

**APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
1 MARCH 2023**

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**London Borough of Hackney
Meeting of Council
Municipal Year 2022/23
Wednesday, 1 March 2023**

Minutes of the proceedings of
Council held at
Hackney Town Hall,
Mare Street, London
E8 1EA

Councillors in Attendance:	<p>Mayor Philip Glanville - Mayor Cllr Humaira Garasia - Speaker</p> <p>Cllr Kam Adams, Cllr Grace Adebayo, Cllr Soraya Adejare, Cllr Frank Baffour, Cllr Polly Billington, Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble, Cllr Robert Chapman, Cllr Mete Coban, Cllr Sophie Conway, Cllr Michael Desmond, Cllr Sade Etti, Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Zoë Garbett, Cllr Eluizer Goldberg, Cllr Margaret Gordon, Cllr Ben Hayhurst, Cllr Clare Joseph, Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cllr Shaul Krautwirt, Cllr Lee Laudat-Scott, Cllr Hershy Lisser, Cllr Anna Lynch, Cllr Yvonne Maxwell, Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, Cllr Sem Moema, Deputy Mayor Guy Nicholson, Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren, Cllr Ozsen (part), Cllr Sam Pallis, Cllr Benzion Papier, Cllr Sharon Patrick, Cllr Clare Potter, Cllr Fliss Premru, Cllr Steve Race, Cllr Ian Rathbone, Cllr Ali Sadek, Cllr Ifraax Samatar, Cllr Caroline Selman, Cllr Anya Sizer, Cllr Gilbert Smyth, Cllr Simche Steinberger, Cllr Sheila Suso-Runge, Cllr Lynne Troughton, Cllr Claudia Turbet-Delof, Cllr Jessica Webb, Cllr Caroline Woodley, Cllr Penny Wrout and Cllr Sarah Young</p>
Apologies:	Cllr Adejare, Cllr Billington, Cllr Gordon, Cllr Jospeh, Cllr Krautwirt, Cllr Laudat-Scott, Cllr Lufkin, Cllr Lynch, Cllr McKenzie, Cllr Oguzkanli, Cllr Premru, Cllr Ross, Cllr Sadek, Cllr Samatar, Cllr Selman, Cllr Troughton and Cllr Young.
Officer Contact:	Mark Agnew, Governance Officer Natalie Kokayi, Governance Officer governance@hackney.gov.uk
Live Stream View:	https://youtu.be/AnWGE00u1So

Cllr Humaira Garasia, Speaker in the Chair

The Speaker welcomed Council Members, officers and members of the public in attendance, and those watching the livestream. The Speaker reminded Councillors who were accessing the meeting remotely that they would not be counted as being 'present' for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972, and could not vote on any item under consideration. They would, however, be able to speak at her discretion.

The Speaker Reminded members that the 2023/24 Budget and Council Tax report at agenda item 8 is covered by s106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This provides that if any Member is in arrears in their Council Tax by two or more months, they are obliged to disclose this fact to the meeting and not vote on the matter. Failure to comply is a criminal offence punishable by a fine.

1 Apologies for Absence

- 1.1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Adejare, Billington, Krautwirt, Laudat-Scott, Lufkin, Lynch, McKenzie, Oguzkanli, Ross, Selman and Young.
- 1.2. Apologies for lateness were received from Cllrs Hayhurst and Potter.
- 1.3. The Speaker noted that Cllrs Gordon, Joseph, Premru, Sadek, Samatar, and Troughton joined the meeting online.

2 Speaker's Announcements

- 2.1. The Speaker informed the Chamber of recent and forthcoming civic engagements and events as follows:
 - Citizenship ceremonies
 - Holocaust street memorial
 - Holocaust Memorial Day service in the Council Chamber
 - Chinese New Year with Hackney's East and South East Asian Community
 - Grenada Independence Day celebration
 - A visit to Clapton Girls' Academy
 - Hackney Youth Awards
 - Speaker's Charity dinner
 - Community fundraiser for the victims of the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey.
 - Reception for organisations who have supported earthquake victims

- 2.2. The Speaker invited all present in the Chamber to observe a minute's silence for the people of Syria and Turkey who had been impacted by devastating earthquakes.

3 Declarations of Interest

- 3.1. It was noted that all Members of the Council who live in the borough had an interest in respect of agenda item 8, Calculation of 2023/24 Council Tax Base and Local Business Rate Income. It was further noted that a collective

dispensation had been granted by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the Constitution under section 33(2)(a) Localism Act 2011, on the basis that without it, the number of persons who would be prohibited from participating in the meeting would be so great a proportion as to impede the transaction of the business under that item.

- 3.2. In respect of the Solidarity with Striking workers motion at agenda item 11b, Cllrs Binnie-Lubbock and Cllr Garbett declared that they were members of Unison.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 4.1. Cllr Steinberger requested a correction to the previous minutes to note that Cllr Goldberg gave his apologies and had not been present at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 25 January 2023 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings subject to the aforementioned amendment at paragraphs 4.1.

5 Questions from Members of the Public

All questions and responses are attached at Appendix A

6 Questions from Members of the Council

All questions and responses are attached at Appendix B

7 Elected Mayor's Statement

[The Mayor's statement can be viewed online here](#)

- 7.1. Mayor Glanville congratulated Cllr Selman and her partner on the birth of their baby.
- 7.2. Mayor Glanville stated that communities and residents of Hackney were central to everything the Council did. He expressed dismay that so many people were going through an incredibly difficult time. It was noted that there had been an attack at Hackney Central Station earlier on the same day as the Council meeting, and thoughts were sent to the victim, their family, and all those who responded so quickly. The trauma of such incidents on those left behind was acknowledged. Such incidents were rare in Hackney due to the dedicated partnership work of the Police and the Council, led by Cllr Fajana-Thomas, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services. The Mayor hoped that partners would continue to work together to investigate this incident, and tackle and reduce violence and crime.
- 7.3. Mayor Glanville thanked the Speaker and Deputy Speaker for the work they had done to mark the anniversary of the illegal invasion of Ukraine. Its impact had been devastating, but the Mayor highlighted that Hackney had welcomed over 3,000 refugees and shared his experience of recently meeting members from the Homes for Ukraine Team. The team consisted of dedicated officers from across the Council who had responded to the most challenging situations and trauma that refugees had faced. The Mayor also marked the work of

community schools, local organisations, and hosts, who had donated time and resources to support Ukrainian refugees in Hackney, and Ukrainians impacted by the conflict in Ukraine. The Council continued to stand with the people of Ukraine against Russian aggression and the illegal invasion. He thanked those who gathered at Hackney Town Hall on Friday 24th February, to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine with a one minute silence.

- 7.4. Mayor Glanville thanked those who gathered at Hackney Town Hall on Friday 24th February, to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine with a one minute silence.
- 7.5. The Mayor noted that the Council continued to invest in the budget for those people who had No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and supported the Windrush Generation. The Council looked forward to the time when it had formally become a Borough of Sanctuary.
- 7.6. Mayor Glanville shared his thoughts on the catastrophic impact of earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, thanking the Speaker for the one minute's silence as part of her announcements. Residents and community organisations had responded swiftly to the tragedy and it was hoped that organisations would continue to provide support in the weeks and months ahead. The Mayor had visited organisations across the borough, and attended vigils at Hackney Mosque and Trafalgar Square. The Mayor and Cllr Williams had signed an open letter to the Government to extend visas for Turkish people already in the UK which were set to expire, or those people unable to return home, and to expedite decisions for those waiting to enter the UK on compassionate grounds. The Council had also signed a petition that had been debated in The Houses of Parliament this week, requested by Hackney communities.
- 7.7. Mayor Glanville noted the tragic circumstances of the death of Brianna Ghey, and was grateful to Hackney Community and Voluntary Sector (HCVS), Cllr Samatar, and all those who attended the vigil last week honouring her life and memory. In addition, the Mayor and Cllr Williams attended the vigil in Soho, standing in solidarity with the trans and non-binary communities, and all those who stood against hatred. He believed that the Council had a responsibility as an institution to ensure a place of belonging was created for all staff and residents. The Mayor noted the motion later on the agenda in support of the transgender community, and thanked those colleagues who had brought forward the motion on a cross-party basis.
- 7.8. Noting the vibrant community and voluntary sector organisations in the borough, the Mayor celebrated a number of events that had taken place including Hackney Music Awards, Hackney Gala, and Alter Ego, all of which had been supported by the Council. These had been opportunities for Hackney's young people to express themselves on stage and to be celebrated for their achievements. The Mayor highlighted that the Council had also celebrated National Apprenticeship Week celebrating the work of the Council's team and the 300 people who had been through the Council's programme.
- 7.9. Looking forward to celebrations throughout the year ahead, the Mayor drew the Chamber's attention to the micro-grants available for: the Windrush 75

celebrations, the Coronation and associated Big Lunch events. These were opportunities to celebrate all that was best about the borough.

- 7.10. The Mayor was also looking forward to celebrating Purim the following week with the Jewish communities in Stamford Hill.
- 7.11. The Mayor called attention to how the administration continued to show leadership at a local and national level on damp and mould, including:
 - A dedicated damp and mould reporting line
 - Inspection priority to ensure inspection within 5 working days of reporting
 - 24 hour priority response for all reports of leaks in all buildings
 - Restoration of the online non-urgent reporting service
- 7.12. Referencing the recent strikes nationally, the Mayor reported that he and Cabinet Members had been on picket lines for striking teachers, nurses, and ambulance workers, and had attended demonstrations in Central London. The Mayor and Councillors had also lobbied the Government about the right to strike, and looked forward to debating the motion on the agenda, later in the meeting. The Mayor noted that the Council had celebrated Unions Week, supporting the rights of unions to do the work they did, and urged workers to join and support trade unions.
- 7.13. The Mayor also took the opportunity to welcome the launch of the Mayor of London's £130m scheme providing every state primary school child with a free school meal in the academic year 2023-2024. This was transformative for those in the borough and beyond who experienced food poverty. Mayor Glanville shared his outrage that this had not been funded by the Government and looked forward to a future Labour Government who would invest in free school meals. He believed that too much of school meals provision had been outsourced, was expensive, and of low quality. That was why the Council had set up a Free School Meals Task Force last year to improve the quality and delivery of local school meals, produce better healthier meals at lower cost, employ local people and reduce food waste.

The Conservative Group response

- 7.14. Cllr Steinberger echoed the words of the Mayor in support of the victims of the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey. Cllr Steinberger also welcomed the work of the Council in support of residents from Ukraine. He congratulated Cllr Selman on the birth of her child.
- 7.15. Discussing the Mayor of London's new free school meals programme, Cllr Steinberger wanted to know if the scheme applied to primary schools in the private sector.
- 7.16. Cllr Steinberger shared his concerns that the budget report (Agenda item 8) that outlined the budget proposals for 2023-2024 seemed to have been publicised in advance of Council approval.
- 7.17. Cllr Steinberger also shared his concerns about the consultation for the Mayor of London's Ultra Low Emission Zone.

Green Group Response

- 7.18. Cllr Garbett confirmed her support and solidarity with the victims, families, and friends of those impacted by the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, and highlighted the strength, kindness and support that had been shown from people and organisations in Hackney.
- 7.19. Cllr Garbett noted that hatred had been directed at communities in Hackney and across the country and discussed the importance of being bold in sharing solidarity with communities under threat. Cllr Garbett thanked HCVS and Cllr Samatar who had organised the powerful vigil in memory of Brianna Ghey last week. The murder of a young trans woman shocked and deeply affected many people. Cllr Garbett was proud to bring forward a joint motion with Cllr Potter to restate and reaffirm support for trans and non-binary communities.
- 7.20. Cllr Garbett reflected on the Fair Votes Motion last year, which expressed outrage at the introduction of voter identification and the potential it had to exclude people from the democratic process, and welcomed the work of officers related to the introduction of voter identification.
- 7.21. Cllr Garbett expressed concern about mature trees on Council land that was proposed to be sold. She had seen trees felled on Chatsworth Road, and highlighted Bayston Road in Stoke Newington where a tree had been at risk. Cllr Garbett wanted to see greater consultation and engagement with residents regarding this issue
- 7.22. Cllr Garbett also wanted to raise awareness of Newham Council's City Airport weekend flights consultation, to ensure Hackney residents in the flight path had the opportunity to submit their views before the consultation closed in mid March 2023.
- 7.23. Cllr Garbett recognised the difficult context of the budget proposals later in the agenda and hoped that the proposed Green amendment would be considered constructive as part of the debate.
- 7.24. The backlash against funding related to the upcoming coronation of the King was noted. Cllr Garbett wanted to see communities come together, however, the proposed expenditure had not sat well with many residents or community groups at a time of a cost of living crisis, and stretched council budgets.
- 7.25. In closing, Cllr Garbett wished everyone celebrating a Happy Purim.

The Mayor's reply

- 7.26. In reply to the Opposition groups, Mayor Glanville raised the following points:
 - Welcomed the Opposition contributions which demonstrated solidarity in dark times for some residents and communities.
 - Noted the need to ensure all communities received mental health and trauma support in a culturally appropriate and competent way.
 - The articles about the budget decision, published in 'Love Hackney', were caveated to explain that Councillors were still yet to formally

approve the Council's budget. Leaflets about council tax would only go out to residents after the democratic process had taken place.

- The democratic opportunity provided through questions from members was not being used on behalf of residents by the majority Opposition party.
- It was necessary that vehicle dominance was reduced, allowing for cleaner air that benefited all London residents, and ensuring a sustainable way of getting around the city.
- There had been no evidence of voter fraud and there was low take-up of temporary voter ID that the Council could issue. Many residents would find out that they were unable to vote only when they turned up to vote at polling stations.
- The administration had noted the concerns about mature trees and Cabinet Members and ward Councillors would work with colleagues through the processes.
- The Labour Deputy Mayor of Newham had shown his disapproval at the proposed weekend expansion at City Airport. Hackney's administration had opposed the expansion in 2019 and supported the inclusion of a further broader response to include Hackney residents.
- In relation to the coronation it was noted that it was the coronation of the Head of State and it was right in a diverse borough such as Hackney that the event was celebrated.

8 2023-2024 Council Budget and Tax Report

- 8.1. The Speaker reminded Councillors that this decision was covered by Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This provided that if a Member owed two or more months' arrears of Council Tax, they were obliged to disclose this fact to the meeting and not vote on the matter. Failure to comply was a criminal offence punishable by a fine.
- 8.2. Mayor Glanville noted that this was his seventh budget and thanked officers, community and voluntary organisations, residents, and colleagues for the support they had provided. It had been an honour and privilege and he retained the same passion of his first budget proposals. The Mayor explained that he was never complacent or satisfied and had forward-looking ambition.
- 8.3. Despite the challenges of the last financial year the Council had supported 20,000 low income families through half term and school holidays to access food and had created the Free School Meals Task Force. The Council had spent £40k on providing warm spaces, in addition to libraries, and had helped 2,300 residents access nearly £400k of national benefits and local funds through the Council's Money Hub. The Council had funded 1,200 cultural activities, continued the multi-award winning apprenticeship programme which employed an additional 23 local people this year, bringing the total to 300. In addition the Council had supported the Kickstart Programme and delivered 170 placements for 18-24 year olds, three times as many in the apprenticeship programme as when the Mayor was elected in 2016.
- 8.4. The Council completed a £2m refurbishment of the cutting edge Pavilion School providing an additional 80 school places. The Council continued its investment in parks, streets and estates, and had won awards for projects that included the

Britannia Leisure Centre and the work of the Waste Recycling Team. The Council had been pioneering anti-racism, had led on active transport initiatives, and the Mayor suggested that perhaps no other Council in the country had won the Turner Prize. The Mayor also confirmed that the Council had seen five projects it had delivered nominated for Royal Institute of British Architecture awards.

- 8.5. Whilst core government funding had been cut by 41% since 2010 Hackney Council had not cut its ambition. The administration had invested £300k in an energy fund for local energy efficiency schemes. The Council had completed nearly 50 new council homes, had 47 homes under construction, and had been granted planning permission for a further 52. The Council invested £1m in the housing repairs backlog and for treating damp and mould. All these achievements were in the context of national and international challenges.
- 8.6. Challenges remained, with increased costs of living and the impacts of inflation affecting residents and the Council. The proposed budget had protected the most vulnerable, built up the Council's resilience, and provided crisis support where it had been possible. Demands had increased on the Childrens and Adult Social Care (ASC) teams from residents, and there had been increased pressure on housing and welfare services. Mayor Glanville noted the Council faced higher costs, including for energy and increased staffing costs.
- 8.7. The proposed Council Tax rate had to increase by 4.99% as this allowed the Council to invest in vital services. The increase equated to less than £1 per week, however, it was recognised that this had an impact on residents budgets and had been proposed with reluctance. The increase remained below many comparable boroughs and services remained good, and excellent value for money.
- 8.8. The Council proposed to expand and improve the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS). The current position was the 85% reduction scheme that supported 26,000 low income families and pensioners. The Council proposed to make an additional £50 payment in the next year and to work on how the council would take that contribution down to 10% in the following year. It was noted that the proposal provided an exemption from Council tax to foster carers in recognition for the contribution they had made to the lives of vulnerable children.
- 8.9. The Mayor noted that whilst there had been a decade of austerity the Administration was elected on an ambitious manifesto. The proposed budget invested in manifesto priorities working for a better Hackney that was fairer, safer, greener, healthier, and worked for every child. The Council continued to protect frontline services, invest in its workforce and protected the most vulnerable from austerity. The proposed budget included the following:
 - £3.7m in the coming year supporting poverty reduction
 - £300k invested in the Food Poverty Task Force
 - £400k unlocked from the base budget to invest in the Private Rented Sector team, including a 25% increase in team capacity to deliver the expansion of the Landlord Licensing Scheme

- Increased investment in homelessness continuing the award winning work on refurbishing temporary accommodation
 - Continued protection of ASC with a proposed £85m budget
 - Child Social Care proposed budget of £58m
 - £13m for Youth and Early Help for Families
 - £22m for Early Help, Children's Centres and the broader education system
- 8.10. The Mayor was proud to have championed more co-operative organisations, which included taking Hackney Light and Power to the next stage, and noted that this budget proposal was the first truly co-operative budget. The budget had proposals of £61m over the next three years that supported the Net Zero commitments based on social justice, and to deliver on provision for young people.
- 8.11. The Mayor noted the following proposals related to capital expenditure in the proposed budget:
- £300m capital programme over the next year, in addition to support from the Levelling Up bid proposals
 - £51m invested in current Council homes
 - £100m for the construction of new Council homes
 - £14m proposed budget for state maintained schools
 - £17m proposed for parks, gardens, open spaces, and leisure centres
- 8.12. As part of the £61m commitment to Green Hackney the budget proposed:
- £15m committed to net zero emissions
 - £8m on decarbonisation of buildings
 - £3m on street scene projects
 - Funding on cycle hangers and electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure
 - Public toilets free of charge
- 8.13. The Mayor thanked Cllr Chapman, the Cabinet, Scrutiny, Audit, the Group Director, and the whole management team who worked on the budget and commended the proposed 2023/2024 Budget Report to Councillors.
- 8.14. The Green Opposition party had proposed amendments to the proposed budget. Cllr Garbett proposed the budget amendments and was seconded by Cllr Binnie-Lubbock.
- 8.15. Cllr Garbett reiterated the continued political choices made by the Government which had left residents in a difficult financial situation, and which had depleted Council resources. Cllr Garbett acknowledged the consequences of not setting a balanced budget, however noted the risk of being complicit in neglecting the needs, health, and well-being of residents.
- 8.16. The Green Opposition supported loud, strong, and independent voices including the Local Government Independent Group and opposition Members of Parliament (MPs) that held the Government to account for decisions it had forced Councils to make. The next Government had to address wealth

inequality and austerity, and increase public spending. The Green Party proposed a number of ways by which this was achieved:

- Close off-shore and corporation tax loop-holes
- Wealth tax
- Land-value tax
- Abolishing the Monarchy
- Scrapping Trident
- Cancel costly nuclear power that will not come online in a timescale that addressed the energy crisis

- 8.17. Cllr Garbett was heartened that the Council, whilst it faced adverse financial circumstances, continued to prioritise the most vulnerable through the Poverty Reduction Framework. Cllr Garbett applauded the Council's innovative ways that supported vital services for the long term well-being of children and adults, homes, and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- 8.18. The Councillor thanked officers for their continued compassion, resilience, and dedication through challenging times, and thanked the Finance team and officers from across the Council who had assisted in responding to questions posed as the Green budget proposals developed. Cllr Garbett had hoped that concerns raised by Library staff and recommendations from Unison to embed the new strategy before making staff reductions had been taken onboard by the Administration.
- 8.19. Cllr Garbett noted the amendments proposed spoke to the current cost of living crisis, pandemic impacts and recovery, and the climate crisis. The amendments proposed by the Green Opposition were as follows:

- Increased filming and television production charges that recognised Hackney as a filming location, and to use that money to fund creative arts grants for young people to train in the industry.
- Review Visitor Parking Vouchers that increased Blue Badge discounts to 70%, and decreased blanket discounts for residents over 60 year olds, to 30%
- A reduction to one Deputy Mayor and one Mayoral Advisor.
- An additional full-time and part-time staff resource for the Money Hub where there had been significant demand.
- A funded permanent Biodiversity Officer that addressed the climate and ecological crisis.
- Commission a feasibility study that considered the introduction of a workplace levy for Hackney employers and employees in the borough.
- A future Green Administration proposed to look at parking charging particularly related to electric vehicles (EV), cycle hangers and emissions-based charging, a borough-wide landlord licensing scheme, and made community hall hire cheaper for community groups.

Members debated the amendment.

- 8.20. Cllr Chapman thanked Green Councillors for the amendments and noted the amendments were an endorsement of the Administration's manifesto. The total proposed changes were approximately 1% of the total Council budget. He

noted that the Money Hub operated in an organic way, and was resourced through seconds.

- 8.21. Cllr Kennedy noted omissions in the proposed amendments, which included the advertising boards tender that was proposed in the budget and which raised £50k revenue per year. Cllr Kennedy also noted the Green Group had recently signed a petition to delay the implementation of the proposed library restructure, which saved £250k through the reduction of 19 full time equivalent posts, but in the proposed amendment had not identified where the proposed savings had been found elsewhere in the budget.
- 8.22. Cllr Woodley noted that the amendment included nothing related to special educational needs and disability (SEND). Despite the Council having been in a very difficult situation, it had funded 84 new SEND places between 2020-2022, and a further 72 places were being delivered across 2 primary schools and at Side by Side. The Council had looked at another 93 places across primary, secondary and independent settings and is more than halfway to meeting its commitment of an additional 300 SEND places. Cllr Woodley acknowledged the Green concerns and the Council had committed to a Biodiversity Officer as part of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy. There was a plan to recruit a Volunteer Officer and a Biodiversity Officer within Parks and Green Spaces.
- 8.23. Cllr Etti noted the amendments had not included anything related to temporary accommodation (TA) which continued to increase as a result of Government policy. Cllr Etti noted the strategic leadership provided by Mayoral Advisors, which demonstrated their importance.
- 8.24. Deputy Mayor Bramble noted the amendment looking at the cultural arts programming and highlighted the Council's investment which included £400k to Hackney Empire, £90k to Hoxton Hall, and a £65k investment to Immediate Theatre and the Mouth that Roars. This investment came despite the Council having lost 60p in every pound (£) of Government funding.
- 8.25. Cllr Coban noted the amendment that proposed to reduce the cost of cycle parking for some people. Hackney Council had the most ambitious cycling plan in London, with 665 new cycle hangers and 4,000 bike parking spaces for residents in Hackney. Cllr Coban also highlighted that the proposed amendment increasing the cost of EV parking by six times would result in inflated charges for all other car bands, all during the cost of living crisis.
- 8.26. Cllr Moema noted the proposed amendment regarding the Landlord Licensing Scheme. The investment in the scheme had been a manifesto commitment and the Council had to work through solutions that acknowledged the financial realities and held conversations that included both landlords and residents.
- 8.27. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock had the opportunity to speak to the amendment.
- 8.28. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock appreciated the robust debate in the Chamber and noted that as an Opposition group the Greens had limited resources, however, they had a role to hold the Administration to account.

- 8.29. Discussing the issues raised in debate, Cllr Binnie-Lubbock indicated that it was unfair to have raised the Libraries restructure, which he believed should not be used as a political football, and that the Biodiversity officer had been promised for too long so it was important to have made a strong point to ensure it was delivered. In relation to Mayoral Advisors, Cllr Binnie-Lubbock considered that if the roles had been important for residents' lived experiences then the functions had to have a designated position in Cabinet. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock confirmed that the Green Councillors supported the Committee system of local government, believing it to be much more fair as it would involve more Councillors. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock clarified that the Green proposal regarding EV parking costs related to the equivalent bike parking space that cars took up, and that a car should cost at least the equivalent number of bicycles that could fill the parking space.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Garbett and seconded by Cllr Binnie-Lubbock.

On a recorded vote, there being;

2 Members for: Cllrs Binnie-Lubbock and Garbett

36 Members against: Mayor Glanville and Cllrs Adams, Adebayo, Baffour, Bramble (Deputy Mayor), Chapman, Coban, Conway, Desmond, Etti, Fajana-Thomas, Garasia (Speaker), Hayhurst, Kennedy, Lisser, Maxwell, Moema, Nicholson (Deputy Mayor), Narcross, Ogundemuren, Pallis, Patrick, Potter, Race, Rathbone, Sizer, Smyth, Steinberger, Suso-Runge, Troughton, Turbet-Delof, Walker, Webb, Williams, Woodley, Wrout.

No abstentions

The amendment to the MOTION was lost and the amendment to the proposed budget was NOT CARRIED

- 8.30. There was a second amendment to the proposed budget from the Conservative Group.
- 8.31. Cllr Steinberger proposed the amendment and was seconded by Cllr Lisser; Cllr Lisser reserved the right to speak later.
- 8.32. Cllr Steinberger thanked the Group Director for Finance and officers for their support preparing the proposed amendments. Cllr Steinberger noted that as an opposition party they had been limited to making amendments to the proposed budget, and wanted a cross-party approach to find common ground. Cllr Steinberger raised a point about how much of the £130m cut by the Government over the last 12 years had been from inefficiencies. Cllr Steinberger indicated that Conservative proposals from previous years had been adopted. The Councillor was concerned that the Council Tax proposals had been set out in a local council media publication and the Library Services restructure had been implemented in advance of the Council meeting. In relation to climate change it was noted that the road closures in Hackney Central diverted traffic to other roads which caused pollution and negatively

affected trade on roads that had closed. Cllr Steinberger suggested that School Streets caused chaos and pollution in Stamford Hill.

Members debated the amendment

- 8.33. Mayor Glanville indicated that the proposed Conservative amendments had sounded alarm bells. The proposals had condemned residents to poorer facilities at Kings Hall, condemned 35,000 households in the private rented sector (PRS) to damp and mould, and sought the decimation of the borough road infrastructure and pavements.
- 8.34. Cllr Coban considered the amendments a betrayal of Hackney's children and young people. The School Streets initiative had reduced tail-pipe emissions by 74% outside schools. Everything proposed in the Administration's budget was supported by the people of Hackney, as they wanted to see action on climate change, protect their childrens' lives, and to breathe clean air.
- 8.35. Deputy Mayor Nicholson had reviewed previous Conservative budget proposals and noted that this year officers had given written warnings indicating that the amendments might risk the safety of the public.
- 8.36. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock was shocked that after a decade of national austerity the Conservative Group wanted to bring further austerity in Hackney. The proposed amendment wanted to remove the good environmental elements of the Administration's proposed budget which was to the neglect of children in the wards that the Conservative group represented. Children needed fresh air, trees, and a planet that was not made uninhabitable by climate change.
- 8.37. Cllr Lisser spoke as seconder to the amendment.
- 8.38. Cllr Lisser was proud to second the Conservative Group amendment which had spoken to the average resident of Hackney. Cllr Lisser noted that Councillors were elected and had to be reasonable and responsible in how they spent public money to ensure they had not imposed things on residents which they had not asked for. Cllr Lisser considered too many things in the Administration's budget proposal were unreliable, and it had not aligned with the impact of the cost of living crisis. Cllr Lisser commended the Conservative Group amendments.
- 8.39. Cllr Steinberger exercised his right to reply.
- 8.40. Cllr Steinberger indicated that if the Administration had been serious about emissions at schools, the solution was to install gates in school areas during school hours. Cllr Steinberger also suggested the consultation responses submitted to the Council about five schools had indicated that residents did not want School Streets. School Streets initiatives polluted surrounding roads, and low traffic neighbourhoods had also not worked. Cllr Steinberger considered the Administration budget proposal spent too much on the wrong initiatives. The Conservative Group proposed council tax to be lower than last year.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Steinberger and seconded by Cllr Lisser.

On a recorded vote, there being:

2 Members for: Cllrs Lisser and Steinberger

36 Members against: Mayor Glanville and Cllrs Adams, Adebayo, Baffour, Binnie-Lubbock, Bramble (Deputy Mayor), Chapman, Coban, Conway, Desmond, Etti, Fajana-Thomas, Garasia (Speaker), Garbett, Hayhurst, Kennedy, Maxwell, Moema, Nicholson (Deputy Mayor), Narcross, Ogundemuren, Pallis, Patrick, Potter, Race, Rathbone, Sizer, Smyth, Suso-Runge, Troughton, Turbet-Delof, Walker, Webb, Williams, Woodley, Wrout.

No abstentions.

The amendment to the MOTION was lost and the amendment to the proposed budget was NOT CARRIED

Members moved to the substantive budget proposal which Members debated.

- 8.41. Cllr Chapman endorsed the Mayor's Budget proposals, which was a budget for stability despite the difficult financial circumstances of austerity, inflation and the cost of living crisis. The budget had supported manifesto commitments, and included support for the PRS and support for co-operatives. Cllr Chapman focused on the level of Government funding and the difficult decisions made by the Council in previous years when balancing the budget. Hackney Council had had a real-term funding cut of 41% since 2010. The temporary upward movement in ASC funding in the current year had meant borrowing in future years.
- 8.42. Deputy Mayor Bramble supported the proposed budget. The proposals had a £1m Council Tax support scheme for residents, exempted foster carers from council tax, and there was a £1.2m support scheme to households that had been struggling, including £200k support to residents with energy costs.
- 8.43. Cllr Coban agreed that the budget tackled the climate crisis and sought climate justice. It had a £63m down payment over the next 3 years that helped deliver the Green New Deal. It helped residents through the community energy fund and green homes programme, and accelerated the creation of green jobs in the borough.
- 8.44. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock noted the Administration had emphasised green growth which had increasingly been discredited by academics. To achieve Net Zero the approach had to transition to a circular economic model. Green Councillors wanted a commitment to a green economy and had concerns about the expansion of the North London Waste Authority incinerator at Edmonton.
- 8.45. The Mayor exercised his right to reply.
- 8.46. Mayor Glanville noted the points made by the Opposition. Opposing sustainable growth was a retrograde step for the Council and Hackney communities. The Mayor discussed the importance of sustainable green growth and gave examples including the £14m investment in schools from capital

receipts from S106 agreements, the Community Infrastructure Levy process, Britannia Leisure Centre, and the housing development programme which had benefited from the cross-subsidy projects delivered in the borough. It was clear that the Council harnessed growth, and that Hackney's economy was about green sustainable economic growth. Cllr Steinberger had failed to mention that the current Government had the lowest growth in history, and the lowest growth in the G7 this year, which had impacted on the money invested in services in boroughs like Hackney.

The substantive MOTION was put to the vote.

On a recorded vote, there being:

34 Members for: Mayor Glanville and Cllrs Adams, Adebayo, Baffour, Bramble (Deputy Mayor), Chapman, Coban, Conway, Desmond, Etti, Fajana-Thomas, Garasia (Speaker), Hayhurst, Kennedy, Maxwell, Moema, Nicholson (Deputy Mayor), Narcross, Ogundemuren, Pallis, Patrick, Potter, Race, Rathbone, Sizer, Smyth, Suso-Runge, Troughton, Turbet-Delof, Walker, Webb, Williams, Woodley, Wrout.

2 Members against: Cllrs Lisser and Steinberger

2 Members abstained: Cllrs Binnie-Lubbock and Garbett

The substantive MOTION was carried

RESOLVED:

1. To bring forward into 2023/24 the Council's projected 2022-23 General Fund balance of £15.0m with the aim of increasing this to £20m over the medium-term period to 2026/27 noting the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balances of £13.7m.
2. To agree for approval the directorate estimates and estimates for the General Finance Account items set out in Table 2 in Section 14 of the report.
3. To note that the budget is a financial exposition of the priorities set out within the Strategic Plan summarised at Section 6 below.
4. To note that in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, the Group Director, Finance and Corporate Resources, is of the view that: The General Fund balances which currently stand at £15.0m and the level of other reserves are adequate to meet the Council's financial needs for 2023/24 and that considering the economic uncertainty they should not fall below this level and that the aim is to increase these to £20m over the medium term period to 2026/27 from a review of current earmarked reserves. This view takes account of the reserves included in the Council's latest published 2021/22 Accounts and the movements of those reserves since that date – which have been tracked through the Overall Financial Position (OFP) Reports, and the latest OFP projections.

Note also, that the projections in the HRA Budget to maintain the balance at £13.7m by 31 March 2023 are also considered to be adequate at this point in time but will need to continue to be reviewed in the light of the challenges facing the HRA. In 2019/20 the HRA balance reduced from £15m because of the need to set up a provision for Thames Water agency refunds. There is a plan to get back up to £15m through the savings programme over the medium term to replenish reserves and in 2021/22 we were able to increase the HRA balance by £1.4m to £13.7m.

5. The General Fund estimates are sufficiently robust to set a balanced budget for 2023/24. This takes into account the adequacy of the level of balances and reserves outlined above and the assurance gained from the comparisons of the 2022/23 budget with the projected spend identified in the December 2022 OFP. The overall level of the corporate contingency has been set at £2m.
6. To approve the proposed General Fund fees and charges as set out in Appendix 7 for implementation from 1st April 2023.
7. To continue the policy requiring the Group Director, Finance and Corporate Resources to seek to mitigate the impact of significant changes to either resources or expenditure requirements.
8. To note the summary of the HRA Budget and Rent setting report proposed to Cabinet on 27th February 2023.
9. To authorise the Group Director, Finance and Corporate Resources to implement any movements required to allocate provision for demand and growth pressures set out in this report subject to the appropriate evidence base being provided.
10. To approve: The allocation of resources to the 2023/24 capital programme referred to in Section 22 and Appendix 6.
11. To note that the new capital expenditure proposals match uncommitted resources for the year 2023/24.
12. To agree the prudential indicators for Capital Expenditure:- the Capital Financing Requirement; the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt; the Affordability prudential indicators; and the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for 2023/24 as set out in Section 23 and Appendix 3.
13. To confirm that the authorised limit for external debt of £777m agreed above for 2023/24 will be the statutory limit determined under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003. Further reassurance about the robustness of the budget is the confirmation that the Council's borrowings are within the boundaries of prudential guidelines.

14. To continue to support the approach of using reserves to manage emerging risks and liabilities.
15. To note that at its meeting on 23rd January 2023 the Council agreed its Council Tax Base for the 2023/24 financial year as 78,108.86 in accordance with regulations made under section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The Council Tax Base is the total number of properties in each of the eight council tax bands A to H converted to an equivalent number of band D properties.
16. To agree that the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31A to 36 of the Localism Act 2011.
17. The authority calculates the aggregate of: (in accordance with Section 31A (2) of the Act)
 - (a) £1,291.628m being the expenditure which the authority estimates it will incur in the year in performing its functions and will charge to a revenue account, other than a BID Revenue Account, for the year in accordance with proper practices.
 - (b) £2m being such allowance as the authority estimates will be appropriate for contingencies in relation to amounts to be charged or credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices.
 - (c) £nil being the financial reserves which the authority estimates it will be appropriate to raise in the year for meeting its estimated future expenditure.
 - (d) £nil being such financial reserves as are sufficient to meet so much of the amount estimated by the authority to be a revenue account deficit for any earlier financial year as has not already been provided for.
 - (e) £1.568m being the amount which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its general fund to its collection fund in accordance with section 97(4) of the 1988 Act, and
 - (f) £nil being the amount which it estimates will be transferred from its general fund to its collection fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(5) of the 1988 Act and charged to a revenue account for the year.
18. The authority calculates the aggregate of: (in accordance with Section 31A (3) of the Act)
 - (a) £1,191.936m being the income which it estimates will accrue to it in the year and which it will credit to a revenue account, other than a BID Revenue Account, for the year in accordance with proper practices.
 - (b) £nil being the amount which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with section 97(3) of the 1988 Act.
 - (c) £nil being the amount which it estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to a

direction under section 98(4) of the 1988 Act and will be credited to a revenue account for the year, and

(d) £nil being the amount of the financial reserves which the authority estimates it will use in order to provide for the items mentioned in subsection (2) (a), (b), (e) and (f) above.

19. £103.260m being the amount by which the aggregate calculated under subsection (1) above exceeds that calculated under subsection (2) above, the authority calculates the amount equal to the difference; and the amount so calculated is its Council Tax Requirement for the year.
20. £103.260m being the amount at (3.2.17) divided by the amount at (3.2.14) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31A of the Act, £1,339.15 as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
21. That the Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council tax for 2023/24 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings

Valuation Bands Hackney

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
892.77	1,041. 56	1,190. 36	1,339.1 5	1,636. 74	1,934.3 3	2,231. 92	2,678. 30

22. That it be noted that for 2023/24 the Greater London Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Bands GLA

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
289.43	337.66	385.9 0	434.14	530.62	627.09	723.57	868.28

23. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3.2.19 and 3.2.20 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwellings as shown below.

Valuation Bands Combined Hackney/GLA

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1182.2	1379.2	1576.2	1773.2	2167.3	2561.4	2955.4	3546.5

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
0	2	6	9	6	2	9	8

24. To agree, subject to the decision of Members on recommendations 3.2.15 to 3.2.17 that Hackney's Council Tax requirement for 2023/24 be £103.260m which results in a Band D Council Tax of £1,339.15 for Hackney purposes and a total Band D Council Tax of £1,773.29 including the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept.
25. To agree that in accordance with principles approved under section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and the new provisions included in the Localism Act 2011, the increase in the Council's Council Tax requirement for 2023/24 as shown at Appendix 8 is not excessive (5% or above) and therefore does not require the Council to hold a referendum.
26. To agree the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 to 2025/26, set out at Appendix 3.
27. To agree the criteria for lending and the financial limits set out at Appendix 3.
28. To approve the MRP statement setting out the method of calculation to be used, as set out in paragraphs 23.19-23.28 below.

9 Amendment to the Mayor's Scheme of Delegation

- 9.1. Mayor Glanville introduced the report, and noting the importance of democracy and accountability, stated that when it comes to making decisions about how Hackney's school system is structured and configured that those decisions should be made in public by the elected members of Cabinet and the Mayor. Amendments to the scheme of delegation would normally be presented at the Annual General Meeting, but decisions will be required in the next few months, and it is correct that the Council ensures that they are taken in public by elected representatives.
- 9.2. Deputy Mayor Bramble spoke in support of the report, which ensured that the public can best understand the rationale for decisions.

RESOLVED: To note he amended Mayor's Scheme of Delegation for 2022/2023

10 Draft Calendar of Council Meetings

RESOLVED: To note the proposed Council meeting calendar for 2023/24.

11 Motions

Full details of the debate on all motions can be viewed at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnWGE00u1So&t=989s>

Cllrs Lisser and Cllr Steinberger left the meeting at 9:35pm

The proposed tabled amendments to the motions were published separately.

11a Supporting the Transgender Community - (Joint Labour and Green Group Motion)

The motion as set out at agenda item 11a in the Supplementary Papers 2 was MOVED by Cllr Potter and SECONDED by Cllr Garbett.

Cllr Potter introduced the motion, celebrating that Hackney valued the strength that came with difference and the positive contribution diversity had brought to our community. The aspiration for the motion was for Hackney to be a safe, welcoming, and inclusive borough for everyone, no matter their gender identity or gender expression. However, trans men, trans women, and non-binary people faced many challenges, with transphobic hate crime in the UK quadrupling in the last five years. Cllr Potter confirmed that the motion made it clear that transgender and non-binary people are welcome in Hackney, and that the Council should consider the specific needs of the trans community to ensure they are not discriminated against when accessing services.

Cllr Garbett supported the motion, stating her pride at the commitment shown in Hackney to trans and non-binary people, highlighting that this is a joint motion from the Green and Labour groups, and reported on her experiences working in the NHS. Cllr Garbett stressed the importance of supporting trans and non-binary residents to thrive and referenced the important actions in the motion.

Mayor Glanville, and Cllrs Williams, Wrout, Webb, Rathbone, Hayhurst, and Binnie-Lubbock also spoke in support of the motion.

The motion was put to the vote

The MOTION was unanimously CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

This Council believes in equity of opportunity and that human rights are the bedrock of our society. Trans women are women. Trans men are men. Non-binary people are non-binary. We believe in the dignity of all people, and their right to respect and equity of opportunity. We value the strength that comes with difference and the positive contribution diversity brings to our community. Our aspiration is for Hackney to be a safe, welcoming, and an inclusive borough for everyone, no matter their gender identity or gender expression.

This Council notes:

- The rise in reports of violent attacks and hate crime against LGBTQIA+ people, with hate crime against trans people having quadrupled in the last 5 years.

- The Tory Government had fallen far short of its promise to reform the Gender Recognition Action (GRA), despite the consultation yielding overwhelming support for change, the results mean the process will not be de-medicalised, the spousal veto will remain, and legal recognition for non-binary individuals will not be extended.
- There was concern about the rise in transphobia in the UK, from individuals, politicians and the media, as well as the increasing severity of the threats faced by the trans community.
- That transgender and non-binary people may require specific support to access services without facing discrimination. All council services must be equipped to welcome and provide appropriate service and good customer care to suit transgender and non-binary people.
- Data on gender identity was gathered in the 2020 Census for the first time. More than 1% said their gender is different to their sex registered at birth. Hackney also has the highest number and the highest proportion of usual residents who described a nonbinary+ gender identity out of any of the 34 London boroughs.
- That there are transgender and non-binary people in Hackney of all ages, and that the need for better understanding and acceptance of what it means to be transgender or non-binary is an intergenerational issue.
- That transgender and non-binary people may face intersecting struggles due to factors like their race, religion, disability, socio-economic background, or sexuality.
- Hackney Council had a proud and recognised history of working to achieve equality of opportunity both within the Town Hall and across the borough, whilst supporting groups and organisations to deliver essential services, projects and events.
- The vital work done by groups in Hackney to support local trans and nonbinary people, as well as the wider LGBTQIA+ community. Including, but not limited to, Project Indigo, Rainbow Mind, ELOP, Proud Hackney (the Council's LGBTQIA+ staff network), Pride in Education, Dalston Superstore, Shelter, Live Through This, St Paul's West Hackney, London Friend, Positive East, Mouth That Roars, Volunteer Centre Hackney, Rio Cinema, Queer China Collective.
- The London Borough of Hackney first flew the Progress rainbow flag to mark LGBTQIA+ History Month, in February 2019, and the Intersex Inclusive Pride flag for LGBTQIA+ history month in February 2023.
- That the London Borough of Hackney has marked the Trans Day of Remembrance since 2021.
- That Hackney Council has taken the following recent work to support the LGBTQIA+ community: ensuring Mx is included on the data standards, and our standard equality monitoring form has, since 2011, included "Male, Female, Prefer to use my own term."
- That despite positive initiatives there is always more to do to ensure we are a genuinely supportive, inclusive and welcoming borough. The Council will seek to better support transgender and non-binary people to live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives.
- The Council has an inclusive language guide to ensure council forms and documents are trans and non-binary inclusive where possible.

This Council therefore resolves:

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- To state publicly that trans rights are human rights and affirm the legal rights of all protected groups under the Equality Act 2010.
- To do more to shift the culture of the Council overall by working with LGBTQIA+ groups to encourage training for councillors and council staff to raise awareness of the difficulties transgender and non-binary people face and of the support councillors could offer to this community.
- To continue supporting and celebrating the work of Proud Hackney, the Council's LGBTQIA+ staff network.
- To request that the Mayor agrees to publicly acknowledge International Trans Day of Visibility (March 31st).
- To encourage council staff and councillors to consider important gestures that make it clear transgender and non-binary people are welcome.
- To consider the particular needs of transgender and non-binary people who are at high risk of facing homelessness when implementing the Council's existing homelessness and rough sleeping strategy.
- To work with partner organisations to ensure transgender and non-binary people are not discriminated against whilst accessing homelessness services.
- To ask the London Borough of Hackney Health in Hackney Commission to consider the barriers which transgender and non-binary people face when accessing medical care and to find ways of reducing them.
- To review with a view to improving signposting to support services for transgender and non-binary people within Council communications.
- To ask the Chief Executive to ensure all staff are supported in bringing their authentic selves to the workplace.

Proposed by: Cllr Clare Potter

Seconded by: Cllr Zoë Garbett

11b Solidarity with Striking Workers (Green Group Motion)

Following publication of the agenda, proposed amendments were received and the proposer and seconder of the motion indicated that they were content to accept these amendments.

The motion as set out at agenda item 11b in the Supplementary Papers 2 was MOVED by Cllr Binnie-Lubbock and SECONDED by Cllr Garbett.

Cllr Binnie-Lubbock introduced the motion and relayed to members that it is important that workers had as much support as possible to collectivise and demand improved pay and conditions. Workers in all sectors had kept this country going through major economic, political, and health crises, yet their work is becoming more precarious and undervalued. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock noted that the UK had a very high level of income inequality compared to other countries, which in 2022 saw incomes for the poorest 14m people fall by 7.5%, whilst incomes for the richest fifth increased by 7.8%. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock welcomed the engagement of Labour Group with this motion and noted that the Green Group have accepted Labour's amendments in full. However, he also noted that the Green Group would still continue to push for facility time to be extended and enhanced in recognition of increased needs.

People shouldn't have to strike for decent conditions, it should be a precondition for living in the sixth largest economy in the world and asked Councillors to vote in solidarity with the motion.

Mayor Glanville supported the motion and was also pleased that the groups had worked together to develop text that all members could get behind. The Mayor noted that Councillors had been out in support of Hackney Trade Unionists on strike and at protests, but asked that members also recognise those who are not unionised, and support staff that aren't often at the front of our minds.

Deputy Mayor Bramble, Cllrs Ogundumeren, Williams also spoke in support of the motion.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7.1 Section 4.2 of the Council's Constitution, Cllr Adams MOVED a motion without notice to extend the meeting beyond 10pm to 10.15pm This was SECONDED by Cllr Rathbone

RESOLVED: That the meeting be extended to 10.15pm

Cllr Garbett as seconder welcomed the solidarity in the Chamber for the Green motion, highlighting the alarming scale of the strikes, and recognising that those who will be striking in the future do so not just for their pay, but to ensure the provision of services to their communities.

The motion with accepted amendments was put to the vote.

The MOTION with accepted amendments was unanimously CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes:

- The UK is facing a wave of industrial action in the wake of rising prices a cost-of-living crisis and paltry pay offers
- That in December, the Royal College of Nurses took the unprecedented step of holding a national strike on the 15th and 20th December 2022, and announced strikes on the 18th and 19th of January 2023 alongside other healthcare workers including ambulance workers who are striking in January
- The National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers took part in strikes on 13th, 14th, 16th and 17th December 2022, with strikes ongoing in January 2023
- Major education unions in England balloted their members and an NEU national strike took place on 1 February with up to 300,000 members across 23,400 schools.
- A ballot of 47,000 Junior Doctors who are BMA members in England has supported strike action, to take place for 72 hours between 7.00 am on Monday 13 until 7.00 am on Thursday 16 March.
- The main union for Tube drivers, ASLEF, has announced a one-day strike for Wednesday 15 March.

- Over 70,000 staff at 150 universities across the UK took three days of strike action over attacks on pay, working conditions and pensions

This Council further notes:

- In January 2023 the Government announced its Strikes (Minimum Service Level) Bill - a wide-ranging set of proposals which, taken as a package, will undermine the basic right to strike and make it harder for workers to organise effectively in trade unions.
- The proposals will also bring in new restrictions on pickets and protests during strikes. Unions will have to give the details of a lead picketer on every picket line to the police and employers - and the Government has even floated the idea of making all picketers give their details to the police. They may even be required to submit a campaign plan to the police and employers two weeks in advance - setting out what they intend to do, whether they will use a loudspeaker or carry a banner and even what strikers intend to put on social media, such as Facebook or twitter.
- The Government has also proposed new thresholds for turnout in strike ballots, plus additional thresholds for those working in "important public services".
- The Government wants to grant ministers the power to unilaterally cut so-called "facilities time" in the public sector. This is paid time-off mutually agreed between employers and unions for union reps to represent their members and negotiate with their employer.
- The Government also proposes to prohibit public sector employers assisting unions collecting their membership subscriptions through payrolls - even though this is used for a variety of other staff benefits such as cycle-to-work schemes and childcare vouchers, and even though unions often meet the costs of this.
- The Strikes (Minimum Level of Service) Bill has been rushed through parliament without proper scrutiny and does not have backing of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations' workers' rights watchdog.
- The human rights organisations Liberty, Amnesty International and the British Institute of Human Rights have said that the Government's proposals "would hamper people's basic rights to protest and shift even more power from the employee to the employer".
- That under Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of their interests
- The Government refuses to allow trade unions to ballot their members electronically, which could help increase engagement, yet use electronic voting in their own party political elections
- Trade unions take industrial action for a wide range of reasons including defending wages and pensions, conditions at work and safety.
- Research by the Resolution Foundation has found that trade union membership has more than halved from 53 per cent in 1980 to 23 per cent in 2021, and to just 10 per cent among low paid workers in the private sector.

- That the government has consistently failed to make adequate pay offers to workers and has repeatedly undermined the right to strike, and has undermined pay offers which could see a successful resolution to the strikes.
- The government is undermining the right to strike by allowing employers to use agency workers during industrial action.
- That anti-union laws have given us some of the tightest and most undemocratic restrictions on strikes in the advanced industrial world
- That all over the country, workers are winning improved wages through the power of collective action which is growing in popularity outside of the workplace providing vital support to their members against the backdrop of more than a decade of decay.
- No worker ever wants to go on strike, but it is a crucial last resort for workers after negotiations are exhausted and when their employer refuses to listen to their views, or negotiate with them. The right to strike and protest are not a gift from the State, but fundamental rights fought hard for by workers in the last two centuries, which should be valued and respected in a free and democratic society.
- Without the right to strike, workers will be unable to defend their jobs or pay, stand up for decent services and achieve fairness and safety at work.
- Hackney Council maintains positive and constructive working relationships with local trade unions, and believes that the Government's proposals will undermine effective employment relations and meaningful engagement with trade unions within the London Borough of Hackney.
- Councils should be free to build positive industrial relations that work for their communities with a minimum of central government involvement.

The Council welcomes

- The administration's engagement and promotion of the Council's trade unions, including the instigating regular meetings since 2016.
- That the administration actively promotes trade union membership at all staff events.
- That the administration unanimously passed a comprehensive Fire and Rehire Motion in January 2022, sending a clear statement to employers locally that the practice will be actively resisted in the Borough.
- That key moments like Heart Union Week and International Workers' Memorial Day have become part of the annual calendar.
- The inclusion of trade union recognition in the Hackney's Sustainable Procurement Strategy, and signatories of Unison Ethical Care Charter.
- The consistent engagement led by the Mayor and Cllr Sem Moema in working with London Renter's Union and accepting their 2022 campaign asks.

This Council resolves to:

- To support the TUC's campaign to protect the right to strike.
- Ensure that wherever possible, agency workers for Hackney Council are not penalised for taking part in strikes, despite lacking the same legal protections as the employees they work alongside

- Write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy stating our opposition to the Government's anti-trade union laws, including but not limited to arbitrary thresholds in strike ballots, mandatory balloting of every pay offer, additional cooling off periods, the banning of online ballots and the use of agency workers, and unwarranted interference in local industrial relations which risks making matters worse.
- Write to Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Industrial Strategy, encouraging the implementation of plans as soon as possible after next General Election.
- In the event that the government's proposals become law, in so far as is lawful for the council as an employer:
 - to continue to allow recognised trade unions to use subscriptions through payroll, or otherwise support trade unions' efforts to move members onto direct debit subscriptions.
 - to maintain current arrangements on "facility time" for trade union reps to represent their members.
 - in so far as is lawful for the council and consistent with its responsibilities to residents, to commit not to use agency workers to break strikes.
 - to continue the positive relationships that the Council has developed with the unions representing its workforce.

Proposed by: Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock

Seconded by: Cllr Zoë Garbett

The Speaker declared the meeting closed

Duration of Meeting - 7.00-9.54pm

Attachments

Appendix A - Questions from Members of the Public

Appendix B - Questions from Members of the Council

Appendix A - Questions from Members of the Public

5.1 From Emmanuel Akin to the Mayoral Advisor for Housing Needs and Homelessness

Over the years I've seen the social mobility of the demographic in Hackney change and impacted for many reasons; one being housing and homelessness. What plans does the Council have to prevent and support young people from becoming homeless?

Response from the Mayoral Adviser for Housing Needs and Homelessness

Cllr Etti explained to members the impact that increased housing costs and population growth had put on the Council's existing housing stock. Noting the scale of the housing crisis across London, Cllr. Etti confirmed that the number of homeless applications increased by 45% between 2017/18 to 2021/22, with approximately two-thirds of the 3,500 approaches in 2021/22 coming from single households. In response the Council had an ambitious plan to build 1,000 new Council homes for social rent and had a programme to raise awareness of homelessness in secondary schools and colleges in Hackney.

The Council delivered support through the Greenhouse Centre, a service dedicated to supporting single homeless residents. It is planned to expand this in 2024 to bring together more advice in one location. The Council also partnered with the Single Homeless Project, which delivered housing support to 300 single residents each year, and is also looking to extend this work to provide further support. In addition the Council also had two dedicated benefits and housing needs officers working specifically with young people.

Cllr Etti also discussed the joint working across the Council's services, which is a key part of reducing the risk of homelessness. Government policy exaggerates the challenges to Hackney residents and Cllr. Etti confirmed the commitment to continue to lobby on behalf of all residents.

Appendix B - Questions from Members of the Council

6.1 From Cllr Binnie-Lubbock to the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Delivery, Inclusive Economy & Regeneration

London World reported a net-loss of 431 Hackney council homes in the last 10-years - can you commit to demolition as a last resort as per guidance and where retrofit/refurbishment is not possible, council homes should be replaced and built to high enough standards to reach Hackney's net zero targets?

Response from the the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Delivery, Inclusive Economy & Regeneration

Deputy Mayor Nicholson noted that questions from the Green Party often call for action, which is entirely appropriate for questions at Council. But there is a subtext of claiming credit for the leadership of an initiative and this question is no different. Deputy Mayor Nicholson directed Cllr. Binnie-Lubbock to the current Hackney Labour manifesto and confirmed that it does commit to demolition as a last resort, to replacing Council homes, to delivering new homes, and to building new homes to Hackney's Net Zero targets. Deputy Mayor Nicholson suggested that the Green Party members could take some suggestions from the manifesto and work with the Labour Group.

Supplementary Question

What is the impact of the increased cost of building on the Council's plans to bring more Council homes online through renovation, retrofit, and regeneration?

Response

Deputy Mayor Nicholson noted the net loss of 431 Council homes that Cllr. Binnie-Lubbock highlighted, but confirmed that new social rent homes are being built in Hackney at more than double the rate of homes being demolished. Deputy Mayor Nicholson also highlighted that before Christmas the Council committed to the first phase of delivery of 1,000 new Council homes. The decision taken does not involve demolition but instead will see the Council building on brownfield land, underused land, and land not in current use.

Deputy Mayor Nicholson concluded by explaining that the real issue is not about Hackney not building, but the Government's Right to Buy scheme. This had resulted in 1,353 homes being lost to the Council. However many homes the Council builds to replace the 431 homes demolished, all members should recognise that the 1,353 lost to Right to Buy is critical and should work together to get a change in Government policy.

6.2 From Cllr Patrick to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service

The Money Hub has been running for 4 months now. Please can the Cabinet Member update us on progress with the Council's new Money Hub and the impact this is having for residents suffering from the cost of living crisis?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Finance,
Insourcing and Customer Service

Cllr Chapman explained how the cost of living crisis had hit Hackney's residents hard and that the Council is doing everything in its powers to support residents who had been affected. He highlighted the Government's decision to remove the uplift in Universal Credit at the end of the Covid crisis costing residents around £35m, and that Council data showed Hackney residents miss out on an additional £28m in underclaimed benefits every year.

In response the Council had worked with local NHS partners to create the Hackney Money Hub, a dedicated team to help residents maximise their incomes. In the first four months the team had supported 308 people, delivering a minimum of £248k, at an average of £805 per person per year. The Hackney Money Hub had also made it easier for residents in crises to access one-off grants. So far the team had disbursed £230k.

Cllr Chapman explained that although members would be asked later to approve a 2023/24 budget that would see Council Tax increased, the Council would provide support for some of our hardest hit residents with a one-off payment of £50 to all Council Tax Reduction Scheme claimants. This is double the support planned by the Government and will cover the increase in both the Council and GLA elements of the Council Tax for the majority of the scheme's recipients. It is also planned to top-up the Council's Tax Hardship Scheme to double its usual level, and add at least £250k to other poverty reduction initiatives.

Supplementary Question

How can we expand the Hackney Money Hub and get through to people who aren't in touch with community groups, the NHS, or are stuck in their own homes?

Response

Cllr Chapman explained that although the Money Hub had only been operating for four months they will build on their early success and using the knowledge and data they have received will identify gaps to ensure people are claiming for all that they are due.

6.3 From Cllr Garbett to the Mayor

Which parts of the council are currently establishing co-ops to challenge market failures and how many will be set up by 2026?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Finance,
Insourcing and Customer Service

Cllr Chapman thanked Cllr Garbett for raising an issue that is one of the central points in the Hackney Labour manifesto. The work to develop new co-ops, and challenge market failures, is developing fast. The Council has already committed £67k, and been awarded a further £70k from the UK Shared

Prosperity Fund. In addition, Hackney has signed up to the Co-operative Council Innovation Network, which enables the Council to work with others in this field to access training and resources, and enhance our knowledge on setting up and operating co-ops.

Cllr Chapman also confirmed that the Council will soon launch its own independent childcare commission and the expectation is that it will look at co-operative models as possible solutions. In addition, the Council's insourcing policy is being revised alongside the Sustainable Procurement Strategy, which will enable the consideration of setting up co-operatives as a model for delivering services unsuitable for insourcing.

To support this work the Council had undertaken a review of local authority best practice, worked with the London Borough of Islington to learn from their experiences, and continued to work with Hackney Cooperative Developments, who are very experienced at establishing co-ops. Despite difficult financial circumstances the expectation is that co-ops will play a greater role in our future work.

Supplementary Question

Do you have an estimate for how many co-ops will be set up in the next couple of years?

Response

Cllr Chapman didn't have an estimate to report, but explained that this does not reflect a lack of any commitment on the Council's part to maximise the opportunities for co-ops wherever possible and appropriate. Cllr Chapman highlighted the Council's relationship with Greenwich Leisure Limited, who run Hackney's leisure services.

6.4 From Cllr Gilbert Smyth to the Mayor

On 27 January part of a privately owned building on Stoke Newington High Street collapsed onto the street and pavement below. Thankfully there were no injuries but many residents and businesses had to vacate their homes and premises to ensure their and the public's safety. Stoke Newington High Street also has to close for more than 3 weeks now. Going forward, will the Council be offering further support helping those affected get back to their normal lives after this traumatic and upsetting experience?

Response from the Mayor

Mayor Glanville thanked Cllrs Smyth, Fajana-Thomas, and Coban for their work representing their constituents and helping to ensure they had been kept informed. The collapse itself has been an ongoing and complex incident, displacing many residents, impacting businesses, and leaving many uncertain as to when they will be able to return to their homes or businesses, and what condition those properties might be in.

The Mayor paid tribute to the cross-Council efforts led by the Emergency Planning Team, which made sure the Council was able to mobilise and deal with an incident at a private property, make the building safe, and ensure people were supported and represented.

The Mayor confirmed that all but four shops and six flats had been returned to their residents and owners, and that the A10 reopened on the 28th February. The site has now been handed back to the landlord and the managing agents, and the Council are awaiting the freehold managing agents to carry out their own due diligence before the remaining tenants will be able to access their properties. The Mayor confirmed that the Council will continue to provide support for those local constituents who will experience a lasting emotional and financial impact.

The Mayor stated his view that this incident reflected a market failure with the privatised building control regime, and the issues related to the complexity around freeholders, managing agencies, leaseholders, and private tenants. All too often it was the Council that had to step in and rehouse residents, when it should have been the responsibility of others. There will be lessons to be learned for all organisations involved, which will have implications on local and national policy, and the Council will make sure that the right representations are made in response.

6.5 From Cllr Binnie-Lubbock to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

It's great to have Lime e-bikes in Hackney but residents are concerned that too many of them are not being parked correctly. How many fines have been issued & does the council receive any proportion?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban confirmed that the Council is aware of issues related to badly parked bikes in the borough and the Council is in contact with Lime to reiterate Hackney's policy that Lime bikes must only be parked in designated bays. Cllr Coban agreed that compliance is not where the Council would like it to be, but also noted that this is not just a Hackney problem and issues are seen throughout London.

To help tackle this there is a new fining system that had been introduced that will see users first receive a warning for failing to park in designated bays, before being fined up to £20, and then being banned after six offences. The Council's policy puts the responsibility on Lime to resource the patrolling and removal of bikes parked outside the designated bays, and Lime have increased on-street patrols.

The Council has also reserved powers to remove bikes that are an obstruction. This includes the ability to issue advisory notes and fixed penalty notices (FPN) to the operators of the bike, prosecute them if the FPN is not paid, and remove bikes causing obstructions, charging a collection fee of £80.

Cllr Coban also confirmed that Lime will be launching their new Mandatory Parking Zone technology in Hackney, by June 2023. This will mean users will only be able to lock their bike, or end their ride, in a designated bay. Users attempting to end their journey outside a designated bay will be warned, and will be charged a fee should they abandon their bike. The Council will also be expanding the number of designated bays from 60 to 128 by the end of May 2023, and plan to increase this number to 550 by 2026.

Supplementary Question.

How many fines have been issued, and does Hackney get any of the money? Also how many removals take place?

Response

Cllr Coban confirmed that the Council has fed back to Lime the issues that have been raised by Cllr. Binnie-Lubbock and other councillors, and that the money from fines is used to provide more resources to support patrols and remove bikes that are obstructing pavements. As the number of fines is changing, Cllr Coban was not able to provide a live number, but confirmed that he would provide the very latest figure if Cllr Binnie-Lubbock wrote to him.

6.6 From Cllr Ifraax Samatar to the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care

What actions are being taken to support groups most affected by the introduction of photo voter ID (young people, older people, people with disabilities and those blocked by language barriers and has the process of raising awareness about the new requirement started?

Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care

Deputy Mayor Bramble reminded members that the implementation of the Elections Act, and the necessity of the requirement to have photo ID to vote, has previously been debated in the Council Chamber. At best this is the solution to a vastly exaggerated problem, but at worst it risks further disenfranchising many of the groups Cllr Samatar highlighted in her question.

Deputy Mayor Bramble confirmed that from March 2023, or October 2023 for a general election, photo ID was required to vote in-person. However, the Deputy Mayor asked members to remind residents that no voter ID was required for postal votes.

Whilst it is the Electoral Commission's responsibility to let voters know of the changes, because this is so important the Council will also do everything it can to alert residents. Therefore Hackney residents should receive a booklet included with their annual elections Household Notification Letter. The booklet provides information on what will be required and copies can be requested by Councillors. The Council will also be planning a series of engagement events throughout the borough and invitations to contribute will be extended to all

**Meeting of Council
Wednesday, 1 March 2023**

Councillors of all parties to reflect the importance of the democratic rights of every resident.

Deputy Mayor Bramble highlighted her disappointment that the national Government would use legislation to disempower local residents, but in Hackney we will do all we can to raise awareness, reflecting the shared belief in the right of our residents to vote.

Duration of the meeting: 7:00-9:54pm

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