board for investigation
- That no further action is to be taken

(c) *Duty to notify and review*

The Act contains certain duties to inform the member concerned of the allegation and decisions made. If no further action is to be taken, the Standards Committee must take reasonable steps to inform the complainant with reasons. The complainant may within 30 days ask the Standards Committee to review its decision. There may be only one such review, and it must be completed within 3 months.

(d) *A referrals sub committee*

(i) In practice it is likely to be an officer who first receives an allegation, conducts an initial evaluation and makes a report to the Standards Committee at the first assessment stage. The focus of the first assessment by Standards Committee members will be limited to establishing whether, if true, the allegation would amount to a matter regulated by the Code, ought to be investigated at all, and if so whether that should be internally by the Monitoring Officer or by the independent Standards Board.

(ii) However, if this exercise were conducted by the whole Committee there would be a conflict of interest for all of the members of the Committee if the complainant were to appeal against a decision not to act. So that there can be a workable mechanism to conduct these reviews, it is proposed that there should be a small subcommittee which would deal only with referrals.

(iii) The number of members on the Standards Committee currently is 9 , 5 independent and 4 councillors. By law the Chair of the Committee is to be an independent member.

(iv) If a Referrals Subcommittee is set up, the Council will need to be satisfied that it has sufficient members on the Standards Committee from whom to draw the sub committee and leave other members of the Committee available for appeal if it materialises. It is suggested that the Standards Committee membership should be increased to 12 - 6 independent and 6 councillors. This would allow the sub committee to have a large enough membership to have a degree of flexibility in attendance and allow headroom for inability to attend and conflicts of interest .

(v) Officers believe that it would be precipitate to establish any sub committee now without sight of the anticipated regulations and guidance but that it would be sensible to increase the size of the committee in readiness to do so. The process for appointing independent members is determined by law. It requires public advert and referral to full Council for a decision. It is not

a speedy process. If Council agrees to the new composition of the Committee, work could begin to do this as soon as possible.

(e) Standards Board call in

The Standards Board may remove the first sieve from the Standards Committee if it believes it is not being properly administered.

(f) Referral to Standards Board

When a Standards Committee should refer a matter to the Standards Board is to be the subject of further guidance from the Standards Board, likely to be for example where Standards Committee sanctions are deemed insufficient, where there is a conflict of interest for Standards Committee members, or where the allegation is controversial locally.

(g) Referrals to Standard Board by Standards Committee

Where the matter is referred to the Standards Board, they will decide whether an ESO should investigate, whether the matter should go back to the Standards Committee locally to be determined, or there should be no further action.

(h) Chair of Standards Committee

In future this must be an independent member, as is Lewisham practice

(i) The Adjudication Panel

The Panel can be accessed by the Monitoring Officer who believes a case too serious to be dealt with locally, or part way through a hearing if a Standards Committee decides its sanctions would be inadequate.

6 Financial implications

The cost of investigating and conducting hearings under the new procedures from April 2008 is unknown at present and depends on the number of referrals. Any received will clearly impact on the work of the Monitoring Officer. The increased cost arising from the expansion of the number of members on the Committee can be contained within existing budgets.

7 Legal Implications

The legal implications are set out generally in the report. The relevant part of the Act requires a commencement order which has not yet been laid, and further regulations will be required to give effect to many of its provisions – such as an amended declaration of interest. Any process for dealing with investigations will need to be fair and take account of the principles of natural justice and the right to a fair hearing.

8. Mayoral Scheme of Delegation

A report amending the Mayoral Scheme of Delegation will be circulated separately.

9. Motion in the name of Councillor Feakes to be seconded by Councillor Maines

"This Council:

Notes the unanimous cross-party support amongst Lewisham councillors against the Post Office's plans to close three more branches in Lewisham.

Regrets the action of the borough's three MPs who voted against the suspension of the closure programme on the 19th of March 2008.

Calls upon the Mayor to write to all three Lewisham Members of Parliament, outlining Council's opposition to the closures of Post Offices in Lee, Hither Green and New Cross."

10. Motion in the name of Councillor Page to be seconded by Councillor Flood

"This council notes that, in response to the threat of annual pay awards being held beneath the real rate of inflation from 2005 to 2010, members of the National Union of Teachers in Lewisham have felt it necessary to join the first national teachers' strike since Margaret Thatcher was prime minister.

At a time when 50% of new teachers are leaving the profession within the first three years of starting their teaching careers, this council believes that education is threatened by the erosion of teachers' pay and conditions. We therefore agree to write to ministers urging them to re-consider the proposed pay award. "

11. Motion in the name of Councillor Flood to be seconded by Councillor Page

"This council calls upon Post Office Ltd to withdraw the plan to close three Lewisham post offices (in New Cross, Hither Green and Lee), as part of a nationwide closure programme.

Noting the decision of Essex County Council to take over some of the post offices facing closure there, we also call upon the Mayor to examine the feasibility of Lewisham council likewise keeping the three local post offices open in the event that Post Office Ltd refuses to withdraw its closure plans."

12. Motion in the name of Councillor Hall to be seconded by Councillor Alexander

“This Council congratulates the success of Lewisham Police in combating crime in our borough; notes the fantastic result of a reduction in residential burglary of 40%, the highest of any of London's borough police forces, further notes the reduction in violent crime, reduction in wounding, and reduction in theft from vehicles; and calls upon the Mayor and Council to send out a positive message about the work our police force are doing to tackle crime in our neighbourhoods.”