

London Borough of Hackney – Decisions taken by Full Council on Wednesday, 23 November 2022

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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Items considered in public

5	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	<b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes of the previous Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 26 October 2022, be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.
6	Petition	<b>RESOLVED:</b> That the petition be referred to Cabinet without any recommendations
10	Strategic Plan	<b>RESOLVED:</b>  1. That the Strategic Plan be adopted.  2. That an annual cycle of progress updates be considered by Full Council in May of each year, linked to the Annual Meeting (AM).
11	Pensions Committee Annual Report	<b>RESOLVED:</b> To note the contents of the report
12	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report	<b>RESOLVED:</b> To note the contents of the report
13a	Cash Welcome Here	<b>RESOLVED:</b>  <b>To note that:</b>

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		<p>Since the pandemic, shops and services increasingly only accept cards as a method of payment. According to Which, around 1 in 5 consumers have been stopped from making cash payments.</p> <p>So far this financial year, 1 in 3 payments made at the Council's Self Service Payment Centre were cash payments. A record £3.32 billion in cash deposits and withdrawals were handled at Post Office's branches in July 2022, and they report that personal cash withdrawals are up 20% since last year.</p> <p>Going cash-free excludes many people.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. People on lower incomes often rely on cash and avoid cards as they may be waiting for payday, trying not to bounce a direct debit or worrying about going into an overdraft – average overdraft rates have recently increased from 12.34% to 27%. Cash is more easily ring fenced.</li> <li>2. Older people often struggle to use cards and fear associated scams.</li> <li>3. Children learn the value of money by using coins and notes.</li> <li>4. Staff in many cash-free businesses interviewed by Victoria Councillors confirmed that cash machines often fail, and then cash is temporarily accepted.</li> <li>5. Staff often receive a smaller share of tips on cards.</li> <li>6. Between 1.3 and 2 million UK adults do not have a bank account. This figure includes refugees and homeless people without the documents to get a bank account. A cash-free society could be devastating for them.</li> <li>7. People leaving abusive partners often need to hide money away, leaving no trace.</li> </ol> <p>As more shops go cash-free, the options dwindle for those who need to use cash. No one has voted for this and it has not appeared in any manifesto.</p> <p>The government has promised to protect access to cash in the Financial Services and Markets</p>

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		<p>Bill, but not to mandate cash acceptance.</p> <p><b>To commits to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Establishing Hackney as a #cashwelcomehere borough, supporting the campaign started in Victoria Ward, and promoting an inclusive economy by encouraging local businesses and ensuring that council-run facilities accept cash and other payment methods.</b></li> <li>• <b>Lobbying the Government to include a mandate for businesses to accept cash in the Financial Services and Markets Bill.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Proposer:</b> Cllr Clare Joseph</p> <p><b>Seconder:</b> Cllr Penny Wrouth</p>
13b	Climate and Ecology Bill	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p><b>To note that:</b></p> <p>That in June 2019, Hackney Council declared a climate emergency and committed to become a net zero carbon borough by 2040 and is developing a climate action plan to achieve this.</p> <p><b>To also note that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The work of Hackney Council to reduce carbon emissions, reverse biodiversity decline and tackle toxic air pollution, such as switching its energy supply to 100% renewable sources, establishing Hackney Light and Power, a Community Energy Fund, supporting walking cycling and public transport, increasing the recycling rate in the borough by</li> </ul>

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		<p>11%, and planting 5,000 new street trees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That in 2022, Hackney has again been a Healthy Streets Scorecard leader with 70% of suitable streets covered by a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN), the top score, and School Street schemes at 45% of all schools covered, the highest total number</li> <li>• That there is a Bill before Parliament - the Climate and Ecology Bill - according to which the Government must develop an emergency strategy to limit global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees celsius above pre-industrial levels</li> <li>• That less than 5% of Hackney's carbon emissions are from the Council's corporate operations and buildings</li> <li>• That the Council cannot tackle the climate emergency alone and the Conservative Government needs to step up with a plan to reach net-zero carbon emissions much sooner than the current target of 2050</li> <li>• The lack of ambition shown by the Conservative Government since 2010 in tackling the climate emergency</li> <li>• That many other London councils have joined the UK100 network of highly ambitious local government leaders and it is the Hackney Council's intention to bring forward its net zero target to 2030 so it can join the UK100 network.</li> </ul> <p><b>To further note that:</b></p> <p>The Climate and Ecology Bill requires that the UK to play its fair and proper role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with limiting global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial temperatures; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ensures that all the UK's consumption emissions are accounted for;</li> <li>○ protects and restores biodiverse habitats along overseas supply chains;</li> <li>○ restores and regenerates the UK's depleted soils, wildlife habitats and specie populations to healthy and robust states, maximising their capacity to absorb CO2 and their resistance to climate heating and flooding;</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ sets up an independent Citizens' Assembly, representative of the UK's population, to engage with Parliament and Government on these issues</li> </ul> <p><b>To:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support the Climate and Ecology Bill;</b></li> <li>• <b>Write to Diane Abbott MP and Meg Hillier MP letting them know that this motion has been passed</b></li> <li>• <b>Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the Bill, expressing the Council's support.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Proposer:</b> Cllr. Gilbert Smyth</p> <p><b>Seconded:</b> Cllr. Richard Lufkin</p>