

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

MONDAY, 24 JULY 2023

- Councillors Present:** Mayor Philip Glanville in the Chair
- 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 Sade Etti, Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Zoe Garbett, Cllr Eluzer Goldberg, Cllr Clare Joseph, Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cllr Shaul Krautwirt, Cllr Hershy Lisser, Cllr Richard Lufkin, Cllr Anna Lynch, Cllr Yvonne Maxwell, Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, Cllr Sem Moema, Cllr Jon Narcross, Cllr Guy Nicholson, 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 Midnight Ross, Cllr Ali Sadek, Cllr Anya Sizer, Cllr Gilbert Smyth, Cllr Simche Steinberger, Cllr Sheila Suso-Runge, Cllr Lynne Troughton, Cllr Claudia Turbet-Delof, Cllr Joe Walker, Cllr Jessica Webb, Cllr Carole Williams, Cllr Caroline Woodley, Cllr Penny Wrout and Cllr Sarah Young
- Apologies:** Cllr Humaira Garasia, Cllr Margaret Gordon, Cllr Ben Hayhurst, Cllr Lee Laudat-Scott, Cllr Ian Rathbone, Cllr Ifraax Samatar and Cllr Caroline Selman
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- Live stream View:** <https://youtube.com/live/-aCP-4xwL1Y>

1 Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Garasia, Gordon, Hayhurst, Laudat-Scott, Levy, Rathbone, Samatar and Selman.

1.2 Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Potter.

2 Speaker's Announcements

2.1 The Speaker informed the Chamber of recent and forthcoming civic engagements and events as follows:

- Citizenship Ceremonies
- Windrush event at Hackney Town Hall
- Armed Forces Day
- Attending Pride in Central London
- Foster Carers celebration event
- Fundraising events for the Speaker's charities
- Event at Yum Yums in Stoke Newington

2.2 The Speaker welcomed the family and friends of Baron Stanley Clinton - Davis to the meeting who died recently. The Speaker paid tribute to his early life and the contributions he made as a lawyer and in politics. Baron Clinton-Davis was born and raised in Hackney and graduated from King's College London before being admitted as a solicitor in 1953. Baron Clinton Davis was married to Frances (née Levene) and they had four children.

2.3 The Speaker noted the recollections from Freeman Gordon Bell, who had sent his apologies for not being present at Full Council. Gordon Bell had met Baron Clinton-Davis in 1968 and reminded the Speaker of the library in Stamford Hill where there was a plaque bearing Baron Clinton-Davis' name.

2.4 Baron Clinton-Davis was a successful lawyer who had used the law and politics to improve lives and defended and fostered improvements to the environment. He was a supporter of the state of Israel and instrumental in creating Hackney's twinning links with Haifa. He joined the Labour Party aged 15, formed the Labour Society at King's College and joined the executive of the Council of the National Association of Labour Student Organisations.

2.5 Mayor Glanville paid tribute to Baron Clinton-Davis noting the contributions he had made to the borough over many years including as a Councillor, Mayor, and Member of Parliament. Mayor Glanville noted the Baron had been a member of a previous government's front bench, a UK European Commissioner, and a Peer in the House of Lords.

2.6 Baron Clinton-Davis' son, Henry Clinton-Davis, thanked all those present and noted his father's active involvement in the many exchanges including between Homerton Hospital and Rambam Hospital in Haifa. Henry noted his father's pride in Hackney and in using this title as a peer in the House of Lords.

2.7 Joanna Clinton-Davis, a daughter of Baron Clinton-Davis spoke on behalf of Baron Clinton Davis' wife Frances, to share a memory of the Baron's first council meeting as Mayor of Hackney. The Baron managed a challenging meeting with wit and good humour to lighten the atmosphere.

2.8 Councillor Steinberger gave his condolences to the family and noted the strong connection the Baron had with the communities in Stamford Hill.

- 2.9 The Speaker invited all present in the Chamber to observe a minute's silence in memory of Baron Clinton-Davis.

The meeting adjourned for 5 minutes.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 3.1. The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council meeting were presented in the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 17 May 2023, be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4 Declarations of Interest

- 4.1. Cllr Steinberger declared that he had signed the Petition at agenda item 5.
- 4.2. It was noted that the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer, the Director Financial Management, and the Head of Legal and Governance had declared an interest in respect of agenda item 13.

5 Petition for Debate

- 5.1. The lead petitioner, Ruth Parkinson introduced the petition and noted that Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) had been introduced as a temporary measure under Covid rules to support social distancing. They had now been made permanent for other reasons, challenged as follows:
- **Pollution:** The Petitioner indicated that pollution was highest on the borough's busiest main roads and increasing congestion on these roads had led to increased pollution. The impact had been ignored for those people walking, living or going to school on those main roads.
 - **Road Safety:** Accidents happened mainly on main roads and at the junctions with main roads and the LTN policy had made main roads more unsafe.
 - **Physical inactivity:** It was noted that 14% of Hackney's population had mobility issues and had relied on car transport. The Council had failed to give universal exemption to Blue Badge holders which had negatively impacted these car users.

Members chose to debate the Petition

- 5.2. The following points were raised in the debate:
- Councillor Steinberger indicated that LTNs caused more pollution and considered they were a tax on people living within the borough.
 - Councillor Kennedy supported the introduction of LTNs as they had reduced pollution in the borough.
 - Councillor Narcross noted the commitment to a greener environment and LTNs were an effective way to reduce carbon emissions and reduce traffic on roads.

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- Cllr Coban noted that tackling pollution was important to secure children's futures and the Council's direction of travel was to reduce traffic by a further 15% in Hackney by 2026.
- Councillor Binnie-Lubbock noted that LTNs were an important tool to help address air pollution and suggested (he declared that he worked for an organisation that promoted citizens assemblies) the Council considered the development of citizens assemblies so that residents were brought into the conversation.

RESOLVED: To note receipt of the petition and its contents.

6 Questions from Members of the Public

6.1 All questions and responses are attached at Appendix A.

7 Questions from Members of the Council

7.1 All questions and responses are attached at Appendix B

8 Elected Mayor's Statement

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

- 8.1 Mayor Glanville noted that there had been much to be proud of since the March Council meeting including the following:
- The launch of the Hackney Food Poverty and Education Commission Report backed up by investment from the incinerator dividend
 - Opening doors to diverse talent in the tech industry events
 - Sustainability Day
 - Participating in the Pride event
 - Windrush Commemoration events
 - Co-op Weekend
- 8.2. Mayor Glanville noted the Council had fully backed the London Mayor's investment in universal free primary school meals from September 2023. The Council had, prior to the London Mayor's initiative, considered Hackney's school meals at a one-off Scrutiny Commission meeting and considered the work that had to be done to deliver nutritious, sustainable and affordable school meals.
- 8.3. Mayor Glanville outlined the work that had been undertaken in community safety and noted the significant progress made over the last 3 years in the reduction in crime which demonstrated the commitment to local communities by the council. The partnership approach to community safety was a cornerstone of the work and had led to the improvements. The Council continued to invest in working with Hackney's communities to tackle crime and the fear of crime.
- 8.4. It was noted that Hackney Young Futures Commission had indicated that crime and the fear of crime had been a significant theme for young people and the council had committed to continue to work to reduce levels of knife-crime and violence. There had been a 19% reduction in young people entering the criminal justice system and 6.1% reduction in

young people being the victims of crime.

- 8.5. Trust and confidence in policing was central to the work and continued investment in the Integrated Gangs Unit (IGU) was noted as a key element of the work. There was a wider commitment to support children and families and Mayor Glanville noted he was on the March Against Knife Crime with residents, many of whom had lost children to knife crime. Whilst knife crime had reduced in Hackney, the Council had not become complacent and had continued to invest and listen to communities about the ongoing response to violence and crime.
- 8.6. The weekend had been a timely reminder of when communities lost confidence in policing. It was 6 years since the death of Rashan Charles whose death had shaken young people, communities, particularly black and global majority people, and started the decline in trust and confidence in policing in Hackney. Mayor Glanville noted that it had been appropriate for the Lead Member for Community Safety and himself to release a statement.
- 8.7. The Council had committed to the journey to improve trust and confidence and had seen progress. The response to the Child Q incident was anchored in the anti-racist action plan. The local Borough Commander acknowledged, for the first time, the need for police officers to adopt a child-centred approach to policing and he called for policing leadership to accept that flaws of racism had been embedded in the policing system. It was noted that the Metropolitan Police Commissioner had visited Hackney in the days following the Child Q Update Report as part of the community conversation with young people and communities and had recognised the important work that was ongoing across the borough.

The Conservative Group Response

- 8.8. Councillor Steinberger noted the conditions that had been attached to a School development in Amhurst Park and was concerned that the Council had not worked with the school to address issues identified in the inspection report. In regard to Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs), Councillor Steinberger noted that residents had talked to Councillors from the Conservative Group and he was concerned that their questions had not been answered.
- 8.9. The appointments at agenda item 13 were noted and Councillor Steinberger congratulated officers on their proposed new roles.
- 8.10. Councillor Steinberger was concerned about the crime and LTN data presented and wanted to better understand where the statistical data was drawn from in the earlier statements by Mayor Glanville and Councillor Coban. The Councillor expressed concern that car theft had taken place on a daily basis in the north of the borough.
- 8.11. Councillor Steinberger congratulated the Conservative party candidate for London Mayor, Susan Hall. Councillor Steinberger indicated that Susan Hall had indicated that she would consider private schools in universal primary school free meals proposals.

Green Party Group Response

- 8.12. Councillor Garbett congratulated the Council on the Green Flag Awards to Hackney Parks, however, Councillor Garbett noted that she was concerned about proposals, for example the Markets Strategy, that had elements that impacted biodiversity of green spaces. The climate emergency had already made an impact and had affected lives.
- 8.13. Concern was noted that the central government's Labour Opposition had considered rolling back on essential policies such as the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) proposals and had considered retaining the two-child benefit cap. The Green Party had continued to offer solidarity with striking workers and Councillor Garbett had joined British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) workers striking against proposed cuts to local radio services.
- 8.14. It was noted that trust in politicians generally was at an all time low and that it was important that as holders of public office conduct was to the highest standards as set out in the Nolan Principles and that safeguarding and welfare checks were carried out after every safeguarding situation.

The Mayor's Reply

- 8.15. In response to the Opposition Groups Mayor Glanville raised the following points:
- The Council took an evidence-based approach and had been proud to support ULEZ and the implementation of the congestion zone.
 - The Mayor noted that he was not the planning authority; Deputy Mayor Nicholson had considered how to deliver schools and community infrastructure in Stamford Hill within the context of the Area Action Plan and wider community impact.
 - Spikes in car crime in Stamford Hill and Hackney Wick were acknowledged and taken seriously by police and the Council who had focused on building relationships with the community to tackle them.
 - Mayor Glanville noted the negative impact that car ownership had on children and families in the borough.
 - The Mayor noted the 29 Green Flags awarded to Hackney parks.
 - The Mayor had been one of the first people to sign a letter to the BBC indicating how important the BBC network had been across the country particularly in holding politicians to account.
 - Mayor Glanville noted that the Nolan Principles had been important to him and he had taken no action related to safeguarding that had put anyone at risk.

9 Annual Update on Progress with Decarbonisation Commitments

- 9.1. Councillor Coban, Lead Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, noted there had to be no delay in taking climate action. People around the world had lived with the impacts of climate change and were dependent on action from nations such as the United Kingdom. Hackney had moved forward with climate action as a priority and had brought forward the net zero target to 2030.

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- 9.2. The Climate Action Plan had been published after a year of engagement and public consultation. The Plan provided the strategic framework to achieve the net zero objectives together with an implementation plan that sets out specific actions over the next 3 years. The Council had committed to review and update the plan every year with continued conversations with the public.
- 9.3. Councillor Binnie-Lubbock thanked Councillors for the report and noted that Hackney had done well across a number of metrics on the London Boroughs Healthy Streets Scorecard, however, Hackney came 18th in London for protected cycle lanes and main roads had the worst collision with pedestrians record for any London Borough and asked whether the plans to address this were ambitious enough. Councillor Binnie-Lubbock noted that carbon capture and storage technology had not been proven to work at the scale that is necessary.
- 9.4 Councillor Garbett asked what ambition there had been to embed accountability for net-zero across the organisation particularly related to net zero compliance in council decision-making.
- 9.5 Councillor Coban noted that carbon capture technology had been used in Denmark and proposed to share that information with Councillor Binnie-Lubbock. A net zero review had been embedded as part of the action plan.
- 9.6 It was noted that cycle lanes had scored top of the Healthy Streets in London programme. Conversations had been ongoing to support the improved experiences of cyclists in London and were set out in the action plan.
- 9.7 Cllr Steinberger noted he had not agreed to the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED: To note the annual update.

10 Adoption of Council Constitution

- 10.1. Deputy Mayor Bramble introduced the report and thanked officers and Members of the Constitution Committee for their work and dedication in reviewing and updating the Constitution. The Constitution Officer Working Group that had been established undertook significant work and included public consultation which had been an important part of the process of public engagement.
- 10.2. The Constitution had a new part solely devoted to public participation which provided transparency about public engagement and access to the council's democratic processes.
- 10.3. The report was not debated.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7.1 Section 4.2 of the Council's Constitution, Cllr Binnie-Lubbock MOVED a motion without notice to extend the meeting beyond 10.00pm to 10.30pm This was SECONDED by Cllr Adams.

RESOLVED: That the meeting be extended to 10.30pm.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Constitution appended to this report at Appendix 1 be approved to take effect from Monday, 4 September 2023.
2. That the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services be given delegated authority to make any changes of a typographical or grammatical nature prior to its effective date and to insert appropriate hyperlinks and bookmarks to aid navigation through the document.

11 Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2028

- 11.1. The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services, Councillor Fajana-Thomas who noted the report set out the principles that had to be applied in considering licensing applications. The policy had to be reviewed every 5 years and the policy had to be in place to make licensing decisions. Consultation on the proposed policy had taken place and was presented to the Licensing Committee.
- 11.2. Cllr Fajana-Thomas thanked officers and Members of the Licensing Committee for their work on the Statement of Licensing Policy. Cllr Smyth, Chair of the Licensing Committee, noted that there had been minimal changes. The changes sought to balance the needs of pubs and clubs' ability to thrive with the interests of residents not to have been negatively impacted by nightlife.
- 11.3. The Statement of Licensing Policy was robust and fair and Cllr Smyth highlighted the following:
 - Hackney Nights Portal and Venue Accreditation Scheme
 - Welfare and vulnerability engagement through Hackney Wellbeing Strategy and Climate Action Plan
 - Potential changes to the Special Policy Areas (SPA) and the introduction of Special Consideration Areas with work being undertaken and recommendations anticipated in the coming months.
- 11.4. Councillor Garbett was proud of the work undertaken by officer and the approach in Hackney, however, she expressed disappointment at the approach considered for SPAs as there was no evidence to support the approach.
- 11.5. Mayor Glanville noted that Hackney supported the night time economy within a well-structured licensing policy. Councillor Race noted that residents in Shoreditch sought the SPA as that had improved their residential enjoyment of Shoreditch and improved the quality of lives.
- 11.6. Councillor Fajana-Thomas noted that the licensing legislation had changed and that the work underway had been commissioned to review the cumulative impact of SPAs and was reviewing the potential for Special Consideration Areas.

RESOLVED:

1. Approve the Statement of Licensing Policy effective from 1 August 2023 for a maximum period of 5 years.

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2. Delegate authority to the Group Director of Climate Homes and Economy to make any changes to the Policy as appropriate. Changes will be reported to the Licensing Committee for noting.

12 Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24

RESOLVED: To agree the report and the Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24 attached at Appendix 1.

13 Appointment of Interim Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and Returning Officer, Appointment of Interim Group Director Finance and Appointment of Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer

- 13.1. Before introducing the report Mayor Glanville offered a vote of thanks to Mark Carroll for his service as Chief Executive and noted his invaluable leadership in relation to Child Q.
- 13.2. Mayor Glanville, as Chair of the Appointments Committee, following what had been a vigorous cross-party process, recommended the appointments of chief officers as set out in the report.
- 13.3. Councillor Binnie-Lubbock thanked Mark Carroll for his service and support and congratulated officers on the interim appointments. The Councillor congratulated Ian Williams on his new role and thanked him for his support over the last year.
- 13.4. Councillor Steinberger thanked Ian Williams for his professionalism and support over many years and congratulated officers on their interim appointments.
- 13.5. Mayor Glanville noted that Polly Cziok, Aled Richards and Andy Wells had left the Council since the last meeting. These senior officers had given much of their careers to Hackney Council and the Mayor thanked them for their service.

RESOLVED:

1. To approve the Appointment Sub-Committee's recommendation for Dawn Carter-McDonald, Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer to undertake the statutory role of Interim Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and Returning Officer from 1 August 2023. The post is designated as the Council's Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer for the purposes of legislation pertaining to electoral law. This appointment is anticipated to be for up to six months, whilst a permanent recruitment process is undertaken.
2. To approve the Appointment Sub-Committee's recommendation for Jackie Moylan, Director, Financial Management, to undertake the statutory role of Group Director Finance and Section 151 Officer. This is anticipated to be for up to twelve months.
3. That on the appointment of Dawn Carter-McDonald to the role of Interim Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and Returning Officer, to approve the Appointment Sub-Committee's recommendation for Louise Humphreys, Head of Legal & Governance, to undertake the statutory role of Acting Director of

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Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer. This is to backfill the statutory role that Dawn Carter-McDonald has been undertaking. This acting up arrangement is anticipated to be for up to six months.

4. That the honorarium salaries to be paid to the Interim Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service), Interim Group Director Finance and Acting Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer are in line with the Council's Pay Policy Statement and in accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules. At the conclusion of these temporary arrangements, all three members of staff will be entitled to revert to their substantive posts and in the case of Dawn Carter-McDonald, resume the role of Monitoring Officer.

Vote of thanks to the Acting Chief Executive and Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources, Ian Williams

- 13.6. Mayor Glanville noted that Ian Williams had been at Hackney for 16 years, 14 of which as Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources and he had been Acting Chief Executive in the past months. As Group Director, Ian had guided Hackney through challenging times with calm and focus and supported the council to continue to invest in initiatives for the benefit of local communities.
- 13.7. Councillor Lynch praised Ian's professionalism and integrity and leadership and thanked him for his support to her, as Chair, and to the Members of Audit Committee.
- 13.8. Councillor Chapman, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service, thanked Ian for his expert guidance and professionalism and for having built a strong team who continued to support the Council.
- 13.9. Cllr Steinberger thanked Ian for his support and service to the Conservative Opposition Group and wished him well in his new role.
- 13.10. Ian Williams thanked the Chamber for their kind words and said that Hackney was a unique and special place to work. During his time at the Council he had benefited from many opportunities and had been grateful for the trust placed in him.

14a Motion 1 - Hackney, A Borough Sanctuary

Full details of the debate on all motions can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/-aCP-4xwL1Y?feature=share&t=11866>

The proposed tabled amendments to the motions were published separately.

The amended motion as set out at agenda item 14a in the Supplementary Papers 2 was MOVED by Cllr Conway and SECONDED by Cllr Walker.

Cllr Conway introduced the motion, stating that Hackney being recognised as a Borough of Sanctuary came at a crucial time following the Illegal Immigration Act 2023. This Act threatened to unjustly remove fundamental rights based on how people arrived in the UK and breached various international conventions

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and obligations impacting severely on minority ethnic groups, LGBTQ+, refugees, asylum seekers and pregnant individuals. This legislation would undermine the protections for victims of modern slavery. The government's plans did not represent Hackney's values, compassion, welcome, dignity, diversity and inclusivity and would increase economic vulnerability, destitution and homelessness for those affected as well as posing a significant public health risk as more asylum seekers were placed in overcrowded hotels. Following the Greater London Authorities Emergency Summit in May 2023 urgent action had been taken to invest in services in the borough to support and protect migrants rights and entitlements as well as expanding partnerships with local and regional migrant and refugee groups.

Cllr Walker supported the motion emphasising the council and residents' commitment and support of the immigrant and refugee communities, which had played a huge part in the borough's shared heritage and culture, and recognised their skills, economic and social contribution across public sector institutions, businesses, third sector, schools and hospitals. The council had always championed the rights and protection of refugees and migrants living in Hackney including the Windrush generation. The local refugee groups had also provided local support and action for the refugee communities

Cllr Binnie-Lubbock spoke in support of the proposed amendments to the motion and referred to the importance of sharing best practice with other local authorities and continuing to develop better support services for migrants and refugees. It was noted that a clear commitment to not work with businesses profiting from the hostile environment was needed as an act of solidarity. The Act contravened the UK's obligation under international human rights and refugee laws by refusing to allow asylum claims in the UK for people arriving illegally and was an attack on human rights and the most vulnerable in society. The Council needed to put pressure on the government to repeal this legislation.

Cllr Williams responded to the amendments indicating that some of the amendments were already enshrined in council policy including the Windrush motion passed in 2018 and the amendment in relation to a Champion had been rejected as it would lead to a downgrading from a full-time position. However, where the amendments had been helpful those had been accepted and a commitment had been undertaken to work with businesses.

The proposed amendments were put to the vote and lost, and then the substantive motion was put to the vote.

The SUBSTANTIVE MOTION was unanimously CARRIED.

This Council notes:

- That the Coalition and successive Conservative governments' "Hostile Environment" policies deliberately make life hard for refugees, asylum seekers and for those who cannot prove their right to remain in the UK.
- During the Windrush 75th anniversary year, the government is rowing back on key recommendations made by Wendy Williams in the 2020 Lessons Learned Review: to create the post of Migrants' Commissioner; increase the powers of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) to publish

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- reports; and to run a series of reconciliation events with members of the Windrush Generation to discuss the impact of the scandal on their lives.
- The Government's cruel treatment of the Windrush Generation has forced many Hackney residents who were born in the UK, to go through unnecessary amounts of distress, with some being deported.
 - The Council will continue to celebrate tolerance and diversity and welcome refugees and migrants. The Council has already welcomed refugees from Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine and elsewhere, who have made Hackney their home over the last 5 years.
 - The Government's underfunding of the immigration system and the impact of migrant and refugee communities results in delayed decision making on applications, unjustifiably high and unreasonable fees for immigration applications, and the harsh reality of being excluded from fully participating in society for those who are granted leave to remain in the UK, but who have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).
 - The Home Office NRPF policy is inhumane and fails to comply with the legal obligation to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It has also been found unlawful by the High Court for the third year in a row.
 - That the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent has stated that, "There are barriers to accessing asylum in advance of arrival by people of African descent. Many asylum seekers of African descent often find themselves subject to punitive migration controls such as detention, denial of benefits, deportation sometimes in error, and externalisation. Their state of precariousness is exacerbated by denial of the right to work and basic needs such as health care, housing, and adequate food."
 - That the pandemic has brought further difficulties for refugees and migrants, including insecure work, lack of access to decent housing and digital exclusion.

This Council further notes:

- That all our residents, no matter their nationality, call Hackney their home and bring significant value to our borough.
- That Hackney celebrates our borough's history of being a welcoming borough, and welcoming everybody, regardless of their background. The Council recognises the contribution of refugees, migrants and those seeking sanctuary to the Borough of Hackney. We are committed to welcoming and including them in all of our activities and actively seek ways in which we can support them.
- That, throughout the pandemic, Hackney Council's support services were open to anyone who needed them, no matter their immigration status.
- Despite limitations imposed by central government, Hackney Council continues to try to find ways to support people with NRPF. For example, the Council has extended eligibility for free school meals to include some children of groups who have no recourse to public funds.
- The Council has called on the Home Secretary expressing serious concerns about the Streamline Asylum Process and the absence of resources to provide necessary support including translation services and legal aid provision.
- Mayor Glanville is a signatory to the Migrant Democracy Statement 'Our Homes Our Votes', that would see the implementation of the Scotland and Wales model to allow all residents who have permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who do not need permission, to have the right to vote in local elections, including mayoral elections, in England and Northern Ireland. The Council

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celebrates Refugee Week annually and publicly shares and celebrates the contribution of refugees and migrants in Hackney.

- That the Council is committed to our refugee and migrant communities. We support the initiative to make Hackney a recognised ‘Borough of Sanctuary,’ welcoming those fleeing violence and persecution and offering them safety.

This Council resolves to:

- Join a network of cities and towns which promote the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries and become a recognised “Borough of Sanctuary”.
- Continue to celebrate the contribution of refugee and migrant communities to Hackney.
- Continue to work with organisations in Hackney who support refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the borough to create an inclusive and welcoming borough for those seeking sanctuary here.
- Challenge anti-refugee and anti-migrant attitudes wherever they are found.
- Continue to lobby the government to reform the No Recourse to Public Funds condition so that people are no longer blocked from fully participating in society for years while they wait for their status to be resolved.
- Continue to lobby the Government to stop profiteering from visa fees, and to ensure that migrant families are not financially disadvantaged by having to pay high fees to be together.
- We will continue to put pressure on the Government to reverse the Home Secretary’s plans to abandon key Commitments on the Windrush Compensation Scheme, following the publication of the lessons learned review, and for the Scheme to be run independently from the Home Office.
- Write to the Minister of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities requesting that the franchise for local elections be extended in England and Northern Ireland to all qualifying foreign nationals in line with eligibility criteria in Scotland and Wales. This would ensure a UK-wide and fair approach so that all our residents who are also our council tax payers are enfranchised.
- Work with local businesses and community partners to further tackle the digital divide, provide affordable access to online services, and look at ways to donate IT devices locally to those in need, rather than scrapping them.

Proposer: Cllr Sophie Conway

Seconded: Cllr Joe Walker

14b Motion 2 - Working Towards Becoming a Fertility Friendly Borough

Due to insufficient time this item was deferred to the next meeting of the Full Council.

RESOLVED: That this motion stand referred, without discussion, to the next ordinary meeting of Full Council to be listed at the relevant agenda item in order received.

Mayor Glanville acknowledged the presence of the former Cllr Rosemary Sales, at the meeting and representing the Hackney Migrant Centre, a winner of the Mayor’s Civic Award and supporting the motion.

The Speaker declared the meeting closed

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Duration of Meeting - 7.00-10.30pm

Speaker of the London Borough of Hackney Cllr Anya Sizer

Appendix A - Questions from Members of the Public

- 6.1 The question from John Anthony to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport was withdrawn.
- 6.2 From Linda Bowden to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

Given that the temperature last year exceeded 40 degrees, will the Council be providing air conditioning for the vulnerable?

Written Response from the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

Dear Ms Bowden

Response to Full Council question

Thank you for your question submitted to Full Council, in which you asked whether, given the temperature last year exceeded 40 degrees, the Council will be providing air conditioning for the vulnerable. As you were unable to attend the meeting in person, I am providing you with this written response.

As your question acknowledges, Hackney is already experiencing higher summer temperatures and warmer, wetter winters than a few decades ago. I recognise these changes can have an adverse impact on those who may be vulnerable, either due to a health condition or their home or living environment. The Council's recently adopted Climate Action Plan represents a comprehensive approach to tackle the climate and ecological crisis, and is accompanied by a three-year Implementation Plan, which outlines specific actions and priorities within the Council's control and influence.

One theme set out in the Climate Action Plan is adaptation. While air conditioning can provide relief during extreme heat, it is important to consider its impact, as it too can contribute to the climate crisis. The Council is therefore, as set out in the Implementation Plan, developing alternative strategies to keep vulnerable individuals and communities cool during heat waves. These include:

- building understanding and raising awareness of the risks and impacts of overheating;
- creating a network of 'cool spaces' in existing buildings, streets and public spaces
- and ensuring new and existing buildings are both energy efficient and not prone to overheating during hot weather.

The recently adopted Green Infrastructure Strategy and Local Nature Recovery Plan are also essential tools in this regard. They focus on optimising green infrastructure in public spaces to mitigate the risks of heat and flooding. One of the key initiatives is our tree planting programme, which has seen the addition of five thousand new trees in the past four years, bringing our tree and woodland cover to about 25%. These trees play a vital role in cooling streets and public spaces during hot weather.

During times when temperature warnings are issued, many departments across the council, and our partners, work together to help support vulnerable individuals and

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communities. Measures include: providing advice on staying cool, establishing and advising on cool spaces in existing buildings and public areas, providing water, checking on those who may be homeless, and working with partners to ensure better preparedness for potential heatwave events such as ensuring welfare calls take place, and additionally, the Council collaborates with climate resilience groups to strengthen community preparedness and response to climate impacts.

By implementing the Climate Action Plan and through the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Nature Recovery Plan, we aim to build resilience, adapt to climate change, and protect our most vulnerable residents. Whilst we cannot offer the installation of air-conditioning, I hope you will recognise the Council's commitment to tree planting, green infrastructure, and community preparedness demonstrates our determination to create a sustainable and climate-resilient borough that protects all who live and work here.

Kind regards

Cllr Chris Kennedy

6.3 From Ayesha Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure

What opportunities are there for children with a diagnosis of autism/SEND needs to participate in music making in Hackney?

Written Response from the Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure

Dear Ms Taylor

Response to Full Council question

Thank you very much for your question re: opportunities for children with a diagnosis of autism/SEND to participate in music making in Hackney. Participation in the arts is something we're always keen to uphold in Hackney, and I'm really pleased to say that there are many ways that children and young people with SEND can take part in music education and opportunities.

The Hackney Education Music Service runs a SEND Music network, which aims to make music education more inclusive across the borough. The network shares good practice so that all children can be included.

The annual Mayor's Music Awards supports children and young people with SEND to participate further, and last year the Mayor added two award categories to the music awards to celebrate the musical learning of children with special educational needs and disabilities, named after former Hackney councillor and speaker Geoff Taylor. We would love to see more applications come forward from each of our special schools as well as our mainstream schools for these awards.

The Garden School has had a number of programmes delivered by the Guildhall School of Music and Drama including Barbican Box and a music programme called DrumWorks, which is still happening now. The school also takes part in the annual Hackney Schools Music and Dance Festival. As part of the Network meetings we facilitate, the school has agreed to host the next one at The Pavillion, so all Network

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member schools can see the new building and consider potential for future programmes.

The associated board of the Royal Schools of Music have recently piloted a new Performance Grade Exams scheme in which Ickburgh School took part.

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor Bramble and I regularly attend school end of year and graduation ceremonies, and this summer I had the pleasure of joining two such events at Stormont House, where we had the opportunity to enjoy musical performances from many of the graduates. Stormont House has an established music team, one of whom is also a Hackney Music Service tutor. The school has participated in numerous music programmes including Conductive Music - which is a music and STEM project looking at conductive materials, which can be turned into sound sources of different pitches to create melodies. One of Stormont's pupils last year was able to conduct one of his own compositions played by a string quartet at the music festival, which was attended by the Mayor.

Each of the special schools has at least two performing arts practitioners who regularly deliver the school's curriculum and access additional support through Hackney Music Service to enhance the school offer. The London Symphony Orchestra has been working to increase participation of children with SEND, and the Music Service has developed a partnership with Open Orchestras to develop an 'inclusive ensemble' for children with SEND, and to provide specialist training for music leaders.

This year, another Stormont pupil has taken part in the LSO Activate Programme and they were so impressed with her musical abilities she will be invited to take part in the creative programme called the Next Generation Scheme.

Music is part of the national curriculum and therefore all schools should be ensuring all children, including those with SEND, can access music making. In most cases additional co-curricular or extra-curricular activities are also provided, which include using instruments in the classroom. We recognise that not all schools are in the same place and we continue to offer advice and support to help with developing better musically inclusive practice.

In terms of our universal offer, the Music Service also provides choirs and ensembles outside of school hours including orchestras, bands and vocal groups, and aims to ensure that all children and young people, including those with SEND, can take part in group music making activity.

In Hackney we follow the social model of disability, which means we are committed to understanding and removing visible and invisible barriers to participation and seek to provide a universally accessible and affordable offer, and continually work to offer musically inclusive programmes. We seek to provide opportunities for children, young people and young adults with additional needs to make music in inclusive environments, and facilitating progression routes by working with external partners.

Some of our inclusion programmes include: Classical Meets Jazz - diversity ensemble; the Youth Music Forum - youth voice programme; Inclusive Ensemble - supporting children and young people with SEND including profound and multiple learning disabilities; Hackney Mayor's Music (SEND) Awards; and our Tutor Diversity

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Ambassador programme to support the workforce develop awareness and better musically inclusive practice.

To further demonstrate our commitment to inclusive practice, in 2020, we commissioned Dr Phil Mullen to undertake some research into our work, and to create a Musical Inclusion Strategy with recommendations for further development. This is an ambitious 5-year strategy to help us become more musically inclusive in all that we do.

“Hackney Music Service is one of the more progressive hubs in the country, successfully balancing aspects of a traditional music service offer with targeted work with children in challenging circumstances and with a broad range of popular genres and instruments”

Dr Phil Mullen, 2021.

I hope this response provides you with some assurance that we take inclusive participation in music really seriously in Hackney. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions regarding the above.

Best wishes

Cllr Caroline Woodley

6.4 From Jasmine Martins to the Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources and Equalities

If the Illegal Migration Bill becomes law, how will Hackney Council continue to support the rights of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers and challenge this abhorrent legislation

Response from the Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources and Equalities

Cllr Williams stated that the Illegal Migration Act had passed its final stages in the House of Lords last week and received Royal assent just a few days ago and was now law. The Act presented a significant barrier to the Local Authority being able to effectively identify and support affected individuals.

For most new arrivals in the UK, if they arrived after 7 March 2023, the introduction of the Bill would mean their arrival in the UK would become illegal if they came through an ‘irregular’ route. These people would be detained, with no bail. The Home Secretary, under the bill, had a duty to remove them except in very limited circumstances.

Cllr Williams emphasised that this affected anyone arriving in the UK irregularly regardless of journey. It will make any asylum application or human rights claim inadmissible.

However, it is very rare that the government is able to return people to their countries of origin. Currently, the government only had Rwanda as a potential destination to remove people to, and this scheme is currently in the courts and so not active.

Cllr Williams said Hackney Council would continue to advocate against this bill and to evidence the detrimental impact to Hackney’s residents and community and call for an

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end to the hostile environment policies. The majority of our correspondence has been on this point including in letters to current and former Home Secretaries and Prime Ministers.

The Mayor had co-signed a letter coordinated by Greenwich regarding refugee removals from hotels

The Council launched a new Refugee, Migrant and Asylum Seeker Support service recently to support asylum seekers and refugees living in our borough in order to improve the quality of life of all our displaced residents while they are in Hackney, and beyond.

The service was guided by anti-racism, dignity and humanity, and aimed to support the welfare of all displaced residents, regardless of their immigration status.

Through the newly formed service, the Council would seek to ensure local advice and support services were supported and prepared for the impact of this Bill, including homelessness organisations.

Supplementary Question

I have personally seen the impact this country's cruel immigration policy can have on communities in Hackney. Migrant communities make Hackney what it is but will the council do more to champion those communities and support them to thrive in the borough?

Response

Cllr Williams indicated that this question would be discussed later at agenda item 14a – Motion 1 - Hackney, a Borough of Sanctuary, which would detail some of the work the council had undertaken historically to support migrant and refugee and asylum seeking communities and plans going forward.

6.5 From Alan Roberts to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Please can the Cabinet Member explain to me how blocking Shepherdess Walk with a barrier makes any savings to the environment when you have to drive 1.5 miles in heavy traffic to get 200 yards?

Written Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Dear Mr Roberts

Response to Full Council question

Thank you for your question submitted to Full Council, in which you asked how the traffic filter on Shepherdess Walk protects the environment. As you were unable to attend the meeting in person, I am providing you with this written response.

The traffic filter on Shepherdess Walk was first installed in 2020 as part of an experimental Hoxton West Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) and while it prevents general traffic from passing through, it allows buses, cycles and Hackney blue badge holders through. The scheme was designed to protect residents from the

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environmental effects of potentially increasing motor traffic levels such as air pollution and the danger of traffic collisions.

While I recognise that for some drivers, very short routes, such as a 200 yard drive, will now be longer, the result is that that same 200 yard journey is now much better for those who can walk, cycle or take public transport and this would result in some of those shorter journeys switching to cleaner forms of transport, for those who can. For those who can't due to a disability, as mentioned we introduced an exemption at Shepherdess Walk so that Hackney blue badge holders can drive through along with buses and cycles. This approach to prioritise walking, cycling and public transport is consistent with our Transport Strategy and Climate Action plan to prioritise healthier, cleaner and lower carbon modes of travel.

And while I recognise that some local car drivers who continue to drive to access local destinations will experience longer routes by car, this is a very small proportion of car journeys overall. In the area around Shepherdess Walk, according to the 2021 census 71% of households do not have access to a car. While over 40% of motor traffic in the borough does not start, stop or pause in the borough and these routes are generally not made longer by hyper-local closures such as Shepherdess Walk.

Having introduced the scheme as an experimental measure, it was robustly monitored over 12 months and the full results are available on the Council's website.

Some key results from the evaluation were that:

- traffic was down by 46% inside the LTN and by 18% on boundary roads
- air quality was predicted, based on a model to have improved at 58 of 62 modelled locations in the area, with increases in pollution of less than one per cent at four of the 62 locations
- average bus speeds in the area improved from 9.6mph in 2019 to 11.2mph in 2021.

These factors are observed in the monitoring which shows that the net effect of a small number of longer local trips does not undermine the clear environmental benefits of the scheme.

We know that these schemes inconvenience some drivers and there are some with very strong feelings towards them. However, we committed to addressing air pollution in the borough, including a ward pledge in 2014 specific to Hoxton West to tackle toxic air and we are following the evidence to meet that pledge, in this case the scheme was evaluated to be a success with lower traffic across the wider area.

This scheme on its own won't solve air pollution in the area. It has to be part of a wider package of measures and that is why we lobbied for an expansion of the ULEZ to include all of Hackney, and supported the further expansion of ULEZ which will also influence the level of pollution from vehicles travelling around the LTN.

Kind regards

Cllr Mete Coban

6.6 From Clair Battaglino to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Despite School Streets at least 30 schools and nurseries on roads where LTN traffic has been rerouted face hours of increased traffic, congestion, daytime pollution and risk of traffic-related accidents. What plans does the Council have to decrease the harm and risk for these babies, children and young people?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban stated that too much traffic on Hackney roads brought with it air pollution, road danger, noise, community separation, and contributed to climate change. The DfT estimated that 271 million miles were driven on Hackney roads in 2021, which although down from a peak of 350 million miles in 2002 and down from 286 million miles in 2019, was still too much. Especially considering two thirds of Hackney households had no access to a car.

Cllr Coban added that the Council had a long standing Transport Strategy that sets out the Council's approach to addressing the negative impacts of the legacy of twentieth century motor vehicle centric transport planning that we had inherited and measures to reduce the use of residential roads for through-traffic had been a part of the Council's approach for some time. These were widely regarded as standard parts of the traffic management toolkit.

Cllr Coban highlighted that traffic on main roads in Hackney in 2022 had fallen by 6% against pre-pandemic levels where elsewhere in the country traffic had returned.

But compared against the drastic improvements that some other areas had seen, namely the 50% of Hackney roads that were now part of a Low Traffic Neighbourhood, the main roads would not have benefited as much and clearly a holistic approach was needed.

Cllr Coban stated that a three year Local Implementation Plan was agreed in January 2023, alongside expanding Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and School Streets and setting out a plan for addressing main roads in the borough. The plan included over 80 other measures to reduce the impact and the harm caused by traffic in the borough by prioritising active transport, contributing to our climate action plan goals for only 5% of trips starting in Hackney to be made by private car or motorbike by 2030, and aims to promote fairness and to reduce inequalities in the system.

Cllr Coban highlighted some of achievements since the 3 year Local Implementation Plan had been adopted in January 2023 including publishing a dedicated main roads toolkit this year, completing borough-wide 20mph limit coverage, signed contracts to install 2000 new charge points and to deliver the first batch from this programme by the end of the year, implemented one new school street, to deliver 130 new cycle hire locations this year, committed to providing an opportunity for every child in the borough to learn to ride a bike before finishing primary school and since January a quarter million pounds funding had been secured to meet that target this year, a review of the bus network in Hackney had been conducted and proposals for improvements to bus routes in the borough would be released.

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Cllr Coban added that public consultations were being planned to consult on the Transport Strategy next year and urged everyone to engage to help shape the future transport network.

Supplementary Question

A petition signed by hundreds of parents of children at Mossbourne and Roof Top Schools and Nursery was submitted to the Deputy Mayor over two years ago advocating to protect the most vulnerable in our society. Why has the Council not acted and commissioned an independent research for inclusive traffic management that takes into account the lives of those children especially from ethnic minority and poorer communities.

Response

Cllr Coban replied that 50% of those living in Low Traffic Neighbourhoods were people from Black and Global majority backgrounds and acknowledged that there was too much traffic on the roads in Hackney; however, a package of interventions had been outlined in the Local Implementation Plan. The borough's journey to reduce pollution started from the 1970s with the introduction of the 20 mph limit to car free developments, and the council wanted to engage with local residents and community groups to find solutions to reduce traffic and protect Hackney's children from the harmful effects on their health.

6.7 From Mr Matthew Albrow to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Residents live, walk, cycle, wait for buses, attend schools on Balls Pond, Dalston Lane, Graham Road. What solution with a reasonable timeframe will Hackney Council be putting into place to mitigate the additional harm being caused to all residents using and living on these roads since the introduction of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods ?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban replied that work had already begun and the main roads toolkit would be available in September as part of the Local Implementation Plan. The council would be working with Transport for London, neighbouring boroughs, partners and residents to reduce the overall levels of traffic across the borough. This was a longer term vision requiring longer term planning.

Cllr Coban stated that much of the funding for roads schemes, especially relating to main road corridors came from Transport for London, which had been facing a challenging post-pandemic financial situation. The Council would be working with Transport for London, neighbouring boroughs, partners and residents to reduce the overall levels of traffic across the borough.

The Council had to prioritise and make difficult decisions and therefore a review of traffic on main roads had been conducted and a toolkit drafted to aid in bidding for funding on our main roads. The initial work was currently underway towards making bids for funding.

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Cllr Coban stated that there were certain sections of Hackney's road network that had not benefited from the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and Hackney had probably the most dense network of real-time traffic monitors in the country.

Cllr Coban emphasised that the initial release of information in December of 2022 showed positive results for these three roads and further data would be released at least annually. The traffic study found main road traffic across Hackney had gone down by 6% vs pre-pandemic levels.

Cllr Coban stated that the benefit was not perfectly distributed which was the challenge for the council to address, but it showed that overall on a system level some changes that were needed could be seen.

Supplementary question:

Why is the Council counting traffic during the school holidays if a review has been undertaken and the current location of MetroCount traffic counter at Dalston Lane is not fit for purpose. Action is needed to open some of the main through routes throughout East to West Hackney?

Response

Cllr Coban explained that as part of the transparent reporting of data and extensive network of monitors and traffic counters, the Council had been traffic counting throughout the year as well as air quality. Hackney had been the only borough in London to have a live air quality map and monitoring. 229 of 299 air quality monitors in Hackney had reported reductions in nitrogen dioxide levels which demonstrated what could be achieved and where there had been an increase in these areas it had been less than one percent. The Council would engage with Matthew Albrow to ensure it got it right at Balls Pond and other main roads across the borough.

6.8 From Dr Noah Birksted- Breen to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Would Hackney Council agree to establish a cross-disciplinary external design panel - made up of Hackney residents who have professional experience as sustainability architects and engineers, thereby benefiting from their specific local knowledge to consider how best to decarbonize housing stock, including the challenging issue of embodied carbon?

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

Cllr Nicholson stated that the national discourse was tempting all away from delivering a decarbonized, zero emission UK and that somehow climate change could be put on hold for a few more years. However, Hackney had no intention of turning its back on playing its part in helping to deliver a better city for all to live and work in and had no intention of waiting a 'few more years'.

Cllr Nicholson clarified that the Hackney Regeneration Design Advisory Group had been formed in 2014 and that the council had referred to this expert panel for professional advice and guidance specifically to review the proposed new build Council led and delivered housing regeneration schemes in the borough.

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In recent years the Advisory Group's remit had expanded to cover the Council's approach to the retrofit of its existing housing stock. The panel included architects and others working in the built environment who either lived or worked in the borough, and were experts in the fields of architecture, urban design, landscape or public realm, sustainable development, construction delivery and urban regeneration. The membership was regularly refreshed and the most recent appointments had been made in 2021 to ensure that the Council had access to the most relevant and up to date skills.

Cllr Nicholson added that the Council had other Advisory Panels to seek expert opinion on new developments in addition to the long established Planning Service led Design Review Panel that provided expert advice on large scale developments in the borough as they passed through the Planning determination process.

Cllr Nicholson stated that the Council had recently initiated the implementation phase of the Climate Action Plan to ensure delivery based on this advice and to begin that journey now. This plan brought together a cross Council approach to the decarbonisation of its neighbourhoods and sets out the partnerships and the role of the Council in helping residents and businesses transition from a carbon led economy to a zero carbon future.

Cllr Nicholson explained as part of the first three year Implementation phase of the Climate Action Plan, the Council had a number of initiatives around the decarbonization of its housing stock and wider property portfolio including:

- Energy efficiency improvements to five hundred council owned homes; predominantly street properties or estate houses, part funded by a £4.5 million grant from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) to be delivered between 2023 - 25.
- Improvements to the efficiency of communal heating systems on two housing estates with grants from the Heat Network Efficiency Scheme (HNES)
- Developing a programme to install solar panels on existing housing blocks where the electricity generated could be shared with residents to reduce their utility bills and carbon emissions.
- Decarbonisation of heat and improved insulation to non domestic buildings funded by grants from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)
- Developing design strategies for the retrofit of existing housing archetypes to inform future capital investment in the wider Council owned estate.
- Continuation of the Hackney Green Homes Programme - a £200,000 annual grant fund to support vulnerable residents to install insulation, low-carbon heating and other energy efficiency measures in owner-occupied and privately-rented homes.

Supplementary Question

Has the impact of increasing global temperatures been considered by the Council and this Advisory Group for its implication on planning laws for example allowing insulation and installation of shutters on the outside of Victorian Terraces currently not permitted in conservation areas?

Response

The Climate Action Plan had been a corporate plan to realise the Council's objectives and to support the wider community to bring forward Net Zero and decarbonise developments through lifestyle change as well as building urban regeneration. However, the challenge was the conflict between what the government described and built heritage legislation including conservation area designations and various interventions into heritage designated buildings across the borough. Currently 80% of planning applications submitted to retrofit Heritage buildings in the borough with double glazing and solar panels etc had been approved while 20% had fallen foul of the law. It was suggested that a joint representation could be made to the government or any new government to relax heritage laws.

6.9 From Niall Crowley to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Whiston Road is now the only fully open west-east route between Shoreditch-Amhurst. Since 2021, traffic increased 55%, and serious cycling accidents have doubled. Residents are paying a heavy price for LTNs. Will the council agree to scrap the disastrous experiments and work with residents for a workable and equitable solution?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban replied that the Council knew it had more work to do to reduce traffic in Hackney. When the Council made the decision to retain Low Traffic Neighbourhood for London Fields, it had committed to conducting further analysis, and carrying out further engagement with residents to review certain issues. The progress made with this work included a recent consultation to review the hours of the bus gate on Lansdowne Drive, which officers were currently in the process of analysing.

Cllr Coban stated that the Council had also committed to reviewing the layout and traffic circulation arrangements of the traffic filters in the section between the A10 and Queensbridge Road and consultation on alternative arrangements in the autumn that would impact on Whiston Road between the A10 and Queensbridge Road. However, there were no plans to remove the Low Traffic Neighbourhood implemented in September 2020 as an experiment following a thorough consultation with over 5,500 responses and a detailed evaluation that found the experiment had been a success with profound benefits to a wide area, which had led to the decision to retain the Low Traffic Neighbourhood in early 2022.

Cllr Coban added that overall east-west traffic inside and outside the London Fields Low Traffic Neighbourhood had decreased by 11.5%, meaning that the increase in traffic on this section had been lower than the decrease across the wider area. In a representative poll, it had been found that a quarter of residents had cycled more as a result of the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods.

Cllr Coban emphasised that although the Council recognised that there were important questions about how it managed roads fairly and ensured a fair transition period when there was uneven distribution of benefits, these questions needed to be informed with good quality evidence. This was the reason the Council had invested in one of the country's most dense networks of real-time traffic counters and almost 150 air quality monitors in the borough, which were being used alongside other evidence

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such as the publicly available TfL dashboard of road casualties. The Council had committed to robust ongoing monitoring as well as further specific review of certain issues and consultation on alternative options due in autumn.

Supplementary Question

Why will the Council not allow the people who live in London Fields Low Traffic Neighbourhood go through the filters instead of coming through Dalston Lane and through our streets. That would take thousands of cars off the street every single day?

Response

Cllr Coban stated that all blue badge holders were exempt on the four bus gates on Stoke Newington Street, Downs Road, Shepherdess Walk and Richmond Road. It was important to recognise that up to a third of households in Hackney did not own a car and that 1 in 183 cars issued a penalty charge notice through the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods filters were vehicles registered outside of Hackney.

Appendix B - Questions from Members of the Council

7.1 From Cllr Binnie-Lubbock to the Mayor

Will the Mayor condemn the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair due to take place in East London in September and make it clear that Hackney is a place of sanctuary and diversity

Response from the Mayor

Mayor Glanville replied that the Defence and Security Exhibition International (DSEI) intended to hold an arms fair at Excel London owned by Abu Dhabi, in Newham between 12-15 September 2023. The DSEI had been organised by a private company called Clarion Events which had been responsible for various arms fairs around the world. More than 1,500 companies were expected to take part in this exhibition, attracting an estimated 30,000 visitors from all over the world, including military delegations, representatives of police and security departments, alongside private security companies;

Mayor Glanville supported the expressed view of the Mayor of London and Mayor of Newham that London should not be used as a market place for the trade of weapons to those countries that contribute to human rights abuses. There was a risk that commercial considerations would outweigh ethical ones and that arms sold at the DESI Arms Fair could be used for purposes that the Council would not support, including human rights abuses by police, security, and paramilitary and military forces and by private security companies that were driven purely by commercial interests. Hackney residents came from almost every country in the world, and arms sold at this fair would be used in countries where they had family and friends.

Supplementary Question

There have been illegal weapons such as cluster munitions and shackles for human slavery on sale at previous fairs. Can the Mayor ask the Borough Commander not to send Hackney's police officers out of the borough to over-police peaceful protests in opposition to the arms fair as previously occurred for the Coronation?

Response

Mayor Glanville replied that both the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and he opposed the abstraction of Hackney's police officers and would raise the issue of abstraction with the Borough Commander without referring to individual police operations as operational decisions were made on the ground.

7.2 From Cllr Walker to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

With energy prices skyrocketing, and a climate disaster impending, it's clear the status quo for our energy market simply isn't working and we need bold, new solutions to tackle some of the biggest challenges we face as a country. Hackney's pioneering Community Energy Fund is already helping decarbonise 14 landmark buildings and reduce their energy bills. Can the Cabinet Member commit to continuing with the Community Energy Fund to fund future capital works?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban replied that with energy prices skyrocketing, and a climate disaster looming, it was clear the status quo for the energy market was not working, and bold and new solutions were needed to tackle some of the biggest challenges facing the country.

Community energy meant that cheap, clean renewable energy would be produced and owned by the communities and customers relying on it and giving local people ownership and control of renewables instead of multinational oil and gas companies only interested in making record profits.

Cllr Coban was proud to announce a £300,000 community energy fund supporting Hackney's journey to net zero, forming part of the Council's plan to tackle the climate crisis, and helping residents with their rising energy bills.

Cllr Coban stated that work had progressed well with Hackney Light & Power's Community Energy Fund launched last year. Over the past year, over £250k has been awarded to local community groups to develop and install carbon-saving measures at 14 community buildings in the borough. The capital works projects were on track and feasibility studies were all due to be completed by the autumn ready for organisations to submit capital applications in the next round of funding.

Cllr Coban advised that the Council was committed to continuing the Community Energy Fund and Round 2 of the fund would be launched in October 2023. As well as developing the fund, Hackney Light & Power had worked with local energy groups to design the next round of the fund based on learnings from the first round, and the council was working to establish the fund as an annual grant programme. Hackney Light & Power was also working with the London Community Energy Fund and Community Energy London to bring groups together and grow the sector in Hackney, and also identify more funding opportunities and provide support.

Hackney needed a new energy production system that was cheap, sustainable, and owned and controlled by the people who used it and with their input and involvement to move towards a society where power and wealth were shared.

Supplementary Question

What are your views on the powers and resources local authorities such as Hackney need to further roll out pioneering initiatives like the Hackney Energy Fund to reach our ambitious Net Zero targets.

Response

Cllr Coban explained that as this was not an isolated Hackney project, the council had been ambitious in its plans and welcomed the announcement that the Labour Party had committed £600m of funding through GB Energy to local authorities for community energy. The council had been pioneering community energy in Hackney before this funding was available and with some legislative changes in particular to the local electricity bill more could be achieved.

7.3 From Cllr Garbett to the Mayor

I'm concerned that the administration has got rid of its Councillor Markets Champion at a time when it is needed most. Can you commit to reinstating the post, with independence to speak out for traders?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Cllr Fajana-Thomas replied that prior to 2016 the Markets Service had been underperforming financially and operationally and had required a subsidy from the Council's General Fund to offset its annual deficits that amounted to approximately £1.1m per annum. The service had suffered from a poor reputation amongst traders and amongst other London Authorities.

Today Hackney Council's Markets Service ran an inclusive and successful operation that supported traders and customers all at no cost to the Council. It was recognised as a leading authority on all things related to Street Markets and street trading, supporting traders and advised other London Councils, the Mayor of London and Central Government on all matters relating to street trading and street markets

Since 2016 the Council had undergone a process of transforming its Markets Service that began with new leadership and restructuring of the Markets team. This led to the successful delivery of the 2016-2021 Markets Strategy and a quadrupling in the number of licensed traders. Improved cost control and an uplift in income meant the Council achieved break even in the Markets Service every year.

Cllr Fajana-Thomas stated that this extraordinary transformation had been led by Hackney's award winning Markets Service, under the leadership of Deputy Mayor, Cllr Nicholson. The team's innovative approach and the good working relationships that it had with traders and traders' associations has resulted in recognition from the wider Markets sector with Hackney's markets winning numerous National awards over the last six years.

Since 2016 Hackney's street markets have become an increasingly essential and valued part of the community, now attracting in excess of 6 million customers every year, providing access to value for money shopping and a broad range of products. People travelled from across London and further afield to shop at Hackney's street markets and enjoyed the diverse, cultural and unique shopping experience that Hackney's markets offered. This was in stark contrast to the sad demise of countless town centres and their street markets in other places across the UK over the past decade.

Cllr Fajana-Thomas explained that Cllr Rathbone was the closest that Hackney had to a Market Champion. This was an informal role undertaken voluntarily and she thanked Cllr Rathbone for his role in promoting and championing all that was good about Hackney's markets. However, many Councillor colleagues supported their local street markets that were based in their wards, including Cllr Kam Adams championing Hoxton Market and Cllr Adebayo championing Ridley Road Market. The Council's approach was to encourage Councillor colleagues to support their local street market.

Supplementary Question

Why has the role of formal Market Champion been demoted to an informal role?

Response

Cllr Fajana-Thomas replied that the informal Market Champion role has not been demoted and that as the Cabinet Member for Community Safety she was currently attending the market functions and had visited traders in all Hackney's markets. All Hackney's markets were distinct in terms of products sold, people and heritage and a different approach had been taken to encourage Councillors to champion the markets in their ward.

7.4 From Cllr Turbett-Deloff to the Mayor

As more reports from leading experts come out, it is understood that a staggering 1.6million people are on mental health waiting lists in the NHS, what is the Council doing to support residents in waiting lists in Hackney?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

Cllr Kennedy stated that Hackney took the mental health of its residents seriously and was one of the three priorities in the council's health and wellbeing strategy. The public health team was currently undertaking a mental health needs assessment so that it could better understand what support people needed, and develop an action plan in response. The areas of focus included waiting times, how the system could be more efficient, and how to ensure that residents were offered the right type of support when they reached out the first time.

Hackney was fortunate to have many community organisations able to provide support to people with mental health issues from the Wellbeing Network, a collaborative of providers led by the local branch of the mental health charity MIND. The newly re-commissioned Network prioritised those with the greatest need into personal support as quickly as possible, offering a wide range of culturally sensitive expertise. It now included a 'one at a time' therapy offer and a wider 'open access' offer, which were available to clients on the waiting list for the main service, ensuring timely access to support.

Cllr Kennedy explained the open access offer would be available to all residents, including those on waiting lists for other services and aimed to be preventive, reducing demand on services and waiting lists overall. Activities would include peer and community led initiatives such as walking groups, cooking clubs and coffee meet ups, strengthening social connections and wider support networks.

The Council had also funded mental health awareness (MHA) that equipped attendees with knowledge about mental health and local support and 'Making Every Contact Count' (MECC) courses for frontline staff from organisations that supported Hackney residents that supported attendees to signpost residents to other services that may benefit them including financial, employment and housing support, food banks and health services.

The Council had also supported larger organisations to deliver tailored mental health training to their own workforce, and to embed good mental health practices among their teams. The Council had been leading by example with its approach of Making

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Mental Health Everyone's Responsibility, which aimed to help managers take useful action to support the wellbeing needs of their staff.

Cllr Kennedy added that residents struggling with the cost of living crisis could find it a significant pressure on their mental wellbeing and that Hackney had established the Money Hub to support residents struggling with finances, looking for extra help, or advice with the benefits system. For example, how to access free childcare, how to get an advance on universal credit and how to access one-off food vouchers.

Cllr Kennedy thanked Cllr Turbet-Delof for her excellent work as mental health champion for the borough and looked forward to supporting the exciting work that she had planned for the autumn.

7.5 From Cllr Binnie-Lubbock to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

With spiralling costs, falling levels of residual waste and more than 30 breaches of emissions limits at North London's incinerator last year, when will the North London Waste Authority's Edmonton incinerator stop representing best value for Hackney and London more widely?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban replied that the North London Waste Authority managed about a quarter of all the rubbish and recycling in London, from Hackney and six other local authorities. The Council's aim had been to protect the environment and help stop the climate emergency by producing less rubbish and recycle more. But, even after Hackney and the other north London boroughs achieved higher recycling rates, there would always be rubbish left over that could not be recycled and needed to be dealt with.

The current fall in residual waste had been in line with the forecasts used to assess the need for the new facility at Edmonton. However, even in the most ambitious scenario, with a 50% reduction in food waste and 65% recycling rate, London would still have a significant shortfall in energy from waste capacity if the facility at Edmonton is not replaced. Also, hundreds of thousands of tonnes of waste from businesses in north London were currently disposed of outside of north London, far less sustainably than if it went to a state of the art local energy recovery facility.

Cllr Coban stated that if the government had brought the legislative changes that would reduce waste at source, the facility would not need to be full to operate but currently the facility was too small to deal with all of north London's waste.

Cllr Coban emphasised that other parts of London had their waste taken 100 miles away to be incinerated in Bristol and other parts of the country, but in north London following the proximity principle and contributing to the Mayor of London's strategy to deal with London's waste in London, the publicly owned Edmonton facility would have the best emissions controls in the country. In addition, any windfall payments or financial benefits would come back to tax payers instead of private companies. In Hackney this has enabled additional investment in mitigating the cost of living pressures for the borough's residents as well in meeting the council's ambitious manifesto commitments.

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The majority of the borrowing for this project had been secured at extremely favourable rates before the recent interest rate increases. Inflation had impacted on all major projects, but the majority of the contracts on the North London Heat and Power Project had been fixed and protected against further inflation.

Cllr Coban indicated that the emissions breaches at the current facility were mainly caused by gas canisters in the waste, which were an industry-wide issue and the NWLA had been working with LEL to extract these. It was clarified that those breaches caused by canisters were short spikes in a 30-minute period and the daily limits set by the Environment Agency had not been exceeded. The new energy recovery facility would have advanced emissions control technology, like the Amager Bakke plant in Copenhagen and would operate at almost 1000 times lower than the World Health Organisation's limits for particulates.

Supplementary Question.

The plan for an incinerator was made before the declaration on Climate Emergency and is built on the assumption that London will never meet recycling targets. Half of what goes into the incinerator is widely recyclable or compostable given that incinerators already put London significantly over capacity making this incinerator potentially redundant and giving the Council a financial interest in increasing the amount of waste in this facility, it is now time to pause and reflect to bring in pre-sorting, half the size of the facility or scrap the plan altogether instead of importing waste from beyond London and instead reuse the land to extend the Lee Valley Nature Park.

Response

Cllr Coban stated that pausing and reflecting on the plan would cost £20m a year for the borough's taxpayers. The plan had already been reviewed and a report published by North London Waste Authority had considered all the alternative methods dealing with waste and it had concluded that the even if the target of 65% was reached there would still be waste to deal with and the best way of dealing with this was through the world class incinerator which would also have carbon capture storage so that some of the particulates in the pollution could be captured when it was available. This plan was based on Denmark's model and the incineration formed part of their ambition to meet Net Zero. Hackney needed to radically think about waste reduction, however increasing recycling or sending waste to another incinerator in the global south would cost more or sending to landfill would be even worse.

The following questions were not taken at the meeting due to time constraints and received written responses.

7.6 From Cllr Smyth to Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Time is running out to address the climate crisis. The King and the Mayor of London have activated a climate clock which counts down the time left to balance global greenhouse gas emissions to prevent the Earth heating more than 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. Can we please have a climate clock installed in one of Hackney's busy town centres, ideally around the Town Hall and, what are your next steps for working with residents to share the steps everyone can take to reduce our carbon footprint?

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Written Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Dear Cllr Smyth

Response to Full Council question

Thank you for your question at Full Council, in which you asked whether the Council can install a climate clock, and what the Council's next steps are for working with residents to reduce our collective carbon footprint. As we ran out of time for me to respond at Full Council, I am sending you this written response.

Raising awareness of the urgent climate crisis we face is crucial. A climate clock that counts down time remaining to curb global emissions could be a compelling way to reinforce to all who pass by that bold action is needed now. While we have made important strides locally to reduce emissions and build climate resilience, we know much work remains across all levels of society. A climate clock can symbolise the scale and immediacy of this crisis in a thought-provoking way. We will therefore look into the feasibility of installing a climate clock in a high-traffic area like near the Town Hall.

We recognise the clock on its own achieves no emissions reductions, so any such installation would complement our efforts to combat climate change, and these have been set out in our recently adopted Climate Action Plan. Tackling the climate crisis requires action at all levels, from national and local governments to community organisations and individual residents.

The Council has engaged residents and stakeholders throughout developing our Climate Action Plan, including events like the Green Recovery event and the public consultation on the plan itself. We will build on these efforts by establishing regular opportunities for the community to help shape and advance climate initiatives, through deliberative engagement, such as citizens assemblies, or equivalent, to dive deeper on specific climate topics with the aim of reducing people's carbon footprint.

Further, the Council's 3 year Implementation Plan, that was on the Full Council agenda this month along with our annual progress report on decarbonisation, includes actions specific to raising awareness with residents, such as around food and energy, arming them with information as to how to reduce their climate impact. We will also need to be mindful to reach structurally disadvantaged individuals, groups and communities, providing education and capacity-building materials for specific audiences as required.

We've also recently held our annual Sustainability Day, which on a very practical level demonstrates how residents can reduce their carbon footprint as well as save money. Some of this year's Sustainability Day activities achieved the following:

- Forest Recycling Programme sold 100 litres of recycled paint and gave out 200 discount vouchers;
- Our Recycling Team engaged with 170 people;
- Felix Project spoke with around 100 people;
- Loanhood, our clothes swapping partner, had 120 attendees swapping around 600 items.

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- Traid repaired items for 23 people, gave repair information to 12 more, and spoke to 25-30 about textile donation/recycling;
- Avoided 400 disposable cups by only serving hot drinks in reusables cups.

I hope that this response is helpful in addressing your questions.

Kind regards

Cllr Mete Coban

7.7 From Cllr Garbett to the Mayor

Hackney's Cycling Instructors provide an essential service for residents. Unfortunately, the current pay and conditions (particularly the current cancellation policy) are making the profession unsustainable in the borough. What are you doing to review and improve this?

Written Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Dear Cllr Garbett

Thank you for your question to the Mayor at Full Council, in which you asked what the Council is doing to review and improve the pay and conditions for Hackney's cycling instructors. As we ran out of time for a response at Full Council, I am sending you this written response as the lead Member with responsibility for cycling.

As one of the leading boroughs for cycling in the country, I recognise the important role that cycle training plays in helping to get more Hackney residents cycling, and doing so more safely. Cycle Instructors are a crucial part of these efforts and our programme would not be possible without them.

In our manifesto, we made a commitment that every child will have the opportunity to learn to ride a bike by the time they leave primary school. Earlier this year we bid to TfL for enough Bikeability funding to meet that goal, and this represents one of the largest investments in cycle training in Hackney for many years.

Hackney's contract to deliver cycle training with Cycle Confident, using a framework contract that was initially developed by Haringey and Enfield Councils, comes to an end in March 2024. I understand that an agreed increase in the course rates paid to Cycle Confident was reflected in a recent increase in rates that Cycle Confident pays to their instructors, who are mostly self employed.

I have met with representatives from the Cycling Instructors Branch of the IWGB to listen to their concerns and to explain that we are looking into our procurement process - as have Council officers - but it is important to note that Hackney does not set the rate that instructors are paid.

I recognise that circumstances for the industry have changed since the contract was developed and we are looking ahead to service delivery after the end of the current contract. Council officers have started the process of procuring a new contract and we have ensured that comments and issues raised by instructors and mechanics, both

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within and outside of the IWGB Union, are considered as part of the development of our new tender.

Kind regards

Cllr Mete Coban

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

Could the Cabinet Member for Finance please let me know what the Council is doing to help residents with the cost living crises and assist with claiming benefits they are due?

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

Dear Cllr Patrick

Thank you for your question at Full Council, in which you asked what the Council is doing to help residents with the cost of living crisis and assist with claiming benefits they are due. As we ran out of time for me to respond at Full Council, I am sending you this written response.

We remain in the midst of both a cost of living and housing affordability crisis, and for people who were already in poverty, it is getting worse. The cost of living crisis disproportionately impacts lower income groups, as more of their income goes on essential costs. Other groups are also falling into difficulty as rent and mortgage rates have continued to rise, and even if inflation starts to ease, as we hope it will, impacts will be felt for a long time. More people will have fallen into debt to make both ends meet and poverty will have a detrimental impact on people's health and wellbeing and children's life chances.

As many more people are living in increasingly insecure and precarious situations, we need to offer immediate financial help to those in crisis as well as finding more sustainable ways to support them, including making sure they claim all the benefits they are entitled to. We also need to keep working on the longer term prevention of poverty, by doing what we can to tackle the housing crisis, find affordable childcare options and improve employment opportunities.

Tackling Poverty has been a key priority for the Council in recent years and we adopted a poverty reduction framework in March 2022. This was informed by work during the pandemic when we tried, from the outset, to focus our response on how those on lower incomes were going to be impacted, campaign for more funding and work closely with the community organisations.

The Council is able to support residents who are in financial crisis with one-off grants to support them with things like essential home goods for those in unfurnished tenancies, relief with council tax debt and short term help with rent costs in some circumstances.

Historically residents had to go to different teams, phone numbers and application forms for these different grants - complex and time consuming processes, which

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required those in a crisis to tell their story over and over again. Last November, the Council changed this - creating the Money Hub - one point of access for all of these grants. This ease of access has allowed many more residents to apply, particularly from groups who struggled to access the previous schemes. Importantly the Money Hub does not just handle these one-off grants but also seeks to support those falling through the welfare safety net.

Hackney communities miss out on £28m a year in benefits income due to the complexity and stigma of the benefits system. The Council with our health partners has invested in the Money Hub in order to provide a specific service to residents who are struggling to access what they are owed. Residents can contact the Money Hub if they are struggling with their entitlements, but the Money Hub also makes proactive contact with those it believes are underclaiming. Through this work the Money Hub team has delivered over £750,000 worth of increased incomes - an average of nearly £2,000 a year to over 400 households.

Examples of the help the team provides includes: supporting those with overnight carers' get exemption from the bedroom tax; challenging DWP refusals of Personal Independence Payment at tribunal; helping elderly residents to claim State Pension and Pension Credit; ensuring those with severe mental ill-health access the Council Tax reductions they are owed; and helping those who have never claimed to apply to Universal Credit for the first time.

We know this investment represents good value for our residents - for every £1 we have invested in staffing, we have delivered £2.47 for residents in higher incomes.

We also continue to fund £1m of grants for the advice sector to ensure independent advice which will include benefit maximisation.

We welcome the continued award of £5.6m from central Government through the Household Support Funding. Although we still maintain that this is not enough to deal with the long term impacts of poverty, the funding is enabling us to provide:

- £3m of support to children and families by supporting children during school holidays including in the Charedi community and under 5s.
- £800k to offer financial help directly to residents in temporary and supported accommodation (TA/SA), disabled adults and their unpaid carers, foster carers and special guardians, children in need.
- £1m to other residents to apply for support via Money Hub, directly from professionals they are working with and also from the voluntary and community sector.
- There is a balance to allocate, which we are finalising over the summer, to make sure we haven't missed any groups that will need support.
- The Council has also identified a further £600k over last year and this year. This has been allocated in the following way:
 - £300k - Tackling child poverty in schools
 - £200k Money Hub support: topping up grant funding support for in home appliances and investing further in Income maximisation officers

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- Hardship support and preventative help for those who have no recourse to public funds- this £100k scheme will be launched in August.

Alongside the direct support that the Council is putting in place, we are doing what we can to support organisations on the ground, who are struggling with rising costs and demands. This is vitally important because it is these organisations that have the greatest reach into diverse communities and who can ensure that residents are supported in a more ongoing way at community level, and can access independent advice and accredited financial, debt and legal advice when appropriate. For example: We worked in partnership with Food Hubs to bring in £170k over three years and are now supporting further fundraising to make the best use of surplus food

I hope that this response is helpful in outlining how the Council is helping residents with the cost living crisis. More information and the Council's support guide for residents can be found here. If you have any further questions please do come back to me.

Kind regards

Cllr Robert Chapman

7.9 Question from Cllr Troughton to Deputy Mayor for Delivery, Inclusive Economy & Regeneration

Due to the cost of living crisis hitting even relatively well-off homeowners and the rising cost of materials, small and medium sized local builders are really struggling to find work. Simultaneously, the Council is unable to complete some major works because it is unable to appoint suitable contractors. Given the Council's commitment to supporting local Small to Medium- sized Enterprises (SME's), what is the Council doing to help local builders, who are vital to the local economy, to make the step up into public works. eg, by breaking contracts into manageable sizes for SME's or bringing together consortia?

Written Response

Dear Lynne

Thank you for your question at Full Council and it was unfortunate that time was against us on the night and I was unable to answer your question in the Chamber, hence this written reply. You asked what the Council is doing to help small and medium sized local builders access Council led public works contracts.

The rising costs of building materials and interest rates have been and are still hitting the construction sector hard. The Council in its role as a landlord and developer, local homeowners and commercial landlords and developers, are not excluded from the cost of living crisis and all have seen plans put on hold.

The cost of building materials have been on the rise for two years, with materials inflation rates hitting 30% at its peak, have affected all in the building sector, and as you have identified, smaller businesses in the construction sector are not exempt, they are struggling.

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The Council has been and is working hard to ensure that businesses in the borough benefit from the Council's procurement activities and over the course of last year 25% of the Council's commercial spend was with local suppliers. This has been made possible because the Council put in place a locally focussed sustainable procurement strategy that sets out to support community wealth building, and by taking this approach it has enabled more businesses in the borough to access Council led contracting opportunities

In your question you referenced the importance of 'contract bundling' so that large contracts are split into smaller lots to make them more accessible to smaller and local businesses without increasing costs associated with the contracts or reducing quality control. I can confirm that the Council has been at the forefront of taking such an approach and to date with some success.

Having made a strong commitment to significantly improve the Council's contracting approach and engagement with the market to increase the participation of smaller and local businesses in Hackney's contracting activities, the Council is now going a step further with its ongoing work to refresh its 'sustainable procurement strategy' to allow more work to be directed towards smaller local businesses.

To put this into a real time context, you may recall that last December a decision was made by the Council to embark on the building of at least 300 new Council homes on small underused Council owned sites around the borough; to deliver these new homes we have ensured that the Council is committed to working with local builders, architects and technical consultants to deliver these schemes. The Council is about to commence with a comprehensive soft market testing and engagement exercise to ensure that this approach to procurement enables smaller businesses to participate.

I hope that this response reassures you about the efforts being made by the Council to support in the best way it can Hackney's local builders.

Kind regards

Cllr Guy Nicholson

7.10 Question from Cllr Samatar to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

Vapes are being promoted as an aid to quit smoking, but at the same time there are worrying stories about young people vaping. Please can the cabinet member for health update us on the current thinking around vapes and vaping and what the Council is doing to support our partners in the NHS on this issue?

Written Response from the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

Dear Cllr Samatar

Response to Full Council question

Thank you for your question at Full Council, in which you asked about the current thinking around vapes and vaping and what the Council is doing to support our

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partners in the NHS on this issue. As we ran out of time for me to respond at Full Council, I am sending you this written response.

Approximately 30,000 adults are still smoking tobacco in Hackney. Smoking remains a primary cause of preventable disease and disability, and the main driver of inequalities in premature death. The health and financial costs to individuals are significant and the costs to society are estimated at over £100m a year in Hackney (largely due to lost productivity and unemployment from smoking-related illness).

Nicotine-containing vapes (or e-cigarettes) are now the most popular and effective aid to help adult tobacco smokers quit their habit - 8% of adults in England were using vapes in 2022 (no local data is available). Vaping among never smokers remains at very low levels (<1% of adult never smokers vape). While evidence on the longer-term impacts of vaping is needed, the latest comprehensive review of the evidence concluded that the short and medium-term health risks of vaping are a small fraction of the health risks of smoking tobacco, but they are not risk free. Tobacco smoke contains 250 harmful chemicals of which at least 70 can cause cancer, while e-cigarettes do not produce tar or carbon monoxide, two of the most damaging elements in tobacco smoke. However, recent testing of illicit vapes confiscated from a school in the Midlands found they contained high levels of lead, nickel and chromium, which can be harmful for child development. Importantly, all of these vapes were non-compliant in terms of nicotine strength and/or tank size.

It is illegal to sell nicotine containing vapes to children (under 18), or for adults to buy them on their behalf. Despite this, youth vaping has increased in recent years - nationally, around 8% of 11-17 year olds are current vapers and 20% have tried vaping (again, no local data is available). Most current youth vapers buy the products themselves, with the most popular choice being disposable (single use) vapes, which also raises concerns about negative environmental impacts.

The UK has some of the tightest regulations around supply of e-cigarettes in the world, but national government action needs to go much further. Many products are promoted using cartoon characters and/or product names associated with well-known sweet brands and there are a number of loopholes, which prevent stronger enforcement action on under-age sales.

Locally, we are lucky to have a Public Health funded, dedicated trading standards officer in Hackney Council, who is a leading expert on illegal vapes and a core member of the national team developing a government-funded initiative to enhance local enforcement activity. This officer has led operations that have seized tens of thousands of illegal, single-use vapes from retailers across the borough over the past year; conducts regular under-age test purchases (a recent exercise resulted in a 14 year old volunteer being sold a vape at five out of 18 premises visited); and works with schools to raise awareness of illegal sales and how to report concerns.

In short, use of nicotine containing vapes to support adult smokers to quit is recommended as an evidence-based intervention (and is supported in our local stop smoking service, Smokefree City & Hackney), but stronger local and national action is needed to discourage vape use by non-smokers and especially to prevent uptake among children - the key message is "if you smoke, switch to vaping; if you don't smoke, don't vape."

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I hope that this response is helpful in clarifying the Council's position with regards to vaping, but if you have any further questions please do come back to me.

Kind regards

Cllr Chris Kennedy

7.11 Question from Cllr Potter to the Mayor

This July many residents, local and far, enjoyed the large music events in Finsbury Park. However, some residents have complained that the impact of building vibrations during the events was excessive and frightening for many residents. Can you outline how the Council is working with neighbouring boroughs to reassure our local residents regarding their concerns about cumulative structural damage to their homes?

Written Response from the Mayor

Dear Cllr Potter

Thank you for your question at Full Council, in which you asked how the Council is working with neighbouring boroughs to reassure our local residents regarding their concerns about cumulative structural damage to their homes from large music events at Finsbury Park. I am responding as the lead Member with responsibility for community safety and regulatory services, including noise nuisance. As we ran out of time for me to respond at Full Council, I am sending you this written response.

Like you, I share your constituents' concerns regarding 'vibrations' from the events at Finsbury Park and the mental strain and impact it is having on your constituents.

In order to address these concerns, it first must be noted that Finsbury Park falls within the boundary of Haringey, who are responsible for licensing events in the park. Finsbury Park hosts a number of music events each year, with the Wireless Festival being the most prominent. It is the responsibility of Haringey Council and the event organisers to actively monitor and manage noise complaints whilst these events take place.

In previous years, Hackney Council's involvement in the management of noise relating to events at Finsbury Park has been limited to forwarding complaints on to the event complaints team who would then investigate the complaint in real time; the Council has had limited powers to enforce noise complaints due to this cross boundary understanding. However, following concerns raised regarding the handling of noise complaints in previous years and especially regarding vibration issues, Hackney Council's Environmental Protection Team (EPT) was actively monitoring noise and vibration complaints with Haringey Noise Officers for the 2023 Wireless Festival.

I have been advised that noise levels at the festival were managed within the set levels agreed within their licence at each monitoring point. If at any time the levels increased and a complaint was received, Hackney EPT has confirmed that the complaints were followed up and the noise levels at the monitoring sites were reviewed and adjusted if they had fluctuated away from the set levels. Hackney EPT also visited residents to assess the music noise levels and confirmed that the levels were managed within the set parameters.

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With regard to the vibration from the event, Festival Republic, who are the organisers of the Wireless Music Festival, consulted a vibration specialist who carried out a detailed vibration assessment during the 2022 Wireless Festival. This was a very comprehensive and robust report which concluded that although low level vibrations can be felt during music events, the levels are well below the guidance levels and were masked by ongoing vibrations caused by heavy local traffic. The report also concluded that the vibrations were being caused by the crowd and not the music itself and were very infrequent during the actual event. The report summarised that the vibrations from the event were negligible and also not directly caused by the music being played but instead the crowd jumping in synchronicity resulting in very short bursts of vibration. This was confirmed by the EPT during the 2023 Wireless Festival music event where vibrations were assessed in a residential property. The Officer who undertook the assessment has stated that vibration was felt but only at peak moments during a music act and only for a few seconds. The EPT Officer concluded that during the peak moments of a music act the crowd would jump in sync and thus resulting in a short burst of vibration.

Although vibrations were witnessed by the EPT Officer during the assessment, the issue of whether the vibration amounted to a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 is more complex. The Officer who had witnessed the vibration was of the opinion that the vibration did not amount to a statutory nuisance under section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The Officer is of the opinion stated that even though the vibration was felt for a few seconds, due to the frequency and the duration of the vibration, the vibrations would not amount to a statutory nuisance. Nevertheless, I recognise the impact such vibrations will be having on your constituents and I sympathise with the concerns raised.

As this is a Licensed Premises under Haringey Council, the option for Hackney Council to address concerns raised by your constituents would be for residents who are concerned to apply for review of the premises licence issued by Haringey for Finsbury Park. This will require evidence to be brought to a Licensing hearing and arguments against any future events would be heard by a panel of Haringey Councillors who would make the final decision in relation to any review application made. Details on how review the premises licence can be found at <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/business/licensing-and-regulations/licensing/guide-making-representations-licensing-act-2003#review>

Any review application made must clearly explain the impact the premises licence has on the person making the review on one or more of the four licensing objectives, which are:

- the prevention of crime and disorder
- the prevention of public nuisance
- the protection of children from harm
- public safety

As a Council we need to review our position and the evidence gathered to date to ascertain if we are in a position to request a review of the premises Licence and Officers are expecting to be invited to a debrief of this year's event in due course. To address this matter, I have requested the Licensing Service to work with Environmental Protection to commence obtaining the necessary evidence and to review our current position regarding Wireless. I will keep you updated on this matter as these discussions progress.

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Kind regards

Mayor Glanville