



COUNCIL SUPPLEMENTARY PACK 2

All Members of the Council are
HEREBY SUMMONED
to attend a meeting of the Council
to be held on:

Wednesday 28 February 2024, at 7.00 pm
Council Chamber, Hackney Town Hall,
Mare Street, London E8 1EA

Live stream link: https://youtube.com/live/QoNC_vb3DSE
Back up link: https://youtube.com/live/mcpouDIw_Qw

Dawn Carter-McDonald
Interim Chief Executive
Published on: 27 February 2024
www.hackney.gov.uk

Contact: Tessa Mitchell
Governance Team Leader
governance@hackney.gov.uk

MEETING OF COUNCIL WEDNESDAY, 27 February 2024 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The main agenda can be viewed at:

<https://hackney.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=5667>

9 Budget and Council Tax Report 2024/25

Green Budget Proposal Amendments

Conservative Group Budget Proposal Amendments

14 Confirmation of Political Proportionality and Appointments to Committees and Commissions

Appendix 2 - Nominations from political groups to resolve the allocation of seats

16 Motions

Tabled Amendments to Motions

Public Attendance

The Town Hall is open. Information on forthcoming Council meetings can be obtained from the Town Hall Reception.

Members of the public and representatives of the press are entitled to attend Council meetings and remain and hear discussions on matters within the public part of the meeting. They are not, however, entitled to participate in any discussions. Council meetings can also be observed via the live-stream facility, the link for which appears on the agenda front sheet of each committee meeting.

On occasions part of the meeting may be held in private and will not be open to the public. This is if an item being considered is likely to lead to the disclosure of exempt or confidential information in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). Reasons for exemption will be specified for each respective agenda item.

For further information, including public participation, please visit our website <https://hackney.gov.uk/menu#get-involved-council-decisions> or contact: governance@hackney.gov.uk

Rights of Press and Public to Report on Meetings

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 give the public the right to film, record audio, take photographs, and use social media and the internet at meetings to report on any meetings that are open to the public.

By attending a public meeting of the Council, Executive, any committee or sub-committee, any Panel or Commission, or any Board you are agreeing to these guidelines as a whole and in particular the stipulations listed below:

- Anyone planning to record meetings of the Council and its public meetings through any audio, visual or written methods they find appropriate can do so providing they do not disturb the conduct of the meeting;
- You are welcome to attend a public meeting to report proceedings, either in 'real time' or after conclusion of the meeting, on a blog, social networking site, news forum or other online media;
- You may use a laptop, tablet device, smartphone or portable camera to record a written or audio transcript of proceedings during the meeting;
- Facilities within the Town Hall and Council Chamber are limited and recording equipment must be of a reasonable size and nature to be easily accommodated.
- You are asked to contact the Officer whose name appears at the beginning of this Agenda if you have any large or complex recording equipment to see whether this can be accommodated within the existing facilities;
- You must not interrupt proceedings and digital equipment must be set to 'silent' mode;
- You should focus any recording equipment on Councillors, officers and the public who are directly involved in the conduct of the meeting. The Chair of the meeting will ask any members of the public present if they have objections to being visually recorded. Those visually recording a meeting are asked to respect the wishes of those who do not wish to be filmed or photographed.

Failure to respect the wishes of those who do not want to be filmed and photographed may result in the Chair instructing you to cease reporting or recording and you may potentially be excluded from the meeting if you fail to comply;

- Any person whose behaviour threatens to disrupt orderly conduct will be asked to leave;
- Be aware that libellous comments against the council, individual Councillors or officers could result in legal action being taken against you;
- The recorded images must not be edited in a way in which there is a clear aim to distort the truth or misrepresent those taking part in the proceedings;
- Personal attacks of any kind or offensive comments that target or disparage any ethnic, racial, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability status could also result in legal action being taken against you.

Failure to comply with the above requirements may result in the support and assistance of the Council in the recording of proceedings being withdrawn. The Council regards violation of any of the points above as a risk to the orderly conduct of a meeting. The Council therefore reserves the right to exclude any person from the current meeting and refuse entry to any further council meetings, where a breach of these requirements occurs. The Chair of the meeting will ensure that the meeting runs in an effective manner and has the power to ensure that the meeting is not disturbed through the use of flash photography, intrusive camera equipment or the person recording the meeting moving around the room.

Advice to Members on Declaring Interests

If you require advice on declarations of interests, this can be obtained from:

- The Monitoring Officer;
- The Deputy Monitoring Officer; or
- The legal adviser to the meeting.

It is recommended that any advice be sought in advance of, rather than at, the meeting.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

You will have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (*DPI) if it:

- Relates to your employment, sponsorship, contracts as well as wider financial interests and assets including land, property, licenses and corporate tenancies.
- Relates to an interest which you have registered in that part of the Register of Interests form relating to DPIs as being an interest of you, your spouse or civil partner, or anyone living with you as if they were your spouse or civil partner.
- Relates to an interest which should be registered in that part of the Register of Interests form relating to DPIs, but you have not yet done so.

If you are present at any meeting of the Council and you have a DPI relating to any business that will be considered at the meeting, you **must**:

- Not seek to improperly influence decision-making on that matter;
- Make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of the DPI at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent; and
- Leave the room whilst the matter is under consideration

You **must not**:

- Participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business; or
- Participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

If you have obtained a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer or Standards Committee prior to the matter being considered, then you should make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of the DPI and that you have obtained a dispensation. The dispensation granted will explain the extent to which you are able to participate.

Other Registrable Interests

You will have an 'Other Registrable Interest' (ORI) in a matter if it

- Relates to appointments made by the authority to any outside bodies, membership of: charities, trade unions,, lobbying or campaign groups, voluntary organisations in the borough or governorships at any educational institution within the borough.
- Relates to an interest which you have registered in that part of the Register of Interests form relating to ORIs as being an interest of you, your spouse or civil partner, or anyone living with you as if they were your spouse or civil partner; or
- Relates to an interest which should be registered in that part of the Register of Interests form relating to ORIs, but you have not yet done so.

Where a matter arises at any meeting of the Council which affects a body or organisation you have named in that part of the Register of Interests Form relating to ORIs, **you must** make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of the DPI at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. **You may** speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

Disclosure of Other Interests

Where a matter arises at any meeting of the Council which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you **must** disclose the interest. **You may** speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

Where a matter arises at any meeting of the Council which **affects** your financial interest or well-being, or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or wellbeing of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest, you **must** declare the interest. You **may** only speak on the matter if members of the public are able to speak. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or voting on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

In all cases, where the Monitoring Officer has agreed that the interest in question is a **sensitive interest**, you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest itself.

Advice to Members regarding restrictions on voting for Members with council tax arrears

Members should be aware of the provisions of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which applies to all elected members where:

They are present at a meeting of the Council, Cabinet or any Committee and at the time of the meeting an amount of council tax is payable by them and has remained unpaid for at least two months; and Any budget or council tax calculation, or recommendation or decision which might affect the making of any such calculation, is the subject of consideration at the meeting.

In these circumstances, any such members shall at the meeting, and as soon as practicable after its commencement, disclose the fact that section 106 applies to them and they may not vote on any question concerning the matters outlined in paragraph 12(b) above, although they may speak on those matters.

The application of Section 106 is very wide and there have been successful prosecutions under this legislation. It can include meetings held at any time during the year, not just the annual budget meeting, and it may include meetings of committees or sub-committees as well as Council meetings. Members should be aware that the responsibility for ensuring that they act within the law at all times rest solely with the individual Member concerned.

Failure to comply with the requirements under section 106 is a criminal offence unless the member can prove that they did not know

- (a) that the section applied to them at the time of the meeting or
- (b) that the matter in question was the subject of consideration at the meeting.

Thus unwitting Members who for example can prove that they did not know and had no reason to suppose at the time of the meeting that their bank has failed to honour a standing order will be protected should any prosecution arise. With regard to applications for benefits, it would not be enough to state that an application has been submitted which has not yet been determined, as the liability to pay remains pending any determination.

The application of Section 106 is very wide and there have been successful prosecutions under this legislation. It can include meetings held at any time during the year, not just the annual budget meeting, and it may include meetings of committees or sub-committees as well as Council meetings. Members should be aware that the responsibility for ensuring that they act within the law at all times rest solely with the individual Member concerned.

This page is intentionally left blank

2024/25 Revenue Estimates and Council Tax

TABLED PAPER: Green Group Budget Amendment

In response to the pressing financial challenges facing Hackney Council, the Green Group's budget amendment provides a way for Hackney's Labour council to avoid carrying out some of the most impactful Conservative austerity cuts in this budget. The Green Group is presenting a **practical and considered amendment** aimed at safeguarding vital services and promoting equity within the community **to invest in a brighter future for Hackney residents**, especially in services that support Hackney's children and young people.

Acknowledging the gravity of the ongoing austerity measures and their detrimental effects on local authority finances, we recognise the need for prudent fiscal management. Our commitment to scrutinising the council's financial situation, evidenced by our active participation in the Audit Committee since 2022, underscores our **dedication to ensuring the responsible allocation of resources**.

We are encouraged by the administration's acknowledgement of our earlier proposals, including the council tax reduction scheme being delivered sooner and further action to address the council's contribution to the climate crisis. We're pleased that, despite rejecting our amendments last year, the administration has subsequently seen their worth and has increased filming fees as well as removing a Mayoral Advisor role and reviewing and enhancing the utilisation of community halls.

However, we remain **deeply concerned about the erosion of public trust in the council**, exacerbated by recent instances of instability. The financial and reputational costs of such turbulence underscore the imperative for the council to do everything it can to restore that trust and ensure stability.

Our proposed budget amendment is rooted in our core Green values¹ and community priorities. **We advocate for measures to tackle inequality and invest in preventative provision**. In addition to this budget **we work hard year-round** encouraging the council to prioritise the **ethical use of funds**, advocating for **divestment from fossil fuels, arms and companies implicated in human rights abuses** and for improved procurement practices that leverage the council's power to **influence positive change** outside of the areas where it directly delivers services.

While cognisant of the challenges posed by statutory service commitments, we present innovative ideas aimed at protecting essential services. We **adamantly oppose cuts to children's centres and youth services**, viewing them as crucial investments in the safety, wellbeing and development of the borough's young people.

¹ <https://policy.greenparty.org.uk/our-core-values/>

We've heard at the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Commission that a report by UK Youth and Frontier Economics in 2022² demonstrated that the annual investment in youth work nationally saves the taxpayer as much £3.2bn, delivering high value for money thanks to improved societal health, increased employment and education, and reduced crime. The analysis estimated that the **return on investment (ROI) for youth work is between 3.2x and 6.4x** – that is for every pound the government invests in the youth sector it generates between £3.20 and £6.40 in benefits to the taxpayer. Using the government's own benchmarks for value for money, this estimate for the ROI of youth work can be considered 'high' to 'very high'. A similar calculation for Young Hackney suggests that the **current investment benefits taxpayers by between £24m and £46m**. A coalition of organisations, led by Liberty, has highlighted the need to protect youth spaces and services to give young people the best chance in life³.

Hackney Labour's proposed cuts to children's centres make very little sense against the Conservative government's proposed increases to the subsidy for free childcare entitlement, which will almost certainly increase demand and result in savings exceeding those the Labour Party is proposing without the need for cuts to provision. Our budget amendment explains how children's centres can be protected until these new arrangements have started.

Furthermore, we propose:

- Investing further in our young people with a **£100,000 creative arts grant** program.
- The appointment of an **empty homes officer** to help address the housing supply crisis
- And the establishment of a **locality fund** to empower grass-roots community-driven projects.

As stewards of public trust and resources, we must act decisively to navigate these challenging times, prioritising investments that **foster resilience, equity, and sustainability** within our community, protecting and **enhancing vital services for all residents of Hackney**.

²

<https://www.ukyouth.org/2022/11/ground-breaking-uk-youth-report-aims-to-realise-untapped-potential-of-youth-work/>

³

<https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/fundamental/holding-our-own-a-guide-to-non-policing-solutions-to-serious-youth-violence/>

This Council therefore amends as set out below the 2024/25 budget proposals.

	£'000s
Proposed reductions in expenditure/increase in income	
<p>Reduce RCCO by reviewing the capital programme and re-phasing some of the larger schemes to later years.</p> <p><i>It is the advice of the S151 officer that the planned reduction in RCCOs reduces the Council's flexibility for addressing cost pressures which may emerge during the financial year 2024/25. It also increases borrowing in subsequent years as the proposal is to delay investment rather than reduce permanently.</i></p>	(1,583)
<p>Review of discounts on visitor parking vouchers for the over 60s and blue badge holders.</p> <p>(increase discount for blue badge holders to 70%, reduce discount for over 60s who are not blue badge holders to 30%)</p>	(75)
<p>Review and reduction in Cabinet including reducing two Mayoral Advisor roles and a deputy mayor.</p>	(100)
<p>Increase film charges to be more in line with neighbouring borough, Based on increasing the filming charges by 43% on the rates proposed for 2024/25 and adjusting for reduced demand and taking into account the demand on lower charges for smaller crews.</p> <p>A 43% increase in the hourly rate for the the large crew film location would result in a charge of £500 per hour, from £350 proposed. Our neighbouring borough charges up to £7,500 per day.</p> <p><i>It is the advice of the S151 officer that further detailed modelling is recommended to be undertaken before implementation. The current proposed pricing structure for 2024/25 follows the review of a neighbouring borough's charges and the service believe the charges proposed are sustainable. Increasing the charges significantly may reduce demand and therefore income may be lower overall.</i></p>	(100)
Sub-total of proposed reductions in expenditure/increase in income	(1,858)
Proposed increases in expenditure:	
<p>Delay Children's Centre savings proposals by one year</p> <p><i>It is the advice of the S151 officer that these savings will be required to be made to balance the budget over the medium term period given the scale of the financial challenge faced by the Council.</i></p>	1,100
<p>Delay Youth Services savings proposals by one year</p> <p><i>It is the advice of the S151 officer that these savings will be required to be made to balance the budget over the medium term period given the scale of</i></p>	500

<i>the financial challenge faced by the Council.</i>	
Use proposed increase in film income for the implementation of a creative arts grant programme for young people. (Approximately £8k of the expenditure would be on administration of the programme)	100
Appointment of an empty homes officer	53
We would like to propose a locality fund, about £5k per ward per year (£105k or £3684 for a 2 cllr ward and £5526 for a 3 cllr ward) to be used as seed funding for community projects etc, Councillors would help allocate where this would benefit	105
Sub-total of proposed increases in expenditure	1,858
TOTAL CHANGE IN BUDGET REQUIREMENT	0

As the reductions in spend equate to the additional investment there is no impact on the Council Tax of these proposed amendments.

A Green Administration would also undertake reviews in a range of budget areas including the following:

- Review council tax on empty properties, looking to increase this and ensure that all properties are charged from the earliest point.
- Parking charges so they align with CPRE recommendations.⁴
- Retrofit and other measures to address the climate emergency and cost of living crisis.

Proposer: Cllr Zoë Garbett

Secunder: Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock

⁴ <https://www.cprelondon.org.uk/news/london-boroughs-must-take-more-action-on-parking/>

2024/25 Revenue Estimates and Council Tax

TABLED PAPER: Conservative Group Budget Amendment

This Council therefore amends as set out below the 2024/25 budget proposals, by proposing a reduction in the proposed Hackney element of the Council Tax of £69.53 per Band D equivalent.

	£'000s
Proposed changes in capital expenditure	
Reduce investment in planned highways maintenance	(1,000)
<p><i>Note: the Group Director of Finance would strongly advise that this reduction is only maintained for one year and will need to be reversed as part of the development of the 2025/26 Budget. There is a £4.75m capital budget for highways maintenance. This budget has been increased to reflect the increasing cost of maintenance to ensure the buying power is maintained. The Highways Maintenance capital budget is fully spent each year. The spend is essential to maintain safe highways and prevent slips, trips and falls; reducing spend on highways maintenance can lead to insurance from road users, drivers, cyclists and pedestrians which could lead to increased costs.</i></p>	
Rephasing of investment in Kings Hall over a longer time frame	(750)
<p><i>The deferring of this expenditure for much longer would be contrary to a structural engineers report that states the remedial works should be completed within 1 to 2 years.</i></p>	
Rephasing of investment in Hackney Town Hall over a longer time frame	(696)
Stop plans for further Low Traffic Neighbourhoods.	(500)
Stop any further spend on School Streets	(304)
Do not invest further in Dockless Bikes	(100)
Sub-total of proposed in capital expenditure	(3,350)
Review of members allowances with a view to reducing costs of the Cabinet by, for example, reducing the number of Cabinet members/advisers.	(116)
Reviewing and reducing the highways maintenance revenue budget	(300)
<p><i>The S151 officer notes that there is a risk that this investment may need to be replaced in the following year. The highways maintenance revenue budget is £635K - reducing spend in this area increases the risk of insurance claims so may cost the Council more in the long run. In addition the increase in the cost of materials in highways maintenance has reduced the buying power of the budget - further reductions will impact the quality of the highway and may lead to increased cost through insurance claims.</i></p>	
Do not expand the Zero Emissions Network.	(107)

	£'000s
<p>Reducing revenue expenditure on tree maintenance and overall investment in this area.</p> <p><i>S151 officer notes that there is a risk that this investment may need to be replaced in the following year. The revenue budget for tree maintenance, on the streets and in parks, is £565K. There is also an insurance risk if trees are not maintained - there will be a heightened risk of health and safety issues with falling trees or branches which could cause injury or damage to property. May cost the Council more in the long run</i></p>	(260)
<p>Cease spending in developing enhanced and expanded Supplementary Planning Guidance on green infrastructure, including vertical forests, green thoroughfares and gardens.</p>	(63)
<p>Cease spending on additional officers in the Private Sector Housing division in relation to enforcement around damp and mould and ensure current service is as efficient and effective as possible.</p>	(200)
<p>Review the Council's expenditure on External & Internal Communications.</p>	(100)
<p>Review of management structures with the aim of reducing Directors - each one Circa £185K - reduce by one post.</p>	(185)
<p>Cease producing Love Hackney publication</p> <p><i>The S151 officer notes that this proposal may increase expenditure across the Council as services who have a statutory duty to consult and use the Love Hackney distribution contract will need to incur costs each time they need to inform or consult.</i></p>	(76)
<p>Reduction in support in Mayor & Cabinet office by 25%</p>	(150)
<p>Reduce Waste Strategy, Environmental Enforcement & Recycling Service by around one third 8 - 9 posts</p>	(500)
<p>TOTAL CHANGE IN BUDGET REQUIREMENT</p> <p><i>The S151 officer notes that the proposed change in capital expenditure (i.e. the £3,350k) will take the form of a one-off reduction in Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay to fund the reduction in the proposed Council tax as set out above. The proposed reduction also reduces the Council's flexibility for addressing cost pressures which may emerge during the financial year 2024/25.</i></p>	(5,407)

Council therefore amends, as set out the 2024/25 budget proposals, including a reduction in the proposed Hackney element of the proposed Council Tax of £69.53 per Band D equivalent. The Group Director of Finance advises that she can give the reassurances required by Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 with regard to the adequacy of the reserves and the robustness of the estimates on the basis of the notes included with the proposed amendments. It is also important to note that where resources identified above are only one off resources they can only be used to fund expenditure for one year.

The proposed amendments set out above will generate a Council Tax Requirement of £103.931m in 2024/25, which equates to a Council Tax of £1,336.44 at the Band D level for Hackney purposes. When added to the proposals of the preceptor, the Greater

London Authority, this would produce a total at band D level of £1,807.84 for residents, which equates to an overall £34.55 increase from 2023/24. This is shown in the table below:

Comparison of the 2023/24 Actual Council Tax level to the 2024/25 Council Tax Level, after the Conservative Amendment to the Hackney Rate

	2024-25 £	2023-24 £	Change £	Change %
Hackney	£1,336.44	£1,339.15	(£2.71)	(0.2%)
GLA	£471.40	£434.14	£37.26	8.58%
Total	£1,807.84	£1,773.29	£34.55	1.95%

It should be noted that the Conservative Group do not agree with any increase in the GLA precept and indeed we believe that if we had a Conservative Mayor of London, there would be no increase in the GLA precept.

The GLA should end inefficient and wasteful expenditure on schemes and projects that ignore the outcome of consultations. In addition, all schools should benefit from the Mayor of London's free school meals announcement, not just state schools.

A Conservative administration would undertake a root and branch review of the budget and would introduce an emergency budget to realign the Council's expenditure in line with a Conservative Mayor's priorities.

In addition to the proposed amendments set out above for 2024/25, the Conservative group proposes that the following reviews take place during 2024/25 in order to identify further efficiencies, to include:

- Revoking the policy change in respect of moving to two weekly bin collection and to reinstate weekly service across all of the borough. We believe that the two weekly bin collections reward those on estates where recycling rates are lowest whilst penalising those in other types of accommodation who already recycle waste. We would also reduce unnecessary expenditure on replacement bins.
- Ending the implementation of public realm schemes relating to road closures and other traffic calming measures, which are ineffective, thereby reducing air pollution particularly around schools. Many such schemes have had an adverse impact on the safety of local residents and other road users. We also believe that some of these schemes have had an adverse impact on local businesses and residents.
- A review of the way in which officers support members, ensuring efficiency and reduced cost of the support provided via direct contact with relevant officers across the Council as required
- Review of street crossing patrols with a view to increasing the number across the borough to ensure the safety of children using our roads.
- A commitment to ensure that there are no reductions in the support of children in our schools with special education needs.
- A thorough research project to determine the feasibility of raising revenue income from advertisements on the council's recycling and refuse vehicle fleet.
- Further to this we would undertake a thorough analysis of income from CPZ's and how this is used in support of the Council's budget, ensuring it is used fully in accordance with the related statutory regulations. Ensure schemes are adapted for

all communities and special dispensation for Churches, Synagogues and Mosques and Public Holidays.

- A review of the consultation process, particularly regarding CPZs, to ensure that every local resident and local business have a say unlike the new consultation process which limits responses per household and that the final decisions take full account of the views expressed by residents and business, Explore the possibility of removing estate parking charges to encourage residents of the estates to park on those estates with a view to freeing up parking capacity on surrounding roads in the borough for other users.
- A review of the application of s106 funds to ensure that those with some flexibility regarding their use are used most efficiently in pursuit of the Council's overall aims and objectives. In addition, a review of the application of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds to ensure a fairer distribution across schools in the borough.
- Recognising that the funding available to Hackney from TfL as part of the Local Implementation Plan (LIP) has reduced drastically, we would still review the programme with a view to agreeing a re-prioritisation of funding in order to reduce calls on the Council's discretionary capital programme for general highways maintenance. This review and any subsequent proposed changes to the approved LIP will need to be agreed by TfL. Further to this, we would encourage TfL to supply seating at all bus stops, available for those residents and users that have disabilities or unable to stand for prolonged periods of time. In addition, to ensure that no further cuts are made to the buses that run through Hackney, either in terms of their numbers or routes. Additionally, a Conservative administration would lobby the GLA for the focus of the LIP programme to shift to general maintenance of the highway rather than schemes that restrict traffic flow.
- A review of the roads maintenance programme ensuring that repairs are not required to be repeated on the same roads and pathways within short timeframes and ensuring that works by the Council are fully coordinated with those of the utility companies.
- Combine the Planning and Enforcement services of the Council with Haringey services as soon as possible to achieve efficiencies and create a better understanding of the approach to large families, alongside a full review of grants available to planning authorities in order to ensure these are fully exploited, to speed up the delivery of planning applications including provision of more efficient transport management input.
- Explore more fully the potential of providing some of our services to other Council's, thus maximising efficiencies further and generating income for the Council, e.g. provision of Registrar's service to Waltham Forest.
- A review of assistance to small business to ensure that optimum level of support is provided, focusing on areas such as increasing take up of small business rate relief. In addition, undertake a review and improve communication to ensure local businesses are aware of any grants including those who do not have on-line access to ensure maximum uptake, including all Covid-related grants.
- Ensure that social care is delivered in a way that ensures the needs of all communities are respected and accommodated and ensure that all new funding streams are fully explored and utilised.
- Review existing Children's Centre provision and identify options to maintain provision at all existing sites.

- A review of the use of the corporate estate, ensuring that public areas are used to their full capacity and thus increasing revenue to the Council. This review will include specifically:
 - Review of the use of Stoke Newington Town Hall Assembly Rooms and the potential to provide parking for attendees at events such as large weddings. We believe that the lack of parking provision has led to potential users finding alternative accommodation, thereby reducing potential revenue income;
 - Review of the use of estate community halls with a view to increasing the use by residents of the borough;
 - Encourage schools to use suitable space for out-of-hours activities for residents in order to raise additional revenue income for further investment in the schools.
- End ward forums with immediate effect and use the monies thereby saved for social care.
- Review of the application of funds available to the Council for the implementation of Neighbourhood Forums, e.g. In the Stamford Hill area, alongside a review of the Planning Service to ensure that consideration of applications for local neighbourhood forums is fair. It is currently very difficult to get local neighbourhood forums agreed by the London Borough of Hackney.
- A review of members' allowances with a view to reducing costs of the cabinet and a recommendation to cap the Mayor's allowance at £50k per annum.
- Implement independent scrutiny before planning enforcement actions are taken to ensure that cases with low risk of success and where there is not a robust public interest argument are not taken forward.
- Discontinue the Standards Committee with immediate effect given this is no longer a legal requirement, whilst ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Localism Act and other statutory guidance. In any event, whilst the Committee exists, ensure that it does comply with those regulations.
- Further review of the Scrutiny arrangements with a view to revert to the previous system which was in place.
- Bearing in mind the increase to the GLA element of the Council Tax, to make representations to the Mayor of London regarding future scrutiny of expenditure on schemes within the Borough of Hackney, e.g. All schools should benefit from the Free School Meals announcement.the number of police officers on the streets and the number of buses he is proposing to reduce.
- Review of legal expenditure in relation to defending new policy decisions.
- Reopen roads round Clapton Common prioritising the safety of residents in recognition of accidents that have occurred and stop further investment on initiatives here investing any monies saved in older people
- Undertake an efficiency review of the process for allocating Blue Badges and allocation of disabled bays.
- Reduce spend on the Amhurst Road and Pembury Circus project, which is yet another scheme that includes road closures and seeks to hinder car users from travelling around the borough. This project will have an adverse impact on the safety of local residents and other road users as well as being detrimental to local businesses through making it increasingly difficult for vehicle users to access this area.

- Review the processes and make full use of empty garages
- Undertake a thorough review of the processes for Housing Benefits and Council Tax to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.

Overall, this budget is put forward within a limited context and were a Conservative administration to be elected we would undertake a zero-base budget review of all areas of spend.

Proposer: Cllr Simche Steinberger
Secunder: Cllr Hershy Lisser

Appendix 2

Labour overallocation of seats

To resolve the over-allocation of seats to Labour Group based upon the mathematical calculations, Labour are giving up seats on the following committees to the Green Group:

Audit Committee (1 seat)	No change required in terms of Labour membership because this is a continuation of a position considered and approved in May 2024
Licensing Committee (1 seat)	Cllr Ross to no longer be a member of the Committee
Living in Hackney (1 seat)	Cllr Rathbone to no longer be a member of the Commission

As a consequence of the above over allocation, the following are the nominations for Full Council approval

Audit Committee (1 seat)	No change required in terms of Labour membership because this is a continuation of a position considered and approved in May 2024
Licensing Committee (1 seat)	Green Member
Living in Hackney Scrutiny (1 seat)	Green Member

Other Changes to Committees and Commissions for approval

Health in Hackney	Cllr Rathbone to fill a previous vacancy
-------------------	--

This page is intentionally left blank

**Council Meeting
Wednesday 28 February 2024**

Agenda Item 16: Proposed Amendments to Motions received by the Monitoring Officer prior to 12 noon on Tuesday 27 February 2024.

Underlined text = proposed additional wording ~~Strikethrough text~~ = proposed deletions

The original motions were published in the agenda and can be viewed [here](#)

16. Motions

16a. Green Motion - Reduce Glyphosate to Zero Now

The following amendments are proposed by the Labour Group:

This Council notes:

1. The use of herbicides has a significant impact on the environment by removing plants that are an important food source for a wide variety of native insects. Pesticide product mixtures have also been shown to be toxic to bees and earthworms. There is also a risk of runoff from hard surfaces into waterways, putting aquatic ecosystems at risk. We not only face a climate emergency, we also face the related emergency of collapsing biodiversity that is increasingly referred to as the 'sixth mass extinction' (1):
2. That 99% of pesticides are made from fossil fuels (2). Furthermore, pesticides exacerbate the climate emergency throughout their lifecycle via manufacturing, packaging, transportation, application, and even through environmental degradation and disposal;
3. There is a growing body of scientific evidence showing a link between glyphosate exposure and an increased risk of cancer; the World Health Organisation (WHO) deemed glyphosate a 'probable carcinogen' (3). It has been also shown to worsen chronic conditions such as asthma, and particularly affects children and pregnant people. In addition, it poses a health hazard to workers who spray Hackney's streets.
4. The spraying of glyphosate in Hackney is causing concern among residents and elected representatives about its potential harmful effects on children, animals, wildlife and biodiversity on our streets, housing estates and parks;

5. The contracting staff who carry out this work need to be protected from harm, [which is of utmost importance to the council and is why contractors carry out specialist training and wear PPE;](#)
6. The Mayor of London's commitment in the Environment Strategy to "reduce the use of pesticides and peat-based products, such as compost";
7. The work of Transport for London (TfL) with suppliers and contractors to explore safer alternatives such as hot foam, for essential vegetation management and weed control.
8. Glyphosate, the most used herbicide was narrowly relicensed in the EU with The condition that Member States "minimize the use in public spaces, such as parks, public playgrounds and gardens."

Hackney Council further notes:

9. The work of the council to date in reducing the use of glyphosate with a 50% reduction in on-street spraying against 2017 levels.
10. [That Hackney Council's Environmental Services conducted a trial using pelargonic acid also known as fatty acid, a natural herbicide, but found that this product does not effectively kill the plant root system.](#)
11. [The Council's Housing Grounds Maintenance Service is responsible for the maintenance of 247 housing estates green areas covering approximately 73 hectares, and uses glyphosate to treat invasive species only - in 2022 the Service only used 0.28 litres for this purpose.](#)
12. [The Council's Parks and Green Spaces Service is responsible for the maintenance of 58 sites totalling some 282 hectares, and uses glyphosate to treat invasive species only - in 2022 the Service only used 0.8 Litres for this purpose.](#)
13. [That Hackney Council's Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport has signed the Pesticide Free Town pledge.](#)

Hackney Council has demonstrated:

14. A commitment to further reducing spraying across the borough, including a total cessation of spraying in Hackney's Town centres, by removing weeds by hand; a successful year-long pilot for more than 200 out of a total 237 green areas across Hackney's housing estates which will now go glyphosate-free permanently, with an intention to upscale to all estate-based green areas; a

change in how the council sprays, from operatives mounted on vehicles to spot-spraying with knapsacks; a no-spray 10x Green area around Daubeney Road to explore whether a no-spray approach is more beneficial to biodiversity by avoiding the removal of plants that support insect populations. These changes have been well received by the public.

The Council acknowledges:

15. Several councils around the country have gone fully glyphosate-free including in London. The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham was the first council in London to cease the use of glyphosate, to support biodiversity and protect habitat against any long-term chemical effect by using chemical-free weedkillers, such as hot foam and hot steam, [although the borough do still use it against invasive species](#). Lambeth and Westminster have also gone pesticide-free and are rolling out programmes for increased biodiversity. Lambeth has a community weeding scheme which encourages residents to leave some annual plants to grow, as well as other initiatives, and Westminster is developing a new 'Greening Project'.
16. [That some councils, such as Brighton and Hove, have had to return to using glyphosate following many formal complaints by the public about the uncontrolled growth of weeds on pavements and other public footpaths.](#)
17. Where there is a duty to eradicate Japanese Knotweed because of risk to critical infrastructure or mobility issues risking residents' safety, then glyphosate may be used until an acceptable non-chemical alternative becomes available. But its use should be limited to stem injection rather than spraying.
18. [That Hackney Council's administration committed in their manifesto to extend the Council's commitment to weedkiller-free zones to reduce the use of Harmful weedkillers and help increase the biodiversity of plants and flowers.](#)

The Council resolves to:

19. [Investigate the best way to e](#)Educate residents in the way that weeds are actually 'pavement plants' (4) and a much needed source of biodiversity in the city; [This could take the form of by](#)-maintaining regular communications in all appropriate council forums and on estates, as well as with biodiversity events and workshops for residents if/where financially feasible;
20. [Consider b](#)Bringing forward an action plan which takes into consideration technical and financial concerns and cost-saving opportunities (5), including a timetable for a complete phase-out of the spraying of glyphosate and any

other pesticides, substituting them with non-chemical alternative weed management methods including leaving areas for biodiversity in all council operations.

21. [Ask the Cabinet Member to consider a](#)Adopting a clear policy for the council's weed management strategy which details a phase-out plan and timetable.
22. To engage with [organisations working to reduce the use of pesticides, such as the Pesticide-Free London Leaders Network, to work towards developing](#) ~~and use this space to create and keep to~~ a clear phase-out plan, as well as share learnings with other councils in the network.

Labour Group Amendments

Proposer: Cllr Mete Coban

Secunder: Cllr Kam Adams

16b. Labour Motion - Poverty Reduction and the Local Government Funding Crisis

The following amendments are proposed by the Green Group:

Hackney Council notes:

1. Following the Autumn Statement, Hackney Council's Funding will remain below 2010 levels.
2. The Local Government Association (LGA) estimates that Councils in England face a funding gap of £4 billion.
3. The Institute of Fiscal Studies notes that local government funding in London is 17% lower than the relative need - the largest gap of any region in England.
4. Hackney Council has suffered a decrease in core Government funding in real terms of £156m since 2010.
5. The Household Support Fund (HSF) enabled the council to provide a lifeline to tens of thousands of households in Hackney struggling to afford energy, food, clothing and other essentials, particularly the 40% of children living in poverty.
6. The continued calculation of the social care grant using the relative needs formula based on adult need only, fails to provide adequate funding for Hackney with high need for children's social care.
7. Hackney is carrying a deficit in relation to SEND funding and has one of the largest proportions of Education, Health and Care Plan's in the country.
8. The funding gap has forced the Council to increase Council tax by the maximum 4.99%.
9. The Council is honouring the commitment to increase Council tax support for Hackney's low income households and doubling the tax on empty properties.
10. The council has established a poverty reduction framework working with partners to reduce poverty for Hackney Residents. [Hackney communities are missing out on £28 million a year of unclaimed benefits.](#) The framework makes connections between crisis support , early help and prevention and tackling longer term drivers of poverty e.g. unemployment, housing. The framework includes the money hub which has paid out £1.5 m in grants and £2.0m in new benefit income to vulnerable residents.
11. The programme is dependent on HSF and without this funding the programme will be under threat.

Hackney Council further notes:

12. The letter recently sent by the Mayor and the Cabinet Member for Finance to Michael Gove Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, expressing serious concerns about the inadequacy of Hackney's funding and asking Government to implement a sustainable long term funding solution that takes proper account of current and future needs.

Hackney Council resolves to:

13. Call on the Government to restore [urgently](#) the Household Support Fund in advance of the Spring Statement and to guarantee continuation of this funding.
14. Lobby for fair funding for Hackney.
15. Campaign for reform of the method used to allocate social care funding and ensure adequate funding for Hackney's needs.
16. Call for restoration of Hackney's Core Funding to 2010 levels.
17. Call for comprehensive reform of SEND funding and the implementation of a future funding settlement which covers the needs of Hackney residents.
18. Call for Longer-term pooled funding in place of short-term competitive funding pots to prevent councils competing with each other for funding they desperately need.
19. Contact political parties ahead of the general election as to the details of their future plans to stabilise and fix local government finance, and to respond to them with Hackney's requirements.
20. [Locally, protect and grow services that maximise income and reduce poverty such as the Hackney Money Hub.](#)

Green Group Amendments

Proposer: Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock

Seconder: Cllr Zoe Garbett

16c. Labour Motion: London Charter to End Rough Sleeping

The following amendments are proposed by the Green Group:

Hackney Council notes:

1. Despite the Government's commitment in 2019 to end rough sleeping by 2024, estimates show there has been an increase in rough sleeping in all regions of England, with London and the south-east accounting for almost half of the rise.¹
2. Rough sleeping has increased under this Government, with the number of rough sleepers having increased by 74% since 2010.²
3. The most recent annual count by the London-only Combined Homelessness and Information Network (Chain) showed 10,053 rough sleepers spotted on London's streets between April 2022 and March 2023. A total of 4,068 people were counted between July and September 2023 for the most recent quarterly update with half of those new to the streets.³
4. The majority of people sleeping rough in England are male, aged over 26 years old and from the UK. Meanwhile the Office for National Statistics found men who are living on the street outnumber women at a ratio of six to one.
5. Women are often missing from rough sleeping counts because they tend to be less visible than male rough sleepers due to the risk of violence on the streets. A coalition of homelessness and women's organisations in London conducted a women's rough sleeping census in October 2022 and found 154 women, including trans and non-binary women, sleeping rough in London in a week. That number was higher than previously thought with an extra 71 women found across 13 London boroughs when the data was compared to the latest official rough sleeping count.
6. The cost of living crisis has exacerbated longstanding drivers of homelessness, such as a shortage of affordable housing, an often punitive welfare system and increasingly stretched health services.
7. Local authorities and homelessness charities state that street homelessness is just the tip of the iceberg and estimate the number of people living without a home is much higher than the figures show, with many people in informal living arrangements such as sofa surfing.
8. The number of households living in temporary accommodation in England are at an all-time high. As of March 2023, 104,510 households were living in TA, including 65,000 households with children.
9. Over 3,000 households in Hackney were among more than 300,000 nationwide who spent Christmas without a home. In Hackney this includes 3,500 children, and around 50% of TA placements are now outside our borough, severing people from their livelihoods and support networks.
10. Like other local authorities, Hackney has seen a precipitous increase in the number of homelessness applications. The number of households seeking

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/feb/28/rough-sleeping-in-england-rises-cost-of-living>

²

<https://cityharvest.org.uk/blog/homelessness-uk-increased-by-74-since-2010/#:~:text=Recent%20statistics%20indicate%20a%2035.ongoing%20challenges%20in%20addressing%20homelessness.>

³ <https://www.bigissue.com/news/housing/britains-homelessness-shame-cold-hard-facts/>

support is up by 44% from 2017/18 to 2021/22. The Council anticipates the number of approaches will continue to increase at around 8% per year.

11. Hackney's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, adopted at Cabinet in December, will ensure we strengthen the advice, support and tools available to people at risk of homelessness need, and make sure that no one in Hackney is left facing homelessness alone. This will include maximising access to short and long-term affordable housing, tackling rough sleeping and addressing homelessness among young people in Hackney.

[11a. The number of homelessness presentations made by refugees and people seeing asylum evicted from Home Office accommodation increased by 39% from September to October 2023, according to research by London Councils. \(1\)](#)

[11b. In 2023 homelessness among armed forces veterans in England rose by 14%. \(2\) Local authorities must consider the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant when making decisions about homeless applications and when drafting homelessness strategies. \(3\)](#)

Hackney Council further notes:

12. That the Mayor of London's Rough Sleeping Charter was created by a pan-London coalition working to end rough sleeping, and enshrines principles and actions needed to tackle the issue; an example of London's commitment to working together to end rough sleeping for good.
13. The Charter sets out six principles for signatories to uphold in their work including:
 - a. Accepting that whilst people sleeping rough may have problems, they aren't problem people
 - b. Recognising that everyone rough sleeping is unique, and there should be meaningful options for all, regardless of immigration status
 - c. Ensuring that people sleeping rough are safe from violence, abuse, theft and discrimination and that they have the full protection of the law
14. The Charter also includes key actions that signatories commit to undertake and support:
 - a. Acknowledging people when they talk to you or ask you for money, even if you decide you would rather not give it to them directly
 - b. If you see someone sleeping rough who needs help, let Streetlink London know
 - c. Volunteer, donate, or support a charity who has joined this pledge

The Council resolves to:

15. Ask the Mayor of Hackney to sign the London Charter to End Rough Sleeping on behalf of Hackney Council.
16. Continue to call on the Government to:
 - a. Remove the cap on Housing Benefit subsidy for TA, which is currently set at the 2011 Local Housing Allowance rate, to enable local authorities to provide more TA locally.
 - b. Increase the Homelessness Prevention Grant in 2024-25.

- c. Implement an emergency increase in Discretionary Housing Payments in the current financial year.
- d. Provide additional funding to local authorities to support people seeking asylum and armed forces veterans.
- e. Provide additional grant funding to acquire Private Rented Stock released by landlords (currently 40% of all sales listings in London).
- f. Invest in new build affordable housing – bringing London’s Affordable Homes Programme target back up to at least 35,000 homes.
- g. Increase the 40% cap on the proportion of individual sites that can be funded through Right to Buy receipts and allow boroughs to use receipts in conjunction with grant funding (particularly Affordable Homes Programme grant).
- h. Address the financial shortfall created by the 7% rent cap in 2023/24
- i. Deliver a long-term rent settlement post-2025 which puts social housing on a sustainable financial footing
- j. Fully fund the new Decent Homes Standard and ensure a long-term and more easily accessible funding pot for home retrofit measures.

Green Group Amendments

Proposer: Cllr Zoe Garbett

Seconded: Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock

Additional sources:

1. <https://www.insidehousing.co.uk/news/refugees-who-become-homeless-in-london-after-eviction-from-home-office-accommodation-up-39-84272>
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/dec/26/homelessness-armed-forces-veterans-england-rises>
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-covenant-duty-statutory-guidance>

This page is intentionally left blank