

Libraries cost more to keep closed

Lambeth Council is wasting thousands of pounds on security guards in the closed Minet and Carnegie Library buildings. The cost of these security guards is more than it would have cost to keep them open in the first place. A freedom of information request from the Guardian reveals the figures; between 31 March and 15 April the council has wasted £35,392.68 on security, costing over £2,200 a day. Last year the libraries cost just £874 a day to run.

The decision by Lambeth Council to close several libraries in the borough was so unpopular it inevitably led to large demonstrations and an occupation of Carnegie Library.

They could have avoided this entire mess if they had worked with the residents and staff to come up with an alternative that kept the libraries open.

Children's Social Care restructuring = unfairness and uncertainty

Andy Tullis, convener of the Children's Social Care department, spells out the latest problems with the current restructuring that management are pushing through.

The restructuring in Children's Social Care could see as many as 20 posts being lost, with a further 13 in the Multi-Agency Team (MAT). The Children's Social Care "Redesign" was intended, Lambeth Say, to sort out problems with the service identified by 2015's OFSTED inspection. UNISON believe it is achieving nothing of the sort and coupled with the recent Severance Trawl threatens more instability and lack of continuity by losing experienced and dedicated staff unnecessarily, precisely the kind of problems which led to OFSTED's

"inadequate" rating in the first place! Is it any wonder morale in teams is slowly sinking?

Let's remind Lambeth the OFSTED report 2015 clearly identified failures in Senior Management, Leadership and Governance not the practice of front line staff. Yet Lambeth have seen fit to 'delayer' Team Managers even though these posts still exist in the new structures and vacant posts are available due to a number of managers leaving on voluntary severance. UNISON believe it is perverse to threaten any staff with compulsory redundancy when there are vacant posts available.

It's unbelievable that Lambeth are now employing more agency managers to cover teams where the previous manager took

severance, at a time when they have rejected the Assimilation Claims of their permanent team managers and deputy team managers who could be seamlessly assimilated into those posts.

UNISON have never accepted that any permanent staff need to lose their jobs in the "Redesign" and have lodged a Trades Dispute with the Council to demand "No Compulsory Redundancies".

The current Multi-Agency Team/Troubled Families restructure is a flagrant betrayal of dedicated staff by the Council. Let's also remind Lambeth the MAT/TF Teams were commended by OFSTED in 2015, their service saved Lambeth from an even more damning inspection report, yet those same staff

Support Councillor Rachel Heywood!

Councillor Rachel Heywood's brave public call for support with local residents and workers fighting to keep libraries open is a real inspiration. Clearly the Labour Council leaders were furious with her—they voted to suspend her as a Labour Councillor for 6 months. Now other councillors are speaking out—a sign that the growing movement against the demolition of our homes and the closure of our libraries is having an effect. The Progress dominated council are losing the argument, and if they carry on like this then it will have a damaging impact on Labour's local performance in the next council elections.



Calendar

Thursday 9 June

Library campaign meeting 9th June
8pm Brixton Library

Friday 10 June

Radical Readers discuss The Big Short, one of the best books about the Financial Crash of 2007. Brixton Library from 7pm

Wednesday 15 June

Lambeth Momentum meeting, for supporters or Jeremy Corbyn to meet, discuss and plan activities. Stockwell Community Centre, from 6.30pm

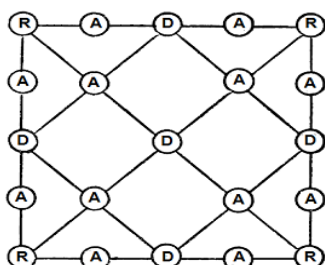
Thursday 23 June

EU referendum ! Make sure you vote!

Saturday 2 July

Reclaim Lambeth day of action and protests in Windrush Square, from 2pm.

BRAINTEASE



How many ways
can you spell
RADAR

To contribute to next months issue, please submit articles, pictures, letters or arguments to MAthini@lambeth.gov.uk

FROM P. 1— are now being restructured out of a job. Again UNISON have asserted that there are enough posts to people in the structures to make redundancies unnecessary, new posts in the structures are broadly similar and Unison have proved staff could be assimilated.

Perhaps Lambeth think this "clear-out"

Congratulations to London Mayor Sadiq Khan!

After too many years of Tory rule in London, the capital has a Labour mayor again. Sadiq Khan easily beat Zac Goldsmith after his Tory rival ran a disgusting racist 'dog whistle' campaign where Tories lined up to accuse Khan of being an extremist and insinuating he was in some way sympathetic to terrorists. Londoners rightly rejected this racist rubbish.

But now Sadiq has to prove himself. One pressing issues facing Londoners like housing and wages, he has to side with working people and the poor. He

attitude (that Unison warned of) is a strategy for improvement that will somehow impress OFSTED and the DfE, but this ridiculous way of restructuring is a potential recipe for chaos in the run up to further inspection. Betraying loyal, dedicated and experienced staff is no way to improve a service or run a council.



has pledged to build many 'genuinely affordable homes' - great, but what does that mean? Many UNISON members working in Lambeth cannot afford to live here any more because of gentrification and sky high rents. Lambeth UNISON will be campaigning to make sure that the new mayor listens to the needs of our members.

Housing Services Phase 1: The answer to our problems - three more Assistant Directors?

Staff are overstretched, the HRA is facing financial pressure and workers fear for the future of their jobs. Here at Lambeth, our bosses have the perfect solution—more high paid managers!

The Director of Housing has launched "phase one" of a restructure which has been expected since Lambeth Living returned to the Council last summer.

The "Phase One" proposals do not threaten any redundancies - quite the reverse. As well as changing a number of reporting lines (mostly for managers) the proposals seek to create three new Assistant Director positions. The Director has told the trade unions that, in "Phase Two" he will aim to move more staff into front-line

housing management roles.

Because there are no redundancies proposed, the Council is permitted to allow only a short (one week) period for consultation - UNISON encourages members to look closely at the proposals so that we can respond by Friday 27 May.

- UNISON want to know
Given the financial pressure on the Housing Revenue Account (and the Council's Budget generally) how can we afford three additional senior posts?
- How can we justify more highly paid managers in an already top heavy Council?