



COUNCIL

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

Wednesday, 21st October, 2020

at 7.00 pm

Until further notice, all Council meetings
will be held remotely

Tim Shields
Chief Executive

Contact: Natalie Williams
Governance Services
governance@hackney.gov.uk

This meeting will be live streamed and can be viewed at:

<https://youtu.be/Pxa4D1rXkGM>

MEETING INFORMATION

Future Meetings

22 January 2020
26 February 2020
20 May 2020 (AGM)

Contact for Information

Natalie Williams , Governance Services
governance@hackney.gov.uk

Location

Hackney Town Hall is on Mare Street, bordered by Wilton Way and Reading Lane. For directions please go to <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/contact-us>

Facilities

There are public toilets available, with wheelchair access, on the ground floor of the Town Hall. Induction loop facilities are available in the Assembly Halls, rooms 101, 102 & 103 and the Council Chamber. Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	AGENDA ITEM	INDICATIVE TIMINGS UP TO & NOT EXCEEDING
1 – 4	Preliminaries	20 minutes
5	Deputation	15 minutes
6	Questions from Member of the Public	30 minutes
7	Questions from Members of the Council	30 minutes
8	Elected Mayor's Statement	20 minutes
	***** 5 minute scheduled break*****	5 minutes
9	Gender and Ethnicity Pay Gap Report	5 minutes
10	Audit Committee Annual Report	10 minutes
11	Standards Committee Annual Report	10 minutes
12	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report	10 minutes
13	Health and Wellbeing Board - Amendments to Terms of Reference	5 minutes
14	Members Allowances Scheme	5 minutes
15	Dispensation Report	5 minutes
16	Motions a) To Reverse the Failed Low Traffic Neighbourhoods Scheme and Consult Residents Properly b) Ending the System of Social Insecurity	15 minutes 15 minutes
17	Appointments to Committees	
	Meeting Duration	3hrs 20 minutes

Council Agenda

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Speaker's Announcements

3 Declarations of Interest

This is the time for Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary or other non-pecuniary interests they may have in any matter being considered at this meeting having regard to the guidance attached to the agenda.

4 Minutes of the previous meeting

5 Deputation

To be introduced by Councillor Rathbone

We are concerned at the proposed closure of Brooke Road E5 Sorting Office by Royal Mail and find the alternative collection office 1n Leyton green, more than an hour's journey away, completely unacceptable. The closure will have a huge negative impact on the vulnerable in our community, and cause considerable problems for those not at home during the day. The Sorting Office is an essential part of the local infrastructure and services. It should never have been privatised which has led to a situation where money is determining its offer rather than service. We call on the Council to make representations to Royal Mail to halt the closure, and to call for a meeting between residents, councillors and Royal Mail to discuss the situation.

6 Questions from Members of the Public

Question from Ms Jeanne-Marie Richards to the Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm

Why can't Hackney roads be available for all Hackney residents to use, similar to the proposal for Church Street and will the council please reconsider removing wheel damaging bollards currently used for narrowing roads where cameras are already in place, since these cause unnecessary damage the wheels of ordinary family vehicles?

Question from Ms Sussan Rassoulie to Councillor Chapman, Chair of the Pensions Committee

Hackney Pension fund invests in companies on UN database of those operating in illegally occupied Palestinian territories, including:

- Elbit that manufactures UAVs used for deadly attacks on Gaza
- Caterpillar that manufactures D9 bulldozers used to demolish Palestinian villages enabling illegal settlements

How is this compatible with your ethical policies?

Question from Mr Christopher Sills to Mayor Glanville

As a result of the covid-19 pandemic would you agree with me that it is regent for the pension fund to review its policies in particular the consequences of a likely increase in interest rates over the next few years

7 Questions from Members of the Council

Question from Councillor Gordon to the Mayoral Advisor for Older People

Can the Mayoral Advisor for Older People give an update on how the Council's new Ageing Well Strategy intends to support older people moving forward, particularly in light of the coronavirus pandemic, and promote connections and understanding between Hackney's older people and other generations?

Question from Councillor Patrick to Deputy Mayor Bramble (Education, Young People and Children's Social Care)

The pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated issues surrounding digital inclusion and the digital divide, especially amongst school children during lockdown who had to access school work online. Can the Cabinet Member outline how the Council supported children and young people during lockdown to bridge that digital divide, and outline the further work the Council is doing to work with schools and help reduce inequalities in this area to ensure access to learning is not diminished?

Question from Councillor Garasia to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care and Leisure

The failure of the government to effectively establish a test and trace system for Covid19 has left many people in Hackney anxious about their own health. Local people have been turned away from test centres and told to travel hundreds of miles to get a test. Can the Cabinet Member for Health update us on what efforts the administration has made to improve the situation and demonstrate the case for local delivery of test and trace?

Question from Councillor Potter to the Cabinet Member for Employment, Skills and Human Resources

Many Hackney residents are worried about job security, with the end of the furlough scheme, the impact of coronavirus and Brexit fast approaching. Can the Cabinet Member explain the approach the council is taking to support residents facing economic uncertainty following Tory mismanagement? [Comments from the Cabinet member for Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy on the potential impacts of Brexit on businesses would be welcome too.]

Question from Councillor Rathbone to Mayor Glanville

Thank you Mayor for writing to Royal Mail objecting to the proposed closure of Brooke Road Sorting Office which will impact on a wide area of North Hackney and force people to collect parcels from the sorting office at Leyton Green, a 90 minute journey away from Hackney. Could you give an update on the matter?

Question from Councillor Billington to the Cabinet Member for Families, Early Years and Play

The COVID crisis has resulted in a massive increase in economic insecurity for many families that has resulted in many finding them short of money for food. Can the Cabinet Member for Families tell us what is being done by the council and the wider community to tackle this?

Question from Councillor Etti to the Cabinet Member for Employment, Skills and Human Resources

Can the Cabinet Member with responsibility for equalities give an update on what action has been taken on the BLM motion passed at the July full council meeting?

Question from Councillor Peters to the Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm

During lockdown, our residents experienced roads that were dominated by people, and not by polluting vehicles from outside Hackney. At the same time, this Council is committed to tackling the climate emergency, and do everything in its power to achieve a carbon neutral Borough. Can the Cabinet Member outline how the Emergency Transport Plan, and the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods that are part of that plan, will help achieve this mission, and make sure we rebuild a greener Hackney after this pandemic?

Question from Councillor Adejere to the Cabinet Member for Employment, Skills and Human Resources

Hackney has a strong record of marking and celebrating the achievements of those of African heritage. In a year in which the world has become acutely aware of the inequality and injustices that Black people have suffered and continue to experience, can the Cabinet Member for Equalities update us on how the council is using Black History Season to deepen this understanding in the wider community?

Question from Councillor Wrouth to the Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm

During the COVID-19 lockdown, Hackney's parks had never been more important for our residents' wellbeing and health. At the same time, Office for National Statistics figures show one in five (21%) households in London have no access to a private or shared

garden, making parks a vital public amenity. Can the Cabinet Member give an update on Council investment into the Borough's parks, and what the Council will do to make sure they are a space for everybody?

8 Elected Mayor's Statement

9 Gender and Ethnicity Pay Gap Report

10 Audit Committee Annual Report

(Pages 1 -
12)

11 Standards Committee Annual Report

12 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

(Pages 13 -
74)

13 Health and Wellbeing Board - Amendments to Terms of Reference

(Pages 75 -
82)

14 Members' Allowances Scheme

(Pages 83 -
110)

15 Dispensation Report

(Pages 111 -
114)

16 Motions

a Motion: To Reverse the Failed Low Traffic Neighbourhoods Scheme and Consult Residents Properly

Chaos caused by Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in Hackney. A call to reverse the failed Low Traffic Neighbourhoods scheme and consult residents properly

All councillors are committed to having more people walk and cycle. However, Hackney Labour Executive has panicked and used the Covid-19 pandemic as an excuse for their war on cars.

The Low Traffic Neighbourhoods imposed by this Labour Executive are a complete disaster, along with the road restrictions imposed by the chauffeur-driven London Mayor Sadiq Khan, which are also choking off the economy of central London. These measures achieve the opposite of the Council's stated aim of having lower vehicle use with less pollution.

These schemes have created more vehicle use overall as a result of longer journeys, with vehicles gridlocked in traffic jams, cars accelerating into tight spots, both of which create more pollution for longer periods, and break up the cohesiveness of neighbourhoods with angry motorists, cyclists and residents shouting at and threatening one another. In addition to delaying buses and consequently causing TfL to turn buses before their stated destination.

Emergency vehicles cannot get through to save lives. Disabled people and elderly people are particularly disadvantaged, stuck in their homes, unable to have carers come to them, unable to drive at the times they need to shop for food or meet hospital appointments. People who need their cars for work, for example nurses working in the NHS, people with large families that need to transport children or small businesses that need to transport goods for their shops, people that have made the UK their home who tend to travel further out of their own area to get to churches or mosques or faith schools specific to their community, have all been particularly disadvantaged. The scheme is a complete shambles.

The most sinister aspect of this Labour scheme has been that the young and fit that can ride bikes are favoured over the old and infirm; the rich are favoured over the poor; the more mobile over the less able. A sensible Conservative Government policy has been twisted by Hackney Labour Executive into something autocratic, favouring the young and fit that can look after themselves and use bikes, at the expense of everyone else. Communities are made up of people of different ages and different abilities. We should not penalise people who need cars and in the light of the current Covid-19 pandemic where all the sensible medical advice is that the safest way to travel is in a private car these schemes are endangering lives.

When Labour councillors are told that hybrids and electric cars are replacing petrol vehicles, and that pollution will decrease as a result, they have no answer. Hackney Labour Executive has sat around making decisions in the Town Hall and Service Centre by pointing at a map. A related issue is that Hackney's Labour Executive and the do-nothing Mayor of London Sadiq Khan have no interest in creating sufficient parking spaces for electric vehicles in any new housing developments being built.

These poorly thought-out schemes help make parts of London that are run by Labour authorities become even more poorly-managed, compared to areas outside the capital. Travel around London now and you can see for yourself which areas are run by Labour: poorly-managed housing, litter, potholes, high debt, high council tax driving lower opportunities, low social mobility, residents that accept the failure of their Council because they are told that Labour councillors are on their side – in reality keeping residents exactly where they are, to vote Labour.

The current Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes were rushed through by Hackney's Labour Executive under the pretence of a response to Covid-19, with no proper consultation whatsoever. This is the now legendary Hackney Labour approach of 'Make a decision, then have a consultation.' Labour councillors have lost their sense of balance from being in power for too long. They have learnt nothing from the Zone T parking zone fiasco where the courts decided that the will of the people must be listened to and acted upon, and persist in their authoritarian approach of telling people what to do and how to live their lives, without using common sense and taking into account the needs of all of our residents.

Wandsworth have suspended their Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes, citing 'concerns with emergency access and traffic flows... compounded by the changes that TfL [Sadiq Khan] is making to red route roads... [which] has caused confusion and long traffic queues'. The Secretary of State for Transport has written to Lambeth Council

asking that it stop abusing the £250 million fund meant for a Conservative green transport revolution by installing pointless one-way systems and barriers that offer 'no benefit to anyone'.

We should do the same, and have proper consultations to establish where Low Traffic Neighbourhoods are wanted, probably nowhere,, or required to solve a problem.

Council therefore resolves:

- 1. To end the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods trial immediately, with all road blockages removed;**
- 2. For the Council to go back to the drawing board and consult residents in an unbiased way that does not presume an outcome, to see where low-traffic neighbourhoods or restrictions are actually wanted, or required to solve a problem;**
- 3. To lobby Sadiq Khan to end his road-narrowing and other anti-car schemes, open the bridges, and allow the economy of Central London to return to normal, so businesses there can have a chance of survival whilst he remains Mayor of London, before consulting properly on ways to encourage safe cycling and walking.**

Proposed by: Councillor Odze

Seconded by: Councillor Steinberger

b Motion: Ending the System of Social Insecurity

Hackney Council notes that even before the coronavirus crisis, 4.2 million children (one in three) in the UK lived in poverty after taking into account housing costs.

In Hackney 36% of residents, and half of all children, currently live in poverty after housing costs have been taken into account, the 3rd highest rate in London.

At the same time, according to the Money Advice Service, Hackney is one of ten areas in England and Wales where more than 1 in 5 people have problem debt.

After years of frozen benefit levels, unemployment benefit is at its lowest since 1990, and, with many families subject to the benefit cap, the average benefit income of a family with children is £2,900 a year less than in 2011. After successive cuts, freezes and caps over the past decade, Local Housing Allowance, the benefit, designed to make renting in the private sector affordable for households on a low income, has left barely a handful of homes in Hackney affordable.

The human cost of this is all too real, with over 3,000 Hackney households, many with children, now living in temporary accommodation. This is compounded by the same inadequate benefit expected to cover temporary accommodation costs and to help families find a permanent home - leaving many with the heart breaking decision of whether to leave the borough that is their home, or face a potential stay of years in temporary accommodation.

As well as causing misery for thousands of families, welfare cuts have also failed in the Government's goal of reducing welfare spend.

Instead, the costs have been passed on to local authorities, through temporary accommodation costs, discretionary housing payments, or the wider support families pushed to breaking point need. Poverty and social insecurity costs the UK state £69 billion every year, with further identifiable knock on costs.

While the Government during this crisis has introduced limited measures to increase support through the benefits system, many of these are only temporary changes such as:

- the £20-a-week uplift to Universal Credit (UC) and Working Tax Credit;
- The £150 annual discount to Council Tax bills for those receiving Council Tax Support;
- Increase of LHA to 30% percentile (30 percent of properties in an area affordable under LHA);
- suspension of the minimum income floor;
- extending the entitlement of means-tested benefits such as UC;
- work-related requirement suspension for UC;
- payments of £500 to support individuals with low-income that need to self-isolate and cannot work from home.

The Government's rhetoric on the generosity of support put in place during Covid-19, with furlough and other initiatives, sits in stark contrast to the grim reality of the day-to-day level of critical benefits; a reality the Government has acknowledged with the temporary initiatives put in place above.

When the £20-a-week uplift ends, 700,000 people, including 300,000 children, will be left worse-off during a period of economic instability. A Child Poverty Action Group survey of low-income families found that 8 in 10 respondents reported a significant deterioration in their living standards due to a combination of falling income and rising expenditure as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Hackney Council notes the additional support that the Council has invested in both prior to and during the pandemic to support low income families:

- return to previous Council Tax Support levels and distribution of the Covid-19 £150 payment.
- £500,000 invested into the Council's Discretionary Crisis Support Scheme, which residents can apply to for urgent financial support with emergency needs;
- £120,000 invested to support Discretionary Housing Payments for those needing support to pay rent;
- a food distribution service that delivered 14,000 food parcels during lockdown to households in need;
- £100,000 emergency grant funding for families with No Recourse to Public Funds locked out of support through the benefits system;
- a moratorium on Council Tax and council tenant rent arrears debt collection or enforcement action where residents are left unable to pay as a result of the coronavirus crisis.

Hackney Council believes that social insecurity has been caused by the deliberate erosion and neglect of the welfare state over the past decade; it has become a prison that traps people in poverty, rather than the means of addressing inequality.

We also note that poverty itself discriminates. National figures show that 42% of households where the head of household is from a black ethnic group live in poverty after housing costs. The same figures show that households which include at least one disabled member are significantly more likely to live in poverty. Women are more likely to live in poverty, as are single parent households. We cannot aspire for a more inclusive and equal society, if we do not address the failings of today's welfare state.

We note that Hackney Council, as a campaigning Council, has a strong track record of opposing welfare cuts presented as 'reform', including the bedroom tax, benefit cap and cuts to Local Housing Allowance, together with the freezing of benefits and cuts to funding for Council Tax Support.

Hackney Council further notes the existing commitment in the Hackney Labour 2018 manifesto to:

"Continue to challenge the Government and push for a return to proper national funding for benefits like Council Tax support and Housing Benefit, and we urge a future Labour Government to make them a priority."

Hackney Council believes that to tackle poverty and encourage economic growth, the welfare system needs significant investment, and as a first step the temporary changes introduced by the Government should be made permanent immediately.

Hackney Council resolves to lobby the Government to end social insecurity in the Borough, with proper and full investment in the welfare and benefits system as set out below:

- 1. Local Housing Allowance rates should return to the 50th percentile market rent they were introduced at;**
- 2. the benefit cap should be abolished;**
- 3. the two-child limit should be abolished;**
- 4. Child Benefit should be restored as a universal benefit;**
- 5. the bedroom tax should be abolished;**
- 6. Universal Credit should be reformed and fully funded;**
- 7. Access to benefits should be based on need alone and not depend on a person's country of origin – the No Recourse to Public Funds condition should be scrapped.**

Proposer: Cllr Clare Potter
Seconder: Cllr Sharon Patrick

RIGHTS OF PRESS AND PUBLIC TO REPORT ON MEETINGS

Where a meeting of the Council and its committees are open to the public, the press and public are welcome to report on meetings of the Council and its committees, through any audio, visual or written methods and may use digital and social media providing they do not disturb the conduct of the meeting and providing that the person reporting or providing the commentary is present at the meeting.

Those wishing to film, photograph or audio record a meeting are asked to notify the Council's Monitoring Officer by noon on the day of the meeting, if possible, or any time prior to the start of the meeting or notify the Chair at the start of the meeting.

The Monitoring Officer, or the Chair of the meeting, may designate a set area from which all recording must take place at a meeting.

The Council will endeavour to provide reasonable space and seating to view, hear and record the meeting. If those intending to record a meeting require any other reasonable facilities, notice should be given to the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting and will only be provided if practicable to do so.

The Chair shall have discretion to regulate the behaviour of all those present recording a meeting in the interests of the efficient conduct of the meeting. Anyone acting in a disruptive manner may be required by the Chair to cease recording or may be excluded from the meeting. Disruptive behaviour may include: moving from any designated recording area; causing excessive noise; intrusive lighting; interrupting the meeting; or filming members of the public who have asked not to be filmed.

All those visually recording a meeting are requested to only focus on recording 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 by someone recording a meeting to respect the wishes of those who do not wish to be filmed and photographed may result in the Chair instructing them to cease recording or in their exclusion from the meeting.

If a meeting passes a motion to exclude the press and public then in order to consider confidential or exempt information, all recording must cease and all recording equipment must be removed from the meeting room. The press and public are not permitted to use any means which might enable them to see or hear the proceedings whilst they are excluded from a meeting and confidential or exempt information is under consideration.

Providing oral commentary during a meeting is not permitted.

ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS

Hackney Council's Code of Conduct applies to **all** Members of the Council, the Mayor and co-opted Members.

This note is intended to provide general guidance for Members on declaring interests. However, you may need to obtain specific advice on whether you have an interest in a particular matter. If you need advice, you can contact:

- The Director of Legal;
- The Legal Adviser to the committee; or
- Governance Services.

If at all possible, you should try to identify any potential interest you may have before the meeting so that you and the person you ask for advice can fully consider all the circumstances before reaching a conclusion on what action you should take.

1. Do you have a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter on the agenda or which is being considered at the meeting?

You will have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter if it:

- relates to an interest that you have already registered in Parts A and C of the Register of Pecuniary Interests of you or your spouse/civil partner, or anyone living with you as if they were your spouse/civil partner;
- relates to an interest that should be registered in Parts A and C of the Register of Pecuniary Interests of your spouse/civil partner, or anyone living with you as if they were your spouse/civil partner, but you have not yet done so; or
- affects your well-being or financial position or that of your spouse/civil partner, or anyone living with you as if they were your spouse/civil partner.

2. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest in an item on the agenda you must:

- Declare the existence and nature of the interest (in relation to the relevant agenda item) as soon as it becomes apparent to you (subject to the rules regarding sensitive interests).
- You must leave the room when the item in which you have an interest is being discussed. You cannot stay in the meeting room or public gallery whilst discussion of the item takes place and you cannot vote on the matter. In addition, you must not seek to improperly influence the decision.
- If you have, however, obtained dispensation from the Monitoring Officer or Standards Committee you may remain in the room and participate in the meeting. If dispensation has been granted it will stipulate the extent of your involvement, such as whether you can only be present to make representations, provide evidence or whether you are able to fully participate and vote on the matter in which you have a pecuniary interest.

3. Do you have any other non-pecuniary interest on any matter on the agenda which is being considered at the meeting?

You will have 'other non-pecuniary interest' in a matter if:

- i. It relates to an external body that you have been appointed to as a Member or in another capacity; or
- ii. It relates to an organisation or individual which you have actively engaged in supporting.

4. If you have other non-pecuniary interest in an item on the agenda you must:

- i. Declare the existence and nature of the interest (in relation to the relevant agenda item) as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- ii. You may remain in the room, participate in any discussion or vote provided that contractual, financial, consent, permission or licence matters are not under consideration relating to the item in which you have an interest.
- iii. If you have an interest in a contractual, financial, consent, permission or licence matter under consideration, you must leave the room unless you have obtained a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer or Standards Committee. You cannot stay in the room or public gallery whilst discussion of the item takes place and you cannot vote on the matter. In addition, you must not seek to improperly influence the decision. Where members of the public are allowed to make representations, or to give evidence or answer questions about the matter you may, with the permission of the meeting, speak on a matter then leave the room. Once you have finished making your representation, you must leave the room whilst the matter is being discussed.
- iv. If you have been granted dispensation, in accordance with the Council's dispensation procedure you may remain in the room. If dispensation has been granted it will stipulate the extent of your involvement, such as whether you can only be present to make representations, provide evidence or whether you are able to fully participate and vote on the matter in which you have a non pecuniary interest.

Further Information

Advice can be obtained from Dawn Carter-McDonald, Interim Director of Legal, on 020 8356 6234 or email dawn.carter-mcdonald@hackney.gov.uk



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