

London Borough of Hackney
Council
Municipal Year 2019/20
Date of Meeting Wednesday 17 May 2023

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

Councillors in Attendance: Mayor Philip Glanville, Cllr Kam Adams, Cllr Grace Adebayo, Cllr Soraya Adejare, Cllr Frank Baffour, Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble, Cllr Robert Chapman, Cllr Mete Coban, Cllr Sophie Conway, Cllr Michael Desmond, Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Zoe Garbett, Cllr Eluzer Goldberg, Cllr Margaret Gordon, Cllr Ben Hayhurst, Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Krautwirt, Cllr Lee Laudat-Scott, Cllr Michael Levy, Lisser, Cllr Anna Lynch, Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, Cllr Sem Moema, Cllr Guy Nicholson, Cllr Jon Narcross, Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren, Cllr Deniz Oguzkanli, Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Sam Pallis, Cllr Benzion Papier, Cllr Sharon Patrick, Cllr Clare Potter, Cllr Fliss Premru, Cllr Steve Race, Cllr Ian Rathbone, Cllr Midnight Ross, Cllr Ali Sadek, Cllr Ifraax Samatar, Cllr Gilbert Smyth, Cllr Simche Steinberger, Cllr Sheila Suso-Runge (Deputy Speaker), Cllr Lynne Troughton, Cllr Claudia Turbet-Delof, Cllr Joe Walker, Cllr Carole Williams, Cllr Caroline Woodley, Cllr Penny Wrouth and Cllr Sarah Young

Apologies: Cllr Sade Etti, Cllr Richard Lufkin, Cllr Yvonne Maxwell, Cllr Caroline Selman and Cllr Jessica Webb

Officer Contact: Natalie Williams, Senior Governance Officer

Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/EKZLI2T2eD0>

Councillor Humaira Garasia [Speaker] in the Chair

1 The Speaker's Welcome

- 1.1 The Speaker welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting of Council. A special mention was given to Mr Stephen Howlett, CBE DL, Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Hackney.
- 1.2 The Speaker announced the death of former Councillor David Pollock who had recently passed away. David served as a Councillor in the late 1970's and 1980's and lived in the Stamford Hill area for many decades where he remained active in the local community.

2 Election of the Speaker for the Municipal Year 2023/24

- 2.1 It was moved by Mayor Glanville and seconded by Cllr Race that Cllr Anya Sizer be elected Speaker of the London Borough of Hackney for the Municipal Year 2023/24.
- 2.2 Mayor Glanville and Cllr Race (ward colleague) both spoke in support of the nomination. Having been elected to the Hoxton East and Shoreditch ward in a by-election in June 2021 she was returned to office in the local elections in 2022. Cllr Sizer was commended for her campaigning for better equity in the health system and workplace. Her advocacy for a better care system especially in the areas of fostering and adoption and families with children with special educational needs was highlighted. Her passion for community engagement, managing casework and love of cake were referenced. It was noted that she had carried out the role of Deputy Speaker with distinction.
- 2.3 Cllr Woodley spoke in support of the nomination.
- 2.4 There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Anya Sizer be elected to the office of Speaker for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

Adjournment - there was a brief pause in proceedings during which the outgoing Speaker vacated the Chair and the newly elected Speaker, Cllr Sizer was invested in the Speaker's robe, chain and badge of office. Cllr Sizer assumed the role of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

- 2.5 The Speaker Elect made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, following which she announced that her consort would be Bernadette Bramble.

Cllr Anya Sizer, Speaker in the Chair

3 Vote of Thanks to the Outgoing Speaker

- 3.1 Mayor Glanville moved a vote of thanks to the outgoing Speaker. He thanked Mr Stephen Howlett, CBE DL, Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Hackney, her predecessor, Cllr Desmond and her consort and mother Najma Garasia all of whom had contributed to making Cllr Garasia's speakership a success. The Mayor spoke of her journey from Youth Parliament to Speaker as well as her passion for youth activism and empowerment. Cllr Garasia was the youngest Councillor and the youngest and first hijabi Speaker. The grace, dignity and leadership with which she managed a very unique civic year which included the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, marking the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and commemorating the Coronation of King Charles III was commended.
- 3.2 The Mayor advised that Cllr Garasia had conducted over 200 events during her tenure. He highlighted some of the specific events which Cllr Garasia had organised which had raised over £7,500 for her chosen charities with donations still to come. He applauded Cllr Garasia's chairing of Council meetings which were done with "calm authority and generosity". It was hoped that bringing together the community, including

diverse Muslim communities in the borough to celebrate Eid would continue and become a permanent civic fixture and legacy of her speakership.

- 3.3 Cllr Levy, Leader of the Conservative Group offered a vote of thanks to Cllr Garasia, for her efforts in promoting community harmony and cohesion as well as her commitment to the charitable causes she supported. He particularly commended her “even handed” chairing of Council meetings.
- 3.4 Cllr Binnie-Lubbock, on behalf of the Green Group, extended a vote of thanks to Cllr Garasia for her warm welcome at many fundraising events. Thanks were also extended to Cllr Garaisa’s consort, her mother, Najma Garasia for her warmth and hospitality.
- 3.5 Councillors Ross (ward colleague) and Steinberger (Conservative Group Whip) also contributed to the vote of thanks.

RESOLVED: To agree on the vote of thanks to the outgoing Speaker, Cllr Humaira Garasia.

- 3.6 The Speaker presented Cllr Garasia with the civic album and badge and a gift for her consort Najma Garasia; following which Cllr Garasia addressed the Council. She expressed gratitude for the privilege and honour of having served as Speaker of the London Borough of Hackney, where she was born and raised and where her parents had received citizenship.
- 3.7 Highlighting her most memorable moments, the Speaker thanked: fellow Councillors, the Hackney Labour Group, officers, Cllr Sizer, Mr Stephen Howlett, CBE DL, Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Hackney, her consorts and her family for their assistance and support during her speakership.

4 Election of the Deputy Speaker for the Municipal Year 2023/24

- 4.1 It was moved by Deputy Mayor Bramble and seconded by Cllr Hayhurst that Cllr Sheila Suso-Runge be elected as Deputy Speaker of the London Borough of Hackney for the Municipal Year 2023/24.
- 4.2 Deputy Mayor Bramble and Cllr Hayhurst (ward colleague) both spoke in support of the nomination. Cllr Suso-Runge’s community advocacy was praised. Described as a ‘genuine community facilitator’, she had lived in Hackney for over 40 years and had served in the positions of Secretary, Chair, and Treasurer of her local Tenant and Residents’ Association. Cllr Suso-Runge’s tireless work running youth and music groups and her passion for youth engagement and ending food poverty were highlighted.
- 4.3 Cllr Turbet-Delof spoke in support of the nomination.
- 4.4 There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Suso-Runge be elected to the office of Deputy Speaker for the Municipal Year 2023/24. Adjournment - there was a brief pause in proceedings during which the outgoing Speaker and her consort vacated the dais and the newly elected Deputy Speaker, Cllr Suso-Runge was invested in the Deputy Speaker’s robe and chain.

- 4.5 The newly elected Deputy Speaker made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr Suso-Runge returned thanks for her election and thanked the outgoing Speaker. She looked forward to supporting the Speaker and serving a borough that welcomed and valued all nations, that supported fairness and inclusion and celebrated diversity. Cllr Suso-Runge announced that her consort was Charmain Humphey.

5 Apologies for Absence

- 5.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Etti, Lufkin, Maxwell, Selman and Webb

6 Declarations of Interest

- 6.1 There were no declarations of interest.

7 The Speaker's Programme for the Municipal Year 2023/24

- 7.1 The newly elected Speaker thanked the Council for her election and the opportunity to serve the London Borough of Hackney as Speaker for 2023/24. She relayed thanks to Council officers who organised the Annual Meeting and supported the Speaker's Office and Hackney Labour Group for their encouragement and support. She thanked the outgoing Speaker for her kindness and leadership over the past year.
- 7.2 The Speaker was proud to call Hackney her home and was privileged to have met various people serving and shaping the borough. She praised the diverse, compassionate and determined spirit of Hackney. This persevering spirit ran through her family who had suffered adversities as Jewish and Irish immigrants. The Speaker spoke of her advocacy work in the fertility and adoption sector as well as raising awareness of foetal alcohol disorder, all of which were charged by her personal circumstances. She committed to continue to champion the voices of others during her speakership.
- 7.3 The Speaker thanked her friends and family in particular her husband and three children for their unwavering support and understanding.
- 7.4 The Speaker announced that her consort would continue to be Bernadette Bramble and her chosen charities would be: St Joseph's Hospice, Hoxton Hall and MInistry of Stories.

8 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 March 2023 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

9 Establishment and Composition of the Council's Committees, Commissions, Panels and Boards

RESOLVED:

1. That the Committees, Sub-Committees, Commissions, Panels and Boards as referred to in this report and the accompanying appendices be established for the 2023 / 2024 municipal year.

2. That the appointments to those Committees etc. as set out in Appendices 2 and 3 attached to this report be approved.
3. That the nominations for Chairs and Vice-Chairs to those Committees etc. as set out in Appendix 2 to this report be approved.

10 Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies

RESOLVED: To agree the appointments, or nominations for appointments, of Councillors to outside bodies on behalf of the Council as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

11 Elected Mayor's Statement

- 11.1 Mayor Glanville congratulated Cllr Sizer on her election as Speaker and welcomed all guests present, acknowledging the Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Hackney and Freeman of the Borough. He thanked the Mayor and Speaker's Office and Governance Officers for coordinating and organising the Annual Meeting. The Mayor wished Cllr Garbett a Happy Birthday.
- 11.2 The Mayor praised the collective action, commitment and dedication as well as strong community relationships which he believed were evident in Hackney. He reflected on some of the challenges of the past year which had impacted Hackney's communities. These included; inequalities highlighted by Covid, the war in Ukraine, recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, the crisis in Sudan and the lack of safe and legal routes for those seeking refuge. Focussing on some of the challenges related to Central Government's fiscal policy, the Mayor highlighted the cost of living and housing crises, 10 years plus of austerity and cuts to Local Government and Public sector funding as well as the impacts of the pandemic.
- 11.3 Reflecting on the achievements of the past year, he described Hackney as an internationalist place. Mayor Glanville spoke proudly of the generosity of residents who signed up to the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and the Council's ongoing support to refugees and asylum seekers. The Council would continue to oppose those who stood against those seeking sanctuary and a better life. He was pleased to reaffirm the twinning relationship with Suresnes, France, a commitment made 60 years ago. Closer to home, the Mayor highlighted the Council's commitment to support the most vulnerable in Hackney. He reported that the Council had seen an increase of 15% in the number of people presenting as homeless, with at least one child in every classroom in Hackney being homeless. He described this as a national scandal and failure of the Government. The Mayor outlined his administration's response to these issues which included: poverty reduction work (creation of the Money Hub, Free School Meals Task Force), investment in Special Educational Needs and Disability school places, tackling the climate emergency through a cohesive Climate Action Plan, investment in parks and green spaces and reviewing the housing stock; holding housing partner's to account.
- 11.4 The Mayor was pleased to highlight some of the recognition and awards that the Council had received. These included: The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) award to Taylor, Chatto and Wilmott Courts on the Frampton Park Estate and highlighting The Hackney School of Food (winner of the Stephen Lawrence Prize 2022). Veronica Ryan OBE won a Turner Prize for her Hackney Windrush Art Commission. The Britannia site won numerous awards and Hackney also won the 'Circular Economy Success' award at Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste

Management. Hackney's Youth Justice Service had also been recognised by Inspectors from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation for its 'powerful anti-racist' stance and bid to reduce the number of Black and Global Majority children impacted by racism in the justice system.

- 11.5 Concluding, Mayor Glanville reported that Ian Williams, Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources and Acting Chief Executive would be leaving the Council in August. Tributes would be paid to him at the next Council meeting in July. The Mayor thanked Polly Cziok, former Strategic Director for Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development who had recently left the Council for her long standing service.
- 11.6 Cllr Levy, leader of the Conservative Group, responded to the Mayor's statement. He congratulated the new Speaker on her appointment and looked forward to working collaboratively with her. He recognised that the current climate of unprecedented uncertainty presented new challenges alongside the need to maintain crucial front line services which residents relied on. Reflecting on the Council's commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day, earlier in the year, Cllr Levy drew parallels with its theme of 'Ordinary People' and the unsung heroes of Hackney who supported the most vulnerable residents. Concluding, he thanked Ian Williams for 17 years of exemplary service and contribution to the Council and wished him well for his new role at Liverpool City Council.
- 11.7 Cllr Garbett, responded to the Mayor's statement on behalf of the Green group and thanked everyone for the kind birthday wishes. She concurred that it had been a challenging year and thanked officers for their efforts. She thanked Ian Williams for his guidance and wished him the best for the future. Citing the recent local elections in England, Cllr Garbett highlighted the increase in the number of Green seats by 250, totalling 772 and the growth in support of the Greens across the country.
- 11.8 Reflecting on their first year in office, Cllr Garbett thanked officers for all of their help and highlighted some of the prominent areas of work undertaken by the Green group. These included: working with the Ridley Road Market Traders and cross party working to prevent threat of closure to Kidzmania, a soft play centre for children. The Green group had attended a range of community events and had attended and submitted questions to Cabinet, Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee and the Pensions Committee holding the Executive to account.
- 11.9 In support of workers' rights, they had taken part in solidarity action for fair pay and conditions and worked with the Unions against proposals for compulsory redundancies within Hackney's Library Service. The Greens had led on a motion on Striking Workers which was passed by Full Council. In relation to housing, the Green group continued to push for the Council to introduce borough-wide landlord Licensing to enable greater accountability and welcomed investment in this area. They also continued to push for the Council to address damp and mould in its housing stock. Cllr Garbett highlighted measures taken to address the climate and biological emergency. These included: leading on the Council passing a motion in support of the Climate and Ecological Bill, exposing fossil fuel investment in the Council's pension fund and ensuring that the climate emergency was considered in all decision making.
- 11.10 Concluding, Cllr Garbett highlighted the Green group's ongoing commitment to protecting human rights within a democratic society, which she believed to be fundamental to addressing inequalities and other challenges. Work in this area

included: bringing the fair votes motion which was passed by Council, working with community groups and campaigners, speaking out and advocating for a directly elected Head of State and holding the police to account. Cllr Garbett expressed concerns at the policing of the Coronation and the protests. Further concerns were raised about the arrests of 20 people attending Non Violent Direct Action (NVDA) training taking place in Hackney and Night Stars (volunteers) in Westminster. She believed that Hackney had a history of activism which needed to be protected and emphasised the importance of providing a safe space where people could voice dissent.

11.11 In reply, the Mayor noted the importance of recognising and celebrating the contributions of those who make a difference in Hackney. This was one of the primary reasons for the Annual Meeting and Civic Awards. With regard to the challenges addressing poverty, he stated that there was no equity in a 'one size fits all' response and outlined the poverty reduction measures the Council had undertaken. The Mayor explained that such measures were developed with cultural sensitivities at the forefront with the aim of ensuring a circular and not extractive economy. The Mayor advised that going into the summer and autumn spending review, the Council would be advocating for the Household Support Fund which was essential to the Council's food justice and poverty work .

12 Composition of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees, Appointment of Deputy Cabinet Members and Member Champions;; Elected Mayor's Scheme of Delegation

12.1 Mayor Glanville advised that there were no significant changes to the previous year; the most notable being the change in title from Mayoral Advisor to Deputy Cabinet Member. This was a common title across London and would assist in the wider recognition of the work undertaken. The other change pertained to delegated functions in relation to school closures which were brought back under democratic control.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Elected Mayor's composition of Cabinet and appointments of Councillors to serve as Cabinet Members as set out in Appendix 1 is noted.
2. That the appointments of Councillors to serve as Deputy Cabinet Members as set out in Appendix 2 is noted.
3. That the establishment of, and appointments to, executive committees as set out in Appendix 3 is noted.
4. That the appointment of Member Champions as set out in Appendix 4 is noted.
5. That the Elected Mayor's Scheme of Delegation for 2023/2024 as set out in Appendix 5 is noted.
6. That the amendments to the Constitution set out in Appendix 6 are approved and authority is delegated to the Monitoring Officer to make any further consequential amendments that may be required to give effect to these changes.

13 Strategic Plan Update -- Working Together for a Better Hackney 2022-2026

- 13.1 The Mayor explained that the commitment was to provide an annual update for residents on the delivery of the plan. He thanked Deputy Mayor Nicholson in his role of Cabinet Member for delivery of the plan, Sonia Khan, Head of Policy and Strategic Delivery and the Corporate Leadership Team.
- 13.2 The Mayor highlighted the need for collaborative partnership working which was integral to the delivery of the Strategic Plan - Working Together for a Better Hackney. The contributions of the voluntary sector, activists and trade unions were recognised within the Council system and beyond. The plan was split into three key areas and sat alongside the Mayor's manifesto commitments. The Mayor acknowledged that many of the objectives of the plan were in direct contrast to Central Government Policy.
- 13.3 Mayor Glanville highlighted the measures and initiatives undertaken by the Council to achieve a safer fairer Hackney; steps to reduce poverty and tackle inequalities which were not dependent on immigration status. These included: the creation of the Money Hub, a single point of access for emergency funding which had submitted almost £400,000 in discretionary funds; working with refugees and migrants which had seen almost 500 Ukrainians guests housed under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and 37 Afghan refugees accommodated as well as support for those with no recourse to public funds. Concluding, the Mayor outlined further measures which included refurbishment of temporary accommodation units, commitment to build new Council homes, a refresh of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy which had resulted in drug related deaths being the lowest for a decade, campaigning and investment in the private rented sector, and support to the Windrush Generation. The Mayor was pleased to report that 87% of all temporary accommodation placements were moved to registered buildings in comparison to the London average which was below one third.
- 13.4 Cllr Blinnie-Lubbock welcomed the report. He stated that there were two areas that the Green group would like to see definitive progress in which were the expeditious delivery of retrofit and plant based eating.
- 13.5 The Mayor advised that the commitment to plant based eating would be demonstrated at the reception following the meeting. The carbon impact of the hospitality would be measured as a baseline with a view to reducing it. The Mayor advised that there were manifesto commitments relating to supporting decarbonising Hackney through lifestyle and food choices and the local economy. In addition, there was a task force group looking at how plant based eating could be better supported throughout the wider public sector. With regard to retrofit, the Mayor stated that it was difficult to deliver this in the current climate of Government cuts and amidst the Housing Revenue Account facing severe financial challenges. Ultimately the Council would need to deliver retrofit through external funding, match funding or service charges. The Council was applying for funding and was committed to delivering this across its corporate estate, housing estate and partnerships with communities. The first phase of energy efficiency and retrofit work would be delivered to 700 Council homes throughout the next municipal year.

RESOLVED: To note the annual update of the Strategic Plan.

14 Amendment to the Pay Policy Statement 2023 / 2024

RESOLVED: To note the amendments and approve the amended Pay Policy Statement 2023-24.

15 Dispensation Report - Resolution To Extend Six Month Rule: Section 85 Local Government Act 1972

RESOLVED:

1. To note, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, Cllr Selman's non-attendance at meetings until 24 January 2024 to accommodate her maternity leave.
2. That during this time, Cllr Selman is exempted from the requirements of Section 85(1) so that she may lawfully continue

16 Calendar of Council Meetings for the Municipal Year 2023/24

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed calendar of meetings for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.
2. That the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services be authorised to make any changes to the calendar as may prove necessary from time to time

End of meeting.

Duration of the meeting: 7:00-8:55 pm

Contact: Natalie Williams
Senior Governance Officer
governance@hackney.gov.uk