



C O U N C I L

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

Wednesday, 29 November 2023 at 7.00 pm
Hackney Town Hall,
Mare Street, E8 1EA

Live stream link: <https://youtube.com/live/9bPV3tpDGXM>

Backup link: <https://youtube.com/live/jf9gkPRxtbU>

Dawn Carter- McDonald
Interim Chief Executive
Published on: 21 November 2023
www.hackney.gov.uk

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

MEETING OF COUNCIL WEDNESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2023 ORDER OF BUSINESS

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Speaker's Announcements

3 Declarations of Interest

Members are invited to consider the guidance which accompanies this agenda and make declarations as appropriate.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 11 - 34)

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of Council held on 27 September 2023: Enclosed

5 Mayor for Hackney By-Election Results: November 2023 (Pages 35 - 38)

Report of the Returning Officer and Interim Chief Executive: Enclosed

6 Questions from Members of the Public

The deadline for questions from members of the public is 12 noon, four clear working days before the meeting (Wednesday, 22 November). If you wish to submit a question you can do so by emailing governance@hackney.gov.uk or via the Council's website)

A supplementary agenda setting out any public questions received after the publication of the main agenda will be circulated shortly after this deadline.

7 Questions from Members of the Council

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

In light of the news we heard in the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Committee this month that the Council is likely to fail to meet its 2040 retrofit target and that it could take over 4 decades to retrofit the whole stock, how does the Council plan on offsetting this carbon cost to meet the Climate Action Plan's 2030 target?

7.2 From Cllr Smyth to the Mayor

Would the newly elected Mayor publicly declare her commitment to Hackney being a Fairtrade borough?

7.3 From Cllr Garbett to the Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Resident Participation

There are 111 neighbourhoods in Hackney requiring urgent adaptation to heat waves, the fourth highest level in the UK according to University of Manchester research. How is the Council prioritising this adaptation for these neighbours - with a focus on protecting the most vulnerable residents?

Ref: https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2022-07/Heat_vulnerability_England_background_briefing_3.pdf

7.4 From Cllr Turbet-Delof to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service

As we enter the winter months, the cost of living crisis continues to leave many in poverty, having a profound impact on residents' mental health. What support is the Council making available for the winter months ahead to both support residents' financial circumstances and their mental health?

7.5 From Cllr Binnie-Lubbock to the Mayor

In the last 5 years, what is the net-loss of mature trees in Hackney?

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

Balls Pond Road has been disproportionately impacted by traffic congestion. Can the Cabinet Member confirm that Balls Pond Road will remain under review, ensuring an ongoing dialogue with residents and other stakeholders to investigate long-term solutions to traffic flow and calming, air quality and noise pollution?

7.7 From Cllr Garbett to the Deputy Cabinet Member for Private Rented Sector and Affordability

What is the average time and the longest time it has taken for applications for landlord licensing to be processed, and how many are waiting to be processed?

7.8 From Cllr Anna Lynch to Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services

In light of the ongoing catastrophe in Israel and Gaza and the trauma and distress this has caused many in the communities that we represent, can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety advise on what support the Council has provided for those communities living in our borough?

7.9 From Cllr Narcross to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Following the tragic death of a cyclist on Whiston Road, many residents are concerned that the road remains far too dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians. What action is the Council taking to reduce traffic speed and vehicle number to ensure it remains a safe route for those who use it?

7.10 From Cllr Young to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

The New River Path is a much-loved place to stroll along and enjoy nature. What is the Council doing to improve access for all, explore options for safe cycle routes away from the peaceful pedestrian path and enhance biodiversity?

7.11 From Cllr Gordon to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service

We know Councils have undergone significant cuts in Government funding since 2010 - in Hackney we've had a real terms cut of 41%. Can the Cabinet Member reassure us that services for our most vulnerable residents will be protected in the coming financial year?

7.12 From Cllr Rathbone to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

The Clapton Portico building was meant to have opened this autumn as the new home of the Lower Clapton GP surgery but has still not done so. Please could the Cabinet Member for Health update Members on the progress of building work here?

7.13 From Cllr Joseph to the Deputy Cabinet Member for Housing Needs and Homelessness

The Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission has focussed on the stressful and isolating impacts of life in temporary accommodation. Can the Cabinet Member tell us what is being done to mitigate the potentially isolating effects

of temporary accommodation, to monitor children's welfare and to improve families quality of life?

8 Elected Mayor's Statement

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

Report of the Elected Mayor: TO FOLLOW

10 Standards Committee Annual Report (Pages 39 - 48)

Report of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic & Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer: Enclosed

11 Statutory Chief Officer Extension (Pages 49 - 52)

Report of the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development: Enclosed

12 Appointments to Committees and Commissions (Pages 53 - 56)

Report of the Interim Chief Executive

13 Motions: TO FOLLOW

Dates of Future Meetings

Members are requested to note the dates of Full Council meetings for 2023/24. All meetings of Full Council will commence at 7.00pm and are scheduled as follows:

- 24 January 2024 (Calculation of Council Tax & Business Rates)
- 28 February 2024 (Budget Setting)

Public Attendance

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

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

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

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

Rights of Press and Public to Report on Meetings

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

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

- Anyone planning to record meetings of the Council and its public meetings through any audio, visual or written methods they find appropriate can do so providing they do not disturb the conduct of the meeting;
- You are welcome to attend a public meeting to report proceedings, either in 'real time' or after conclusion of the meeting, on a blog, social networking site, news forum or other online media;
- You may use a laptop, tablet device, smartphone or portable camera to record a written or audio transcript of proceedings during the meeting;
- Facilities within the Town Hall and Council Chamber are limited and recording equipment must be of a reasonable size and nature to be easily accommodated.

- You are asked to contact the Officer whose name appears at the beginning of this Agenda if you have any large or complex recording equipment to see whether this can be accommodated within the existing facilities;
- You must not interrupt proceedings and digital equipment must be set to 'silent' mode;
- You should focus any recording equipment on Councillors, officers and the public who are directly involved in the conduct of the meeting. The Chair of the meeting will ask any members of the public present if they have objections to being visually recorded. Those visually recording a meeting are asked to respect the wishes of those who do not wish to be filmed or photographed. Failure to respect the wishes of those who do not want to be filmed and photographed may result in the Chair instructing you to cease reporting or recording and you may potentially be excluded from the meeting if you fail to comply;
- Any person whose behaviour threatens to disrupt orderly conduct will be asked to leave;
- Be aware that libellous comments against the council, individual Councillors or officers could result in legal action being taken against you;
- The recorded images must not be edited in a way in which there is a clear aim to distort the truth or misrepresent those taking part in the proceedings;
- Personal attacks of any kind or offensive comments that target or disparage any ethnic, racial, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability status could also result in legal action being taken against you.

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

Advice to Members on Declaring Interests

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

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

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

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

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

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

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

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

You **must not**:

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

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

Other Registrable Interests

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

- Relates to appointments made by the authority to any outside bodies, membership of: charities, trade unions,, lobbying or campaign groups,

voluntary organisations in the borough or governorships at any educational institution within the borough.

- Relates to an interest which you have registered in that part of the Register of Interests form relating to ORIs as being an interest of you, your spouse or civil partner, or anyone living with you as if they were your spouse or civil partner; or
- Relates to an interest which should be registered in that part of the Register of Interests form relating to ORIs, but you have not yet done so.

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

Disclosure of Other Interests

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

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

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

This page is intentionally left blank



j
London Borough of Hackney
Full Council Meeting
Municipal Year 2023/24
Date of Meeting: Wednesday, 27 September 2023

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

Councillors in Attendance:	<p>Cllr Anya Sizer - Speaker of Hackney</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble (acting in place of the Elected Mayor)</p> <p>Cllr Kam Adams, Cllr Grace Adebayo, Cllr Soraya Adejare, Cllr Frank Baffour, Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Cllr Polly Billington, Cllr Robert Chapman, Cllr Mete Coban, Cllr Sophie Conway (late), Cllr Michael Desmond, Cllr Sade Etti, Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Humaira Garasia, Cllr Zoë Garbett, Cllr Eluzer Goldberg, Cllr Margaret Gordon, Cllr Ben Hayhurst, Cllr Clare Joseph, Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cllr Shaul Krautwirt, Cllr Hershy Lisser, Cllr Richard Lufkin, Cllr Anna Lynch, Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, Deputy Mayor Nicholson, Cllr Jon Narcross, Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren, Cllr Oguzkanli, Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Benzion Papier (late), Cllr Sharon Patrick (late), Cllr Sam Pallis, Cllr Clare Potter, Cllr Fliss Premru, Cllr Ian Rathbone, Cllr Ali Sadek, Cllr Gilbert Smyth, Cllr Simche Steinberger, Cllr Sheila Suso-Runge, Cllr Lynne Troughton, Cllr Claudia Turbet-Delof, Cllr Joe Walker, Cllr Jessica Webb, Cllr Carol Williams. Cllr Caroline Woodley, Cllr Penny Wrout and Cllr Sarah Young</p>
Apologies for Absence: Apologies for Lateness:	<p>Cllr Lee Laudat-Scott, Cllr Yvonne Maxwell, Cllr Sem Moema, Cllr Steve Race, Cllr Midnight Ross, Cllr Ifraax Samatar, Cllr Caroline Selman (dispensation).</p> <p>Cllr Sophie Conway, Cllr Benzion Papier and Cllr Sharon Patrick</p>
Absent	<p>Cllr Michael Levy</p>
Officer Contact:	<p>Natalie Williams, Senior Governance Officer governance@hackney.gov.uk</p>

Councillor Sizer [Speaker] in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Laudat-Scott, Maxwell, Moema, Race, Samatar, Selman.
- 1.2 Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Conway, Papier and Patrick.

2. Speaker's Announcements

- 2.1 Citing the importance of public standards, expectation and hope, the Speaker challenged all present to consider how they could contribute to kinder and more compassionate politics.
- 2.2 The Speaker informed Full Council of recent and upcoming civic visits which included:
 - Dalston Curve Garden - A neighbourhood garden which provided an oasis of plants, and a community gathering place.
 - SWAPA (Shakespeare Walk Adventure Playground) Stoke Newington - A free playground which encouraged children to discover themselves through play
 - Made in Hackney carer's cooking class - A vegan community cookery school and charity, that taught food growing and cooking skills.
 - Hackney Migrant Centre celebration at St Mary's Church - A free support and advice centre for migrants, asylum seekers and other immigrants.

Forthcoming events included:

- Silver Sunday Event 1st October (Celebrating Older People) - Intergenerational Biography & Reflection Event
- Local Democracy week events at Hackney Town Hall
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) art event
- George Orwell's 1984 an immersive experience at Hackney Town Hall
- Hackney Legal Walk, Saturday 30 September - a 10km sponsored walk to raise vital funds for the provision of free legal advice in Hackney. The Speaker, Labour colleagues and officers in Legal, Democratic and Electoral Service would all be participating.

3. Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 4.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the previous meeting of Council held on 24 July 2023 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

5. Deputation: Victoria Park - A solution to South Hackney's Traffic Problems

Submitted deputation included in the agenda

As long-term residents of Victoria Park Road (VPR), we live with an inexorable increase in traffic related problems, including high pollution levels, noise, and danger to vulnerable road users (pedestrians and cyclists).

With the advent of Sat-Nav, this mile-long stretch of road has become a short-cut from the A12 for heavy goods vehicles and cars. VPR was neither designed for lorries nor for this quantity of vehicles. Most are not local.

Our ideas could remedy the situation and not for the first time, we respectfully ask Hackney Council to work with Tower Hamlets, Transport for London (TfL) and the Department for Transport, to implement some, or all, of the following:

1. Reduce commercial and heavy goods vehicles, by implementing a weight restriction with an exemption for TfL buses like the 388.
2. Monitor air quality where queues regularly form.
3. In the morning rush hour, adjust the phasing of the traffic lights at the junction of Cambridge Heath/Hackney Road to improve traffic flow and reduce tailbacks.
4. Enlarge the yellow boxes at the Mare Street/VPR junction to protect the pedestrian crossings.
5. Enforce the 20mph speed limit and yellow box restrictions, either with average speed check cameras or CCTV at key locations.

Deputation Leader: Christine Jackson

Introduced by: Cllr Penny Wrout

- 5.1 Cllr Wrout introduced the deputation, highlighting that Victoria Park Road (VPR) had become the preferred route of choice for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) that were headed to the City, Islington and Camden. Subsequently this resulted in heavy polluting traffic on the Low Traffic Neighbourhood boundary routes of Hackney Road and Graham Road.
- 5.2 Christine Jackson addressed the chamber. She had been a resident of VPR for over 40 years during which there had been a steady increase in traffic levels, in particular HGVs. This had led to severe congestion at two pinch points; at Lauriston Road and the junction with Mare Street, which experienced daily tailbacks and polluting traffic from lorries. Residents had been significantly impacted by this as they were unable to open their windows at certain times of the day due to idling traffic which caused pollution. Pedestrians were also significantly impacted as they were unable to safely cross the road at the Mare Street Junction; the main crossing used by visitors, staff and patients of St Joseph's Hospice.
- 5.3 It was reported that VPR had approximately 1000 residents and consisted of accommodation for the elderly, two homes for people with complex medical needs, and a secondary school. Nearby were two nurseries and two primary schools. The road attracted a high percentage of families, cyclists and runners due to its close proximity to Victoria Park, all of whom were subjected to the daily traffic conditions and emanating pollution.

- 5.4 Following a monitoring exercise of VPR and the A11 Mile End Road, 9 HGVs were counted on VPR which experienced gridlock traffic in comparison to 2 HGVs on Mile End Road where traffic was flowing freely. It was noted that the majority of HGVs using VPR originated in South London or the dock areas. Concerns were raised about the infrastructure of the road not being built for HGVs and collapsing under their weight.
- 5.5 Concluding, Christine Jackson suggested a total ban on HGVs on Victoria Park Road between 7am and 1.30pm as she believed this would ease congestion at pinch points, reduce pollution levels, and improve cycle safety. This would also lead to environmental benefits; contributing positively to the Air Quality Action Plan, Transport Strategy and the development of the Freight Policy. Due to concerns about vehicle speed outside of these hours, the Council was implored to re-explore a trial of Average Speed Cameras.
- 5.6 Members welcomed the deputation, and asked questions of the deputation leader. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock's questioned the Cabinet on the budgetary implications for implementing the measures that had been set out by the deputation leader. This question was not responded to at the meeting.
- 5.7 In response to questions, Christine Jackson stated that there were no intentions to divert traffic to Wick Road which she understood to be a B road. She advised that the campaign and monitoring was in its infancy, however was becoming more scientific in its approach. The hours of 7am to 1.30pm were requested as this was when the issue was most prevalent. VPR had a high presence of vulnerable road users, pedestrians and cyclists. Residents believed that any action taken would not only benefit residents and road users in the area but all of South Hackney. Bus route 388 and public service vehicles would be exempt from any requested restrictions. The deputation leader confirmed that she had not been involved in any previous deputations to the Council on this matter. She reported that earlier in the year, a yellow box junction had been installed at the Mare Street/VPR junction. This had greatly assisted with traffic turning right and was a low cost solution which was welcomed by residents. The residents welcomed a partnership approach and invited Councillors and officers to visit VPR.

Cllr Coban's response

- 5.8 Cllr Coban, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport paid his respects to the cyclist who had tragically passed away over the weekend following a collision on Whiston Way.
- 5.8 Cllr Coban, welcomed the deputation and the monitoring that had been undertaken by residents. He acknowledged the ongoing issue of traffic across Hackney, with over forty percent of traffic not starting or ending in the borough. He advised that this was the catalyst for the Local Implementation Plan, the Climate Action Plan, Quality Action Plan and the Main Road Traffic Reduction Plan. In relation to speed cameras, he informed all present that the Council continued to lobby Transport for London (TfL) to trial speed cameras in the area.
- 5.9 In response to the deputation, Councillor Coban committed to:

- Ensuring that a walkabout was organised with himself, Cllr Wrout and relevant officers
- Working in partnership with residents to develop an appropriate solution.
- Ensuring that monitoring equipment was available to better understand the issues.
- Developing a holistic approach to traffic reduction in line with the Main Road Traffic Reduction Plan
- Commission officers to update the traffic study to better understand where traffic in the borough emanated from.
- Ensuring air quality was central to any action

6. Questions from Members of the Public

The Speaker decided to vary the order of public questions, giving priority to the questioner present in the chamber.

6.2 To the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Delivery, Inclusive Economy and Regeneration From Ms Chesca Walton

Research by the Big Issue has revealed that Hackney's total Council Tax debts have tripled in the last 3 years - the second-highest council tax debt per person in the Country. Can the Council outline the impact this has had on council services and any remedial action taken to date?

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

Cllr Chapman stated that Council was required to set and collect Council Tax to help pay for vital services for all residents. This however had been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic (when action to enforce debts was suspended) and the criminal cyber attack, which meant that the Revenues service was unable to process updates to their system while system recovery work took place.

Following work to clear backlogs, the Council Tax team endeavoured to ensure a return to historic high levels of collection. However, the Council recognised the financial strain that Council Tax put on many residents, in addition to the wider Cost of Living crisis.

Cllr Chapman reported that the Council supported 30,000 residents to pay through its Council Tax Reduction scheme. This ensured that the Council Tax levied on a household matched its ability to pay. Qualifying residents could get their Council Tax bill reduced by up to 85%. In line with Labour's manifesto commitment, the Council was consulting on improving the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which would see qualifying residents get a discount of up to 90% next year.

Cllr Chapman explained that through the Community Grants Programme, the Council invested £1m in advice and £460k in supporting community organisations that provided vital ongoing support for residents in debt. As well as helping residents to manage debt and advocate on their behalf they also provided help to deal with urgent debt such as rent arrears and Council Tax arrears whilst ensuring that incomes were maximised through advice on benefits take up.

Concluding, Cllr Chapman stated that whilst he was proud of the support offered by the Council and its partners, this was part of a bigger problem which could only be solved by Government action. He condemned the Government's decision to withdraw the uplift from Universal Credit from October 2021 which took away approximately £35m from Hackney residents who were much in need.

Supplementary Question: Given the Council's relatively poor track record of ensuring that residents feel heard, how will the Council ensure that the services that residents rely on are protected given the reduced revenue?

Cllr Chapman disputed that the Council had a poor record of listening to residents even amidst the difficult situation of the pandemic and cyber-attack. It was anticipated that Council Tax collection rates would return to what they previously were prior to those events. He advised that the Council would continue to campaign for more government support and ensure that its budget setting was prudent and efficient, to provide services, despite financial pressures.

6.3 To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services From Mr Faruk Tinaz

Last year, approximately 22,000 dog attacks were reported in England and Wales. A recent investigation revealed that the number of attacks has increased by over a third within the last five years. What is the Council doing to ensure that dogs are not a source of harm in Hackney?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-64798162.amp>

Response from the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Cllr Fajana-Thomas advised that the police was the lead agency in investigations under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (as amended). Under this Act, the police were able to prosecute an owner who possessed a dog that was "dangerously out of control." If prosecuted and found guilty, the courts could make an order for the dog to be destroyed or for conditions to be applied. The Council's Community Safety Team worked closely with the police to share information on dangerous dogs to ensure that if a dangerous dog was identified that their owner was held responsible for ensuring that they comply with the law.

It was noted that in the borough, a Public Spaces Protection Order was in place in relation to dog control which included the prohibition of dogs in children's play areas, and putting a dog on a lead when requested by an Enforcement Officer. Additionally, officers engaged with dog owners on anti-social behaviour caused by dogs not being properly controlled by their owners.

Hackney Enforcement Officers had recently used their powers under the Anti-Social, Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act to issue a Community Protection Warning (CPW) to the owner of a dog that was intimidating people in Clapton Square. This power placed restrictions on the owner and dog to ensure that it did not cause harm to people in the area. Should the owner breach the CPW then a Community Penalty Notice (CPN) would be issued; failure to comply

would result in being referred to the Magistrates' Court. This power was also used to encourage dog owners to use a dog lead in public.

Concluding, Cllr Fajana-Thomas highlighted that the Council was consulting on extending the dog control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for another three years. One of the proposals was to require dogs to be on a lead in a number of public spaces particularly where children and vulnerable people were present. It was believed this would provide a balance between the joy of dog ownership whilst preventing harm to others. Anyone concerned about a dangerous dog was encouraged to report it immediately to the police.

6.1 To the Deputy Cabinet Member for Housing Needs and Homelessness From Mr Stephen Sartain

Could the Council please outline its efforts to prevent homelessness, especially long term solutions explaining how it is assisting rough sleepers and how No Fault Section 21 Notices and Government cuts in funding are impacting homelessness in Hackney?

Response from the Deputy Cabinet Member for Housing Needs and Homelessness From Mr Stephen Sartain

Cllr Etti reported that the Council was updating its Homelessness Strategy which was to be finalised later in 2023. This would set out the Council's plans to tackle the crisis and built on successive Homelessness Strategies since 2002,

Cllr Etti emphasised that the housing crisis had been driven by issues outside of the Council's control; such as central Government public spending cuts, not enough new homes, no rent controls, welfare reforms, Brexit, population change and the economy. These were in addition to the Covid pandemic and the Cost of Living crisis. Support for residents in privately rented accommodation was restricted by the Local Housing Allowance, which the government had failed to raise in line with increased rents.

The Council continued to work to prevent homelessness, through the Moneyhub service. £1 million in benefits and other payments, which residents were entitled but had misseed out on, had been claimed with the help of this service. The Council had secured £4.2 million in government funding and to assist rough sleepers services had been expanded which included: access to embedded social workers and psychological support, increased number of beds available for rough sleepers and ongoing support once housed in temporary accommodation.

Cllr Etti advised that those facing homelessness, including those subject to section 21 Notices, had been supported to assist in accessing alternative accommodation including privately rented homes rather than temporary accommodation.

The Council worked with the Single Homeless Prevention Service, which provided advice and support to single adults at risk of homelessness in maintaining their existing accommodation or getting alternative accommodation. The Council was a member of the Capital Letters scheme and also utilised

Homefinder UK.

Cllr Etti advised that the Council was aware that some residents faced additional discrimination in the housing market and in response provided specialist advisors, worked with partners and made specific provisions for these residents.

7. Questions from Members of the Council

7.1 From Cllr Clare Potter to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

This winter the voluntary sector, faith groups and community hubs are gearing up to provide warm spaces, food and advice to some of our most vulnerable residents during the ongoing cost of living crisis. What kind of support and partnership will the Council be providing residents across the borough?

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

Cllr Chapman stated that poverty reduction was a priority for the administration, guided by a Poverty Reduction Framework, with partnership being key to the Council's approach. It was acknowledged that winter was the toughest time of year with fuel bills and additional costs around Christmas, Hanukkah and the festive break.

It was reported that this was the first year that the government's household support fund was confirmed for the entire year. Whilst this was welcomed, there was no clarity over future plans beyond March 2024. He believed that government action on a permanent uplift in benefits was needed to give residents the ongoing income boost required.

Cllr Chapman outlined the support delivered by the Council through partnerships such as: The Money Hub Service which offered emergency assistance to maximise benefits and the Council's Street Outreach Team which worked with residents sleeping rough throughout the winter months with an offer of housing, support and reconnection. As temperatures near freezing, the Severe Weather Protocol would be activated triggering increased welfare checks and the offer of overnight accommodation. Residents would be signposted to warm spaces and the Council would continue working with Night Shelter, Crisis and other voluntary sector partners to maximise the effectiveness of the services offered. Organisations would also be encouraged to work with libraries that offer support such as Winter Coat donations.

Concluding, Cllr Chapman highlighted the investment and financial support made by the Council which included: an investment of £1m in advice services and over £400k in supporting community organisations through the Community Grants Programme; the launch of a £65K hardship support and preventative help scheme for those with no recourse to public funds; and an additional half a million over the next two years into The Money Hub and the Policy service. The Council had also helped partners access funding from the Greater London Authority (GLA), City Bridge Trust and food partners to make the best use of food surplus and co-ordinate emergency food help. The Council had also

started investing in schools and community organisations to help tackle food poverty in education. He welcomed the Mayor of London's Universal Free School Meals programme which would bring a huge benefit to primary school children in the Borough.

Supplementary Question: Would the Cabinet Member commend the support that Brownswood residents and residents in neighbouring wards were receiving throughout the year particularly in the colder months, most notably the warm hubs provided by partner organisations?

Cllr Chapman applauded the work of the organisations and volunteers in Brownswood ward and across the borough who provided a range of much needed services.

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

As we continue to seek to alleviate the financial burden on our residents due to high energy bills, can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the measures and strategies the Council is planning to implement in order to create a more sustainable and affordable energy supply chain within Hackney?

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

Cllr Coban stated that this question was rooted at the heart of the purpose of the Climate Action Plan which was aimed at reaching net zero ambitions in the most equitable way whilst also supporting residents financially through local job creation.

Cllr Coban outlined a number of innovative schemes, trials and pilots implemented by the Council to help residents in Council properties access reliable and cheaper energy. This included: solar panels on Bannister house, the Greener Homes programme, setting up of Hacknet Light and Power and the Community Energy Fund.

Cllr Coban advised that officers were investigating how similar projects like Bannister House could give access to residents on Council estates to a more sustainable and affordable energy supply. This work also included looking at how the Green economy could be doubled which would be investigated collaboratively with the Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources and Equalities.

Concluding, Cllr Coban stated that the Labour group's climate ambitions were rooted at the heart of social justice.

7.3 From Cllr Lee Laudat-Scott to the Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources and Equalities

Since 2016, Hackney Works has launched a number of successful employment pathway programmes, including supported Internship programmes and paid work experience including Hackney 100 and Hackney Apprenticeship Network

adding huge value to the local job sector. As a result, how many have gone into full time or part time work?

In the absence of Cllr Laudat-Scott, this question was asked by Cllr Adams

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

Cllr Williams advised that Hackney Works was focussed on helping residents find jobs and employment in the long term, offering extra support for residents facing tough obstacles such as poverty, disability or lack of formal qualifications.

Since 2018/19, 8510 residents had engaged across all programmes via Hackney Works, with 26% going on to secure good jobs or apprenticeships. This did not include Hackney residents who had participated in the Leading Inclusive Futures through Technology (LiFT) project - a partnership involving Hackney, Islington, Camden and Tower Hamlets Councils that created opportunities in the science, tech and creative sectors.

Cllr Williams highlighted work placements that had been made through Supported Internships. 57 young residents with Special Educational Needs, Autism or Neurodiversity had been placed across departments at the Council and its main partner, Homerton Hospital. 50 of those had progressed into paid full or part time employment. In partnership with Adult Social Care and local Autism charities, 206 residents with disabilities had been supported to secure employment since 2018. Since 2018, 335 residents had accessed part time work placement opportunities at the council and with strategic partners, completing roles with Amazon, Hackney Light and Power, Berkeley Homes, and Here East. 146 of the programme completers were reported as full or part time hires post placement, 3 as self employed, and 6 going onto further or higher education.

Concluding, Cllr Williams reported that the Hackney Apprenticeship Network membership was at 213 businesses and reporting 262 apprenticeship starts. Approximately 150 Hackney Apprenticeship Network starts had been in education professions, with schools contributing 46 member organisations. Whilst education and childcare accounted for approximately 200 apprenticeships, the remaining 60 were from starts in hospitality, tech, digital, health and social care. Cllr Williams stated that these figures demonstrated Hackney's continued efforts to maximise social value from its strategic partnerships and anchor institutions.

Supplementary Question: How many residents have been helped into work through the employment support team, social value contracts and through job fairs?

Cllr Williams stated that since 2016 approximately 2200 residents had been helped into work through the Council's employment support teams. Available data from 2020 to date showed that in excess of 500 residents had progressed into work aligned to opportunities stemming from social value contracts through legal planning commitments, and Hackney Works approach to maximising local appointments to jobs in the Council's supply chain. The Team worked strategically to deliver good jobs in the built environment and procurement

sectors. This delivered around 250 London Living Wage paid work placements from social value contracts, 31 apprenticeships, and over 270 jobs, totalling over 550 residents.

Hackney Works Job Brokerage developed a proxy recruitment agency function, linking local residents to Council jobs matching them to job descriptions and hiring managers needs. 88% of starters had their contracts renewed

The team had created a 'Talent Pool' targeting those seeking to re-enter the labour market with childcare and caring responsibilities. From January 2022 to January 2023 a minimum of 39 residents had benefited from the course with at least 30% finding full-time work. In 2022 this work stream saw 65 residents secure jobs at the Council,

Concluding, Cllr Williams stated that she was happy to present these findings to a scrutiny commission.

7.4 From Cllr Ben Hayhurst to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

Please can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the Metropolitan Police announcement that they will stop attending mental health calls from October, whether this is moving ahead and the impact this will have on the local system?

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

Cllr Kennedy clarified that the Metropolitan Police did not announce that they would stop attending mental health calls. They had however stated the aim of ensuring that the most appropriate professional sees individuals in mental health crisis. Police would be deployed where a crime had occurred or to protect people when there was a real and immediate risk to life, including when that situation was caused by the poor mental health of one or more individuals.

Cllr Kennedy explained that the scheme being implemented was Right Care, Right Person, which was piloted over 3 years in Kingston-upon-Hull and evaluated as a success. He further explained that it was announced at the beginning of the summer that it was to be rolled out in the rest of the country with just three months' notice. Most partners had indicated that they would have liked to have been given a longer time frame for implementation. However assurances were given that partners were working as best they could to continue to provide support for those experiencing mental health crises.

From the 31st October call handlers in the Metropolitan Police would employ new prompts relating to welfare checks, including when a patient goes absent from a health partner's inpatient care. This would mean that in some instances a mental health professional and not the police would be the first attender

Cllr Kennedy outlined the steps that had been taken locally to ensure preparation in the short time prior to implementation. This included a focus on supporting those in mental health crises, both through prevention and timely crisis support, as well as looking at wider London commissioning around mental health ambulances. In addition, changes were being made to local policies and

procedures to ensure appropriate actions were evidenced where there were welfare concerns.

In conclusion, Cllr Kennedy stated that it was recognised that Right Care, Right Person would impact every system; however, there was partnership work across London with the Metropolitan Police, London Ambulance Service, NHS Health Bodies and Local Authorities. He hoped that governance from these partners would help to ensure development and implementation of the programme, monitoring its effectiveness and safety. Cllr Kennedy reported that in Hackney, weekly meetings with local partners to take action to mitigate risks would continue post implementation to monitor operational effectiveness..

7.5 From Cllr Sarah Young to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Since the introduction of the Sir Thomas Abney school street, signs and cameras have been repeatedly vandalised, and children continue to be at risk from careless and inconsiderate drivers. What steps are being taken to identify and prosecute the offenders and to ensure that the school street serves its function?

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

Cllr Coban shared Cllr Young's concern about the vandalism of School Street enforcement cameras and signage and the risk posed to children. This illegal activity was something that the Council was tackling throughout the borough. A recent study showed that over 800k had been spent by Councils across London owing to camera vandalism, 400k of that was spent by Hackney. The Council had considered a range of options to address this including: different enforcement technology and protective equipment.

Cllr Coban stated his commitment to working with the Metropolitan Police and Community Safety Team to address this which was now an issue of public safety. The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services had been raising this issue with the Borough Commander. He acknowledged the frustrations of Councillors and the school in question as it had essentially made the scheme redundant as signage as well as cameras were being damaged. The Council was however resolute in its plans to rectify the situation with a long term solution, ensure the safety of children and local residents and bring the perpetrators responsible to justice.

7.6 From Cllr Sharon Patrick to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Despite the efforts of the Council's Waste Management service, there has been an increase in the escalation of fly tipping and rubbish being dumped in Kings Park Ward. Could the Cabinet Member inform the Chamber about what actions, including enforcement measures, are being taken to deal with this issue?

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

Cllr Coban advised that the Council was passionate about tackling fly tipping across the borough and was proud of its record of keeping its streets clean; however, acknowledged that there had been some recent issues.

Within the Sustainability & Environment Service there were two teams responsible for the education and enforcement of environmental policy; the Commercial Waste Enforcement Team, which dealt solely with waste from businesses, and the Behaviour Change Team, which dealt with residential waste from street level properties. They also worked collaboratively with Enforcement Officers from the Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation Service to undertake targeted action days around waste issues.

Cllr Coban advised that fly-tipping could be reported via the Council's Contact Centre, or the Fix My Street App. There was also an internal system where officers and operatives working on the ground could report instances of unregulated waste.

It was reported that the Behaviour Change Team had won national awards from Keep Britain Tidy and Awards of Excellence, as well as being highly commended at Hackney Stars. He outlined the achievements of the Behaviour Change Team and the Commercial Waste Enforcement Team which included waste investigations, monitoring visits, issuing of fixed penalty notices and conducting Police and Criminal Evidence Interviews.

In the first 6 months of this year the Environmental Services team cleared 881 fly-tips from King's Park, which accounted for seven per cent of the total fly-tips removed across the borough. Of these 881 fly-tips, ten per cent were reported by the public. Without further work it was not possible to break down the education and enforcement actions undertaken in the King's Park ward. Officers concentrated their efforts on improving waste compliance specifically on Brooksby' Walk and Chatsworth Road. Since June 2023 , 19 enforcement notices had been issued on businesses, ten notices on residential properties and undertaken a Police and Criminal Evidence interview, on the back of two targeted action days and numerous monitoring weekly visits.

Concluding, Cllr Coban reiterated the importance of residents utilising the Fix My Street App which assisted the Council in understanding how it could better keep its streets clean. He reported that a poll survey would be launched in the forthcoming weeks to inform how the Council tackled street cleaning and waste collection. He urged Councillors to inform him of any specific issues within their ward.

Cllr Binnie-Lubbock attempted to ask a supplementary question which was not permitted by the Speaker.

8. Statutory Deputy Mayor's Statement

- 8.1 Deputy Mayor Bramble expressed that she was honoured to have assumed temporary leadership of the Council acting in the capacity of the Elected Mayor in spite of the circumstances. She highlighted her commitment to delivering for

residents; the challenges the change in leadership had brought with regard to trust and confidence in the Council: the relentless dedication of staff and the importance of Elected Members remaining focussed on the challenges faced by communities in the borough.

- 8.2 The Deputy Mayor acknowledged former Elected Mayor Philip Glanville and the Council's achievements under his leadership. She recognised the opportunity to learn from recent events and welcomed the Interim Chief Executive's announcement of an independent governance review. The review would examine the decisions made by the Council in response to a notification pertaining to a former Councillor. The review would be independent of politicians and political parties and led by someone not affiliated with the Council. This was to ensure that high standards of transparency and accountability remained paramount. The findings of the review along with any recommendations would be reported at a future Council meeting. Deputy Mayor Bramble highlighted that the Council had always prioritised safeguarding and this would continue.
- 8.3 Deputy Mayor Bramble thanked Deputy Mayor Nicholson, Cabinet Members and the Corporate Leadership Team for their leadership during this transitional period. Special thanks were relayed to the Interim Chief Executive for her commitment and dedication. It was noted that the Council was being led by two black women both of whom were born in the borough.
- 8.4 The Deputy Mayor outlined various areas of achievement and forthcoming events. These included: climate action, an increase and investment in the creative sector and the creation of a creative zone, the carnival roadshow, available grants for events to commemorate Black History Season and the borough's GCSE results. It was reported that in response to the issues raised by residents, the Council would pay up 95 percent of Council Tax instead of the current 85 percent. The Council would continue with its aim of being safer, fairer, greener which was demonstrated in its recent response to the Independent Office of Police Conduct (IOPC) in relation to the Child Q Case. The Council remained committed to working with and challenging the police, as well as lobbying the government for a change in the culture of policing.
- 8.5 The Deputy Mayor spoke about the fall in school admissions amidst budgetary pressures which had been discussed at Cabinet a few days prior. Well wishes were relayed to all those standing in the forthcoming Mayoral elections with special recognition given to the Labour candidate; Cllr Caroline Woodley. Concluding, Deputy Mayor Bramble stated that whilst she had chosen not to stand for the position of Elected Mayor, during her interim role remained resolute in delivering for residents and ensuring a safer, fairer, greener Hackney.

Conservative Group Response

- 8.6 Cllr Steinberger expressed his disappointment in the recent comments of local MP Dianne Abbot who questioned whether she would receive a fair hearing in the wake of the Labour Party's recent announcement to launch an investigation following her suspension from the party.

- 8.7 Cllr Steinberger questioned why the Mayor's resignation did not take immediate effect and instead was seven days after his announcement. He expressed concern in relation to a number of different issues including: the lack of response from the Cabinet during the Mayor's decision to step aside and subsequently resign, negative headlines pertaining to Hackney in local and national newspapers, the implementation of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and School Streets, proposed school closures and the Planning-Sub Committee's handling of a planning application of a school site in Amhurst Park and what he believed to be the Council's failure to work with the school to address issues.
- 8.8 Concluding he expressed thanks to the Interim Chief Executive and other Council officers for the leadership shown during this period of transition.

Green Group Response

- 8.9 Cllr Garbett acknowledged the difficult and challenging time. She welcomed working with the Interim Chief Executive and valued her legal experience, knowledge of the borough, collected manner and continued focus on delivering essential services for residents. She believed that the disruption experienced would not have happened if the former Elected Mayor and Labour Party had been transparent from the outset. It was noted that the Green group had called for an independent investigation into what information was made available, when and to whom and what subsequent action was taken. The Green group welcomed the independent review of actions taken by the Council as announced by the Interim Chief Executive, but acknowledged its limited scope. She believed that this needed to be extended to elected Councillors within the Labour group as detailed in the Green motion which called for an independent investigation, included at agenda item 15c. Dismay was expressed at the Labour group's desire for a limited, behind closed doors investigation, which was set out in their proposed amendments to the motion. Cllr Garbett emphasised the importance of knowing whether or not the Council took all necessary steps in relation to safeguarding, well being and the timely enactment of processes.
- 8.10 Cllr Garbett stated that the Green group took the role of scrutiny seriously, and thanked officers for responding to their various requests. She reflected on the role of the directly Elected Mayor and Cabinet System which she believed centralised decision making powers and disempowered other elected Councillors. It was hoped that Hackney would hold a referendum on disbanding the post of the directly Elected Mayor in favour of a committee system.
- 8.11 Cllr Garbett outlined some of the recent activities of the Green group which included: joining other Councillors in attendance at the Citizens Advice Bureau's coffee morning to understand how they support residents facing the cost of Living and housing crises; supporting Morning Lane People Space Campaign; liaising with parents impacted by the School's Estate Review and subsequent closures; questioning Thames Water on plans to stop a daily leakage of 1.2 mega litres along the New River and pushing the Council and Thames Water to install rubbish bins along the river path; attending the Kidical Mass Cycle London to encourage safe sustainable travel and cycling infrastructure for children.

- 8.12 Concluding, Cllr Garbett acknowledged the tragic news of the recent death of a cyclist by a motorist on Whiston Road. The Green group wished to revisit questions on cycle lanes and mitigating against such incidents. Cllr Garbett welcomed the new Hackney Youth Parliament, individually by name.

The Mayor's Reply

- 8.13 Exercising the right of reply, Deputy Mayor Bramble stated the following:

- She was unable to speak on behalf of the former Mayor or to the decisions he made.
- As soon as the Council became aware of what was happening, steps were speedily taken and appropriate measures and interim arrangements were put in place.
- The falling number in school admissions in the borough was largely driven by a reduction in birth rates amidst a wide range of other issues which were experienced London wide and not specific to Hackney.
- Extensive engagement with affected parents had been undertaken led by herself and Cllr Woodley.
- The Council was committed to investigating measures that could be taken on Whiston Road.
- Arrangements were being made for Youth Parliament to attend a meeting of the Council.
- Hackney remained a place for everyone.

9. Changes to Cabinet Portfolios

- 9.1 Deputy Mayor Bramble outlined the changes to Cabinet portfolios as set out in the report. She commended Cllr Nicholson for his leadership as Deputy Mayor as well as other Cabinet colleagues.
- 9.2 She expressed her thanks for the overwhelming support she had received since assuming temporary leadership of the Council.

RESOLVED: To note changes to Cabinet portfolios as set out in Appendix 1

10. Rename Aske Gardens to Joe White Gardens

- 10.1 Cllr Williams, Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources and Equalities introduced the report. This was a result of a commitment made in 2020 following the publication of a report highlighting the disproportionate impact of coronavirus, the murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement. The renaming of buildings, street names, parks and other public spaces that were symbolic of racist histories was a pillar of the Council's anti racism work.
- 10.2 Following an explanation of the history of Robert Aske (1619-1689) and the decision to rename the Gardens after Joe White (1962-2002), Cllr Williams thanked the project steering group for their input and guidance, Joe's widow, Claire White and Joe for his outstanding contribution to life in the borough.
- 10.3 Cllr Suso-Runge, Member Champion for Heritage spoke in support and welcomed the approach to a more inclusive public realm. Deputy Mayor

Nicholson commended Cllr Williams' leadership in the wider context of increasing representation and reshaping public spaces; bringing a deeper understanding of the borough's history, heritage and future. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock spoke in support of the report highlighting that Cllr Garbett had welcomed working with Cllrs Williams and Adebayo on the work around renaming Rhodes Estate. The Green group hoped that the Council would use its influence to encourage the Museum of the Home to remove its slaver statue from above the main entrance as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To approve the removal of the name of 'Aske' from Aske Gardens and rename the green space, Joe White Gardens.**
- 2. To install an information board, located in a prominent position close to the basketball court (north entrance). This will contextualise the small park's new name, as well as the removal of the old name.**

11. Audit Committee Annual Report

- 11.1 Cllr Robert Chapman, Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service introduced the report. He relayed thanks to the Audit Service highlighting their notable achievement of recovering 1000 Council properties which were operating with illegal tenancies, allowing them to be legally let to those who need them.
- 11.2 Cllr Lynch commended the report, highlighting the importance of the audit function. She welcomed the new Interim Group Director of Finance, Jackie Moylan and applauded the Head of Service, Michael Sheffield. It was noted that this committee operated at full complement with membership from all three political parties. She noted the challenges that lay ahead as a result of reduced Government funding, higher inflation and higher interest rates. Thanks were relayed to officers past and present and to Cllr Chapman and colleagues for their political leadership.
- 11.3 Cllr Garbett spoke in support adding her thanks to the team who work on Audit and reiterated the importance of the Audit Committee. She highlighted the Anti-Fraud Team's work on illegal subletting of Council properties. Cllr Garbett believed that more could be done to make scrutinising the budget more accessible with an eventual move towards participatory budgeting.

RESOLVED: To note the Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2022/23.

12. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/2023

- 12.1 Cllr Gordon, Chair of the Scrutiny Panel introduced the report. She highlighted the independent (non party affiliation) and collaborative approach used to represent communities and drive improvements and inclusion. The scrutiny work programme had been energised by the contribution of recently elected colleagues as well as: Hackney Youth Parliament; Hackney of Tomorrow; Hackney Young Futures; Trade Unions and Health Watch. Cllr Gordon highlighted some of the key areas of work undertaken by the various commissions. She referenced the joint meeting of the Children and Young People and Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commissions coming together to scrutinise the Community Safety Partnership response to the assault of Child

Q. All parties responsible for safeguarding were brought together to publicly answer questions which reflected community concerns. It was noted that work in this area was ongoing. Cllr Gordon explained that stakeholder and public demands had resulted in fewer large reviews with shorter cross cutting investigations, with an option to return to persistent areas of concern. The impact of investigations had in some cases been immediate and in others incremental.

- 12.2 Thirteen years of local government cuts had resulted in the budget scrutiny function being a pivotal part of the work programme; with a more thorough, timely and transparent approach in this area. Cllr Gordon also highlighted work undertaken to address the Climate Emergency, the Cost of Living Crisis and maintaining good governance and public trust.
- 12.3 Thanks were expressed to Commission Chairs, Vice Chairs, Committee Members, Co-optees, members of the public and officers.
- 12.4 Cllr Hayhurst, Chair of the Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission highlighted the work the commission had undertaken on air quality. Cllr Conway, Chair of the Children's and Young People Scrutiny Commission, spoke about the commission's work on the broader issues which had emanated from the Child Q case. Cllr Adejare, Chair of the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission, referenced the commission's work investigating and challenging the impact of national and local policies on residents. Cllr Billington, Chair of the Skills Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission highlighted the commission's lead on analysing the post pandemic recovery and the Council's role in addressing the challenges faced by residents and businesses.
- 12.5 Cllrs Rathbone, Etti and Deputy Mayor Nicholson commended the work of the Scrutiny function. The Public Engagement Protocol was welcomed. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock spoke in support of the report and scrutiny function. He stated that the Green group had found it to be invaluable in understanding the work of the Council and in assisting to advocate for residents. He encouraged Conservative Councillors to take up their full allocation of seats on the commissions. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock questioned the Cabinet on how they proposed to take forward actions and recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel in a more timely and coordinated way to protect the community from the effects of climate change. He also questioned how the Cabinet planned to use the Council's convening power to agree solutions across the borough. Welcoming the Public Engagement Protocol, he stated that it would be useful to have feedback so that it could be further improved. Deputy Mayor Bramble commended the report and explained that there was a system in place to ensure Cabinet responded to scrutiny investigations and the recommendations were taken forward by officers. She was pleased that in spite of budgetary constraints, the scrutiny function remained a valuable asset.

RESOLVED: To note the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Function 2022/23.

13. Resolution To Extend Six Month Rule - Section 85 Local Government Act 1972

13.1 Cllr Steinberger sent best wishes on behalf of the Conservative group to Cllr Samatar.

RESOLVED: To approve a dispensation for Councillor Samatar from the statutory requirement to attend a meeting of the Council until the Annual Council meeting in May 2024 for reasons of ill-health.

14. Appointments to Commissions and Committees

RESOLVED: To agree to the membership changes to the appointments to Committees, Commissions and Outside Bodies set out at paragraph 1.3 of this report.

15. Motions

Cllr Binnie-Lubbock raised a procedural motion without notice in accordance with Part 4A [Rule 15](#) paragraph 15.1(c) of the Council's Constitution. He moved to vary the order of business set out in the agenda to bring forward agenda item 15c Green Motion - Call for an Independent Investigation Following the Resignation of the Mayor of Hackney, to be considered as the second motion. He believed that it was important for the motion to be considered in a timely way and to restore trust in the administration. This was seconded by Cllr Garbett and put to the vote without debate.

Following a vote, the Speaker declared the motion **NOT CARRIED**

15a Labour Motion: - A Fertility Friendly Borough

It was noted that since the publication of the motion within the agenda, the proposer and seconder had changed.

15a.1 Cllr Suso-Runge introduced the motion highlighting the wide demographic affected by infertility and some of the challenges they faced. The motion was seconded by Cllr Lynch. Cllrs Young, Rathbone, Sadek, Potter, and Deputy Mayor Bramble contributed to the debate, speaking in support of the motion.

Following a vote, the Speaker declared the motion **CARRIED**

The Conservative group did not vote.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes:

- That infertility is defined by the World Health Organisation as a disease of the reproductive system.
- In the UK, it's estimated approximately 1 in 6 heterosexual couples will struggle to conceive, or 3.5 million people per year. However, this number does not include same-sex couples, single or trans people who must also be afforded the right to try for a family.

- Although often seen as a women's health issue, the reality is that both men and women are just as likely to face fertility problems. Data from the fertility regulator, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, shows that male infertility is the most common reason for a couple to start treatment.
- We welcome the sector leading work of NHS North East London in consulting on and then committing to more equitable access to treatment for all who need it. As a borough we stand on a long history of campaigning around NHS provision and believe all who face fertility issues must be treated with the same dignity.
- There is no legal right to time off for fertility treatment. But, if a woman is refused leave, it could be regarded as unlawful sexual discrimination. It can be ruled that a failure to accommodate conditions specific to women are unlawful.
- The Trade Union Congress (TUC) has asked the Equal Opportunities Commission to recommend leave for fertility treatment in their equality law reform submission.

This Council:

- Welcomes the sector leading work of NHS North East London in consulting on and then committing to more equitable access to treatment for all who need it. As a borough we stand on a long history of campaigning around NHS provision and believe all who face fertility issues must be treated with the same dignity.

Hackney Council is therefore pleased to announce its commitment to becoming a fully Fertility friendly borough as endorsed by the national charity Fertility Network UK, and resolves:

- **To begin to work towards becoming a beacon of best practice via training for staff and managers, working towards policy implementation and committing to ongoing support for staff facing fertility issues.**
- **To campaign for places of work within the London Borough of Hackney to be Fertility friendly, supportive to staff and to join the work of Fertility Networks own Fertility in the Workplace initiative.**
- **To write to the Government to act upon its own recommendations in the women's health strategy and the recommendations of NICE in fully implementing three cycles of IVF for all who are eligible.**
- **To call for the implementation of recommendations in the national Government's Women's Health Strategy that same sex couples be afforded the same access to treatment as heterosexual couples.**
- **To commit to marking fertility awareness week each year as a Council thereby recognising the need to support and help many of our residents facing this issue.**

Proposer: Cllr Suso-Runge

Seconder: Cllr Lynch

Cllr Adams moved a motion to extend the meeting beyond 10pm to 10.15pm in accordance with Part 4A [Rule 7](#) paragraph 7.1 of the Council's Constitution. This was seconded by Cllr Potter and put to the vote without debate.

Following a vote, the Speaker declared the motion **CARRIED**

15b Labour Motion - Mental Health: A Human Right For All

15b.1 Cllr Turbet-Delof introduced the motion highlighting the need for parity between mental and physical health and various challenges to optimum mental health. The motion was seconded by Cllr Kennedy.

15b.2 As there were no amendments to the motion, Cllr Binnie-Lubbock attempted to raise a procedural motion, requesting that the motion in question be moved to the vote. This was following three consecutive speeches in support of the motion as he believed there to be broad agreement. The request for a procedural motion was denied by The Speaker.

15b.3 Cllrs Gordon, Cllr Joseph, Etti, Wrout, Troughton, Coban and Deputy Mayor Bramble contributed to the debate, speaking in support of the motion.

Following a vote, the Speaker declared the motion **CARRIED**

The Conservative group did not vote.

This Council notes that:

- Across the UK there is an undeniable Mental Health crisis. In Hackney local mental health services are struggling to keep up with rising demand for the services available. The most recent figures point to nearly a quarter of the borough's population over 16 are suffering from common mental health disorders.
- Inadequate Government funding for NHS delivered Mental Health services has amounted to 1.6 million people reported on waiting lists in the UK, leaving local mental health services unable to meet demand. Hackney waiting times are now 2-4 weeks for NHS Talking Therapies and up to 6 weeks for the Wellbeing Network, a service for residents with more complex mental health needs. For some specialist secondary care services waiting times can be up to a year.
- There is an urgent need to place mental health on an equal parity with that of physical health.
- The lack of parity has led to care and support being wrongfully and inhumanely applied **as an option, not as a right**.
- Young people are amongst those who suffer the most whilst waiting for support. Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) has reported across the UK a 109% increase in referrals. Young Minds 2021 survey reported that:
 - 10% of young people were turned away from support
 - 26% have attempted suicide as a result of having to wait for support and
 - 58% said their mental health had worsened during this excruciating wait

Hackney's CAMHS referrals increased sharply following the pandemic from 3,826 across all three local NHS CAMHS services in 2018/9 to 5,502 in 2021/22. In April to June 2018/19 there were 158 young people waiting for an assessment across the three services, in April to June 2022/23 this number has risen to 356.

- The Office for National Statistics in 2022 reported that there were 5,583 suicides attributable to mental health reasons registered in England and Wales; of those deaths, 74% were male and 26% female. In 2021 17 Hackney

- residents took their own lives. Mental ill-health one of the most common risk factors for suicide.
- Suicide remains the biggest cause of death in men under the age of 50 in the UK. Females aged 24 years or under have seen the largest increase in suicide rate since 1981.
 - A combination of Government austerity policies over the last ten years and the COVID pandemic have had a direct impact on individuals and their mental health and wellbeing and exacerbated the already existing crisis in mental health care in the UK.

Council believes that:

- Access to Mental Health services and support is not an option, it's a Human Right.
- The global call made by the Human Rights Council for the United Nations and from the World Health Organisation European Region that identifies mental health as a basic Human Right will bring definition to services and ensure parity with physical health in our care system.

Council resolves to:

- 1. Call on the Mayor to lobby Government on behalf of the Council for Mental Health to be recognised as a fundamental Human Right and to call on Government and the NHS to ensure resources are made available to support Hackney's local mental health services.**
- 2. Working in partnership with the local NHS, the Council will continue to ensure that Hackney residents have access and the awareness of existing mental health services and support.**
- 3. Promote the WAMHS (Wellbeing and Mental Health in Schools programme) service available to every child in a Hackney school that helps meet their mental health needs for all students, staff and the parent community.**
- 4. Advocate to local businesses and organisations the adoption and implementation of mental health promoting policies and training.**
- 5. Support a Hackney Mental Health Week, to coincide with World Mental Health Day each October. Working with partners the day will aim to identify the impact social inequalities have on the communities' mental health, promote support providers, ensure suicide prevention programmes are identified and work with existing local mental health networks and organisations to further improve outreach, accessibility and the support available**

Proposer: Cllr Turbet-Delof

Secunder: Cllr Kennedy

The Speaker advised that the remaining three motions which had not been debated would stand referred, without discussion, to the next ordinary meeting of Full Council. The motions would be listed in the order in which they had been received.

Close of meeting.

Duration of Meeting - 7:00 - 10.18pm

Chair of the meeting

Cllr Anya Sizer

Speaker of the London Borough of Hackney 2023/24

This page is intentionally left blank



Title of Report	Mayor for Hackney By-Election Results - November 2023
For Consideration By	Council
Meeting Date	29 November 2023
Classification	Open
<u>Ward(s) Affected</u>	All wards
<u>Group Director</u>	Dawn Carter-McDonald, Interim Chief Executive and Returning Officer

1. **Summary**

- 1.1. As set out in Rule 1, Part 4A of the Council’s Constitution, Council Procedure Rules - Council will receive the report on the results of any elections or by-elections. This report fulfils this Constitutional requirement. The Appendix sets out the results of the Mayoral by-election on 9 November 2023.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1. **The results of the recent Mayor for Hackney by-election set out in Appendix 1 to this report be noted.**

3. **Background**

- 3.1. The Mayor for Hackney election normally takes place every four years; the last election was in May 2022 and the next scheduled for May 2026. The 9 November 2023 by-election was as a result of the resignation of the then Mayor on 22 September 2023.
- 3.2. The results of the Mayor for Hackney by-election are attached at Appendix 1 to this report and can also be found on the Council’s website:
<https://hackney.gov.uk/mayoral-elections/#november>

4. **Comments of the Group Director of Finance**

4.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. **Comments of the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services**

5.1. Other than as set out in the report, there are no legal implications arising.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Mayor for Hackney By-Election results - November 2023

Background documents

None

Report Author	Bruce Devile Assistant Director, Business Intelligence, Elections & Member Services bruce.devile@hackney.gov.uk 020 8356 3418
Comments for the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources prepared by	Deirdre Worrell Director of Finance, Climate, Homes and Economy and Chief Executive's Directorate deirdre.worrell@hackney.gov.uk 020 8356 7350
Comments for the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services prepared by	Louise Humphreys Acting Director of Legal, Democratic & Electoral Services louise.humphreys@hackney.gov.uk 020 8356 4817

DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POLL

ELECTION OF THE MAYOR FOR HACKNEY ON THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2023

I, Dawn Carter-McDonald, being the Returning Officer at the above election, do hereby give notice that the number of votes recorded for each candidate at this election are as follows:

Candidate Name	Description (if any)	Number of votes	Elected
DE DENEY, Simon	Liberal Democrats	1,879	
GARBETT, Zoë	Green Party	9,075	
SMORTHIT, Peter	Independent	1,382	
STEINBERGER, Simche	The Conservative and Unionist Party Candidate	5,039	
VALENT, Annoesjka	Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition	1,265	
WOODLEY, Caroline Rebecca	Labour Party Candidate	18,474	ELECTED

The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:-		Number
A	want of an official mark	0
B	voting for more than one candidate	80
C	writing or mark by which the voter could be identified	0
D	being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	95
Total:		175

Electorate	180,205
Ballot Papers Issued	37,289
Turnout	20.69%

And I do hereby declare that : WOODLEY, Caroline Rebecca is duly elected as
the Mayor for Hackney

Dated: Friday 10 November 2023

Dawn Carter-McDonald
Returning Officer

This page is intentionally left blank



Title of Report	Standards Committee Annual Report
For Consideration By	Council
Meeting Date	29 November 2023
Classification	Open
Ward(s) Affected	N/A
Director	Acting Director of Legal, Democratic & Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer

1. **Summary**

1.1. This Standards Committee Annual Report provides an overview of the work and activities of the Standards Committee during the 2022/2023 municipal year.

2. **Recommendations**

2.1. **That Full Council notes the Standards Committee Annual Report 2022/2023 appearing at Appendix 1 to this report.**

3. **Background**

3.1. Full Council receives an annual report from the Standards Committee which provides details of the work undertaken by the Committee in the previous municipal year. The presentation of the report to Full Council ensures that all members have an understanding of the Committee’s work in promoting and maintaining high ethical standards for elected and co-opted Members. This is the tenth annual report since the implementation of the Localism Act 2011

3.2. The Standards Committee monitors and makes recommendations on the Members’ Code of Conduct and considers complaints made under the Code. The report in **Appendix 1** provides a summary of its activity for 2022/23.

4. **Comments of the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources.**
- 4.1. The Standards Committee Annual Report details the work of the Standards Committee in the previous municipal year and therefore there are no financial implications arising from the content of this report.
5. **Comments of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services**
- 5.1. Under the Localism Act 2011, the Council has a legal duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by elected members and co-opted members and established a Standards Committee to ensure compliance with this duty.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Standards Committee Annual Report 2022/2023

Background documents

None

Report Author	Louise Humphreys Acting Director of Legal, Democratic & Electoral Services louise.humphreys@hackney.gov.uk 020 8356 4817
Comments for the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources prepared by	Deirdre Worrell Director, Financial Management deidre.worrell@hackney.gov.uk 020 8356 3032
Comments for the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services prepared by	Louise Humphreys Acting Director of Legal, Democratic & Electoral Services louise.humphreys@hackney.gov.uk 020 8356 4817



Standards Committee Annual Report 2022 / 2023



Chair's Foreword

As Chair of the Standards Committee, I would like to present the Committee's Annual Report which outlines the work undertaken by the Committee in the 2022/2023 municipal year.

This is the twelfth year since the Standards Committee was established following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011 and my seventh report as Chair.

The Standards Committee remains committed to working with, and supporting, members of the Council to ensure that they respect the Code of Conduct and uphold the standards expected of those in public life which are encapsulated in the Seven Principles of Public Life (also known as the Nolan Principles).

To achieve this the Committee has worked closely with the Council's Monitoring Officer to ensure that the principles of good governance and ethical standards remain central to the business of the Council and to instil confidence in those elected to public office.

It remains a matter of personal regret that the opposition group has continued their decision of not taking up its place on the Standards Committee in 2022/2023, particularly as the Committee functions in an independent and non-party political way, and ethical standards are a matter for all members of the Council.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to those Councillors appointed to the Committee, the Independent Person, the Co-Optees for all their hard work and support during the municipal year. I would also like to commend the Monitoring Officer, the Deputy Monitoring Officer for their most professional and successful operation of the standards regime at the Council. Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to all those officers who have engaged with the Standards Committee during the year.

Councillor Anntoinette Bramble, Chair of the Standards Committee for 2022/23 and Deputy Mayor



Introduction

The Standards Committee submits an annual report to full Council summarising the work the Committee has carried out in the previous municipal year. This report comprises the annual report for the 2022/2023 municipal year together with background information regarding the standards regime at the London Borough of Hackney. All references to 2022/2023 in this report refer to the municipal year.

Membership

For 2022/23, the membership of the Standards Committee was as follows:

Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Deputy Mayor (Chair)
Cllr Lynne Troughton (Vice Chair)
Cllr Frank Baffour
Cllr Polly Billington
Cllr Sade Etti
Cllr Humaira Garasia
Cllr Anna Lynch
Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren
Vacancy (Conservative Group)

Non-voting co-opted members:

Nicola Hanns
Aoife Scannell

Independent Person

Feryal Ertan

Background Information

The Code of Conduct

The Localism Act 2011 requires every local authority to have a Code of Conduct, which sets out the conduct that is expected of elected and co-opted members of the Authority when they are acting in that capacity.

The Code applies whenever a member (a) conducts the business of the Authority (including the business of their office as an elected member or co-opted member) or (b) acts, claims to act or gives the impression they are acting as a representative of the Authority.

A “co-opted member” means any person who is a member of any committee or sub-committee of the Council with a right to vote but who is not one of its elected members. In the case of the London Borough of Hackney non-voting co-optees are also required to abide by the Code of Conduct.

Appendix 1

The Monitoring Officer

The Monitoring Officer holds a statutory role and is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct and for reporting any actual or potential breaches of the law and maladministration to the full Council and/or to the Cabinet (as set out in s.5(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989).

The Monitoring Officer administers the arrangements for addressing complaints made under the Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer's role includes the assessment and review of every complaint received under the Code of Conduct. Following consultation with the Independent Person and consideration of the initial comments of the subject member the Monitoring Officer decides whether the complaint will be investigated.

The Council's Monitoring Officer continues to be Dawn Carter-McDonald, formerly Director of Legal and Governance and now Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services.

Independent Person

The Authority has appointed one Independent Person who is invited to attend all meetings of the Standards Committee. The appointment of the Independent Person is determined by a meeting of Full Council.

The Independent Person must be consulted by the Monitoring Officer before they make a decision on a matter that has been referred to it for investigation; they can also be consulted at any other stage; and can also be consulted by a member or co-opted member against whom a complaint has been made.

Standards Committee Terms of Reference 2022/23

The Standards Committee is responsible for the promotion and maintenance of high ethical standards within the Council, helping to secure adherence to the adopted Code of Conduct, monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct and conducting hearings following investigations into alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct.

The terms of reference for 2022/23 are set out in the Council's Constitution and are reproduced in full below :

The Standards Committee is responsible for the following functions:

1. To review and maintain oversight of the Council's ethical framework and procedures and make reports and recommendations accordingly;
2. To review and maintain oversight of the conduct of Members and co-opted members of the Council and assist them in upholding high ethical standards;
3. To advise Full Council and its Committees on the adoption of a members' Code of Conduct, codes of practice and protocols relating to ethical governance matters;

Appendix 1

4. To hear and consider complaints made against the Elected Mayor, Councillors and co-opted members under the Code of Conduct, codes of practice or protocols;
5. To adopt procedures for considering complaints made under the Code of Conduct, codes of practice or protocols;
6. To consider whether to grant applications for dispensation to Members and co-opted members, in accordance with Members' Code of Conduct; and
7. To maintain oversight of ethical governance training provided to Members and co-opted members and make reports and recommendations accordingly.

Councillor Code of Conduct (“the Code”)

On election to office, the Elected Mayor and all Councillors are required to sign a declaration confirming that they will abide by the Code. Co-optees are required to sign a similar declaration on their appointment.

On 8 January 2022, the Standards Committee recommended to Full Council that it adopt a new code of conduct. On 26 January 2022, Full Council resolved to adopt the Code to take effect after the May 2022 elections.

In addition to the Code itself, two further documents were produced which sit alongside it. The first document provides Councillors with guidance on the application of the Code and their obligations under it. The second document is a procedural note setting out how complaints alleging a breach of the Code will be assessed and investigated, including how and when any complaints may be referred either to an Assessment Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee or a Hearing Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee.

The Committee also approved terms of reference for the standing Assessment Sub-Committee and Hearing Sub-Committee.

Co-Optees

Membership of the Standards Committee comprises up to six non-voting co-optees as well as Councillors and the Independent Person.

Following the end of the terms of office of a number of co-optees, two recruitment campaigns for co-optees took place during the municipal year. Regrettably these campaigns have not resulted in any appointments being made. However, we remain committed to conducting further recruitment campaigns to fill these vacancies.

Aoiffe Scannell and Nicola Hanns continued their appointments as non-voting co-optees throughout 2022/2023 and provided valuable assistance to the work of the Standards Committee.

Complaints about the Conduct of the Elected Mayor, Councillors or Co-Optees

During 2022/2023 there were 13 complaints alleging a breach of the Code of Conduct which were considered by the Monitoring Officer.

In considering any complaint alleging a breach of the Code of Conduct, the Monitoring Officer is required whether she has jurisdiction to consider the complaint and whether the complaint reaches the threshold for investigation.

In terms of the jurisdictional assessment, complaints will not pass this element if:

- The subject of the complaint is no longer an elected member or co-optee or was not an elected member or co-optee at the time of the alleged conduct;
- The complaint is made anonymously, unless there is a clear public interest in considering the complaint on an anonymous basis and the Monitoring Officer determines that a fair investigation can be carried out;
- The same, or substantially the same, alleged conduct has been the subject of a previous allegation under the Code of Conduct and there is nothing further to be gained by considering the matter again;
- The complaint is essentially against the action of the Council as a whole and cannot properly be directed against an individual;
- The complaint does not relate to the conduct of the person as either an elected member or a co-optee;
- The complaint is a service complaint;
- The complaint is about conduct which is the subject of legal proceedings against the Council involving the complainant; or
- The complaint is about an officer of the Council.

In terms of the threshold assessment the Monitoring Officer considers matters such as whether there is evidence to demonstrate a potential breach of the code; the date of the conduct that is the subject of the complaint; whether the complaint appears to be trivial, malicious, vexatious, politically motivated or tit-for-tat; whether an investigation is in the public interest; whether there are alternative, more appropriate remedies to resolve the complaint; and whether the complaint is one of a series of multiple complaints.

In reaching a decision on the threshold assessment, the Monitoring Officer is required to consult the Independent Person and have regard to their views.

Of the 13 complaints received:

- All were submitted by members of the public.
- All complaints passed the jurisdictional test.

Appendix 1

- The most common cause for complaint (7) related to people not responding to resident enquiries, complaints or requests for assistance.
- The second most common cause for complaint (3) related to posts appearing on social media or how people interacted with others on social media (including blocking).
- Of the remaining complaints, 1 concerned alleged conduct at a meeting, 1 alleged transphobia and 1 made an allegation that the views of residents were being ignored.
- None of the complaints met the threshold test for further investigation.

Dispensation Requests

Under the Council's dispensation procedure, the Standards Committee is responsible for considering requests for dispensations on the grounds that it is in the interests of residents or that it is otherwise appropriate to grant dispensation for some other reason.

During 2021/2023 there was one request for a dispensation made to the Standards Committee concerning an appointment of a Councillor as a Director of London Energy Limited. The dispensation was granted.

Use of ICT

The Standards Committee received its annual report concerning the use of ICT by the Elected Mayor and Councillors during the 2021 calendar year and was pleased to note that there were no incidents reported in relation to the use of telephony, email, or the internet and no information security breaches.

The annual report for the 2022 calendar year will be received by the Committee during this municipal year.

Conclusion

The Committee has dealt with a wide variety of matters during 2022/2023. The Committee's aim is to continue to develop and maintain the Council's ethical governance framework for the benefit of the authority, elected members and ultimately local people. The Committee is looking forward to the next municipal year.

Contacts

Monitoring Officer: Dawn Carter-McDonald
dawn.carter-mcdonald@hackney.gov.uk

Deputy Monitoring Officer: Louise Humphreys
louise.humphreys@hackney.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



Title of Report	Extension of Interim Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and Returning Officer and Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer
For Consideration By	Council
Meeting Date	29 November 2023
Classification	Open
Ward(s) Affected	All
Group Director	Sandra Farquharson, Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development

1. **Summary**

- 1.1. This report requests Full Council to note the extension of the roles of the Interim Chief Executive and Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer for a further six month period from 1st February 2024 to 31st July 2024.
- 1.2. The extension is to allow the Council sufficient time to see through Mayoral and ward elections, and the recruitment process for Hackney’s permanent Chief Executive.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1. **That Full Council notes the Appointment Sub-Committee’s decision that the roles of Dawn Carter-McDonald, Interim Chief Executive and Louise Humphreys, Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer are extended for a further 6 month period from 1st February to 31st July 2024.**

3. **Background**

- 3.1. The procedures for Chief Officer appointments are set out in Part 8, Section B under Officer Employment Procedure Rules of the Council’s Constitution.
- 3.2. At its meeting on 24 July 2023, Full Council approved the Appointment Sub-Committee’s recommendation for Dawn Carter McDonald, to be appointed as the Interim Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and

Returning Officer from the 1st August 2023 for 6 months.

- 3.3. Full Council also approved the recommendation for Louise Humphreys to be appointed to the Interim Chief Executives substantive position, as Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services (Monitoring Officer) for 6 months, and Jackie Moylan, as the Interim Group Director Finance (Section 151 Officer) for 12 months from 1st August 2023.
- 3.4. Since Full Council's approval in July, the Recruitment Partner Tender process was undertaken and two appointable Partners were identified, however due to the previous Elected Mayor's resignation, the preferred Partner has not yet been selected.
- 3.5. Currently, the period of the Interim Chief Executive, and the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services (Monitoring Officer) appointments end on the 31st January 2024.
- 3.6. A meeting of the Appointments Sub-Committee was held on 7 November 2023. The Appointments Sub-Committee noted that the initial 6 months period approved at Full Council on 24 July was not a sufficient enough time period to resume and conclude the permanent recruitment process for a permanent Chief Executive; obtain approval at Full Council of the successful applicant and to ensure that there is enough time for normal contractual notice periods which is normally a minimum of 3 months notice at Chief Officer level.
- 3.7. The Appointments Sub-Committee therefore agreed to approve the extension for a further six months.

4. Comments of the Group Director of Finance

- 4.1 There are no financial implications. All costs associated with recruitment and remuneration of the Interim Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and Returning Officer, Group Director Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer and Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer will be met in line with the service budgets set by Council and Cabinet.

5. Comments of the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services

- 5.1 Full Council has established an Appointments Committee in line with Article 4.7 (d) of the Council's Constitution. The recommendations contained within this report are designed to ensure that the Council meets its statutory obligations to appoint a Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and a Monitoring Officer on merit pursuant to the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 and meet its obligations pursuant to article 4.7 (J) and (K) of the constitution..

- 5.2. The report also sets out the decision made in line with the requirements of Officer Employment Procedure Rules, as outlined in Part 8, Section B of the Council’s Constitution and complies with the requirements under Section 35 Representation of The People Act 1983, I to have an appointed Returning Officer.

Appendices

None.

Background papers

None.

Report Author:	Tessa Mitchell Governance Team Leader tessa.mitchell@hackney.gov.uk
Comments for the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services	Juliet Babb Acting Head of Legal & Governance juliet.babb@hackney.gov.uk
Comments for the Group Director, Finance and Corporate Resources	Deirdre Worrell Director, Climate Homes and Economy and Chief Executive deirdre.worrell@hackney.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



Title of Report	Appointments to Committees and Commissions
For Consideration By	Council
Meeting Date	29 November 2023
Classification	Open
Ward(s) Affected	N/A
Director	Dawn Carter-McDonald, Interim Chief Executive

1. **Summary**

- 1.1. This report requests that Full Council agree to the changes to membership of Committees, the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Commission.
- 1.2. The Mayor and/or Cabinet have delegated responsibility for executive nominations or appointments whilst Full Council is responsible for non-executive appointments. This report seeks approval of changes to appointments or nominations for which Full Council is responsible as set out in Article 4 of the Council’s Constitution,
- 1.3. Full Council is responsible for the appointment of Co-opted Members to overview and scrutiny commissions as set out at Appendix 1 (Council Non-Executive Functions - Other Miscellaneous Functions II) Paragraph 44B of the Council’s Constitution.
- 1.4. Full Council is recommended to consider the nominations as set out below:

Committee or Commission	Remove	Add
Appointments Committee	N/A	Mayor Caroline Woodey
Licensing Committee	Cllr Ian Rathbone	Cllr Sharon Patrick
Planning Sub-Committee	Cllr Ifraax Samatar (swap form Member to Substitute)	Cllr Richard Lufkin
Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Commission	N/A	Chanelle Paul - Parent Governor Cooptee
Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Commission	N/A	Mariya Bham - North London Muslim Community Centre Representative
Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Commission	N/A	Marianne Chiromo - Parent Governor Cooptee

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1. **To agree the appointments and membership changes to Committees and the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Commission as set out at paragraph 1.3 of this report.**

3. **Background**

- 3.1. The Constitution, under Article 4, sets out the functions of the Council. Under Paragraph 4.7, the rules allow for agreeing to changes of memberships and making appointments to them. The Mayor and/or Cabinet have delegated responsibility for executive nominations or appointments whilst Full Council is responsible for non-executive appointments.
- 3.2. Following the Annual Meeting held on 17 May 2023, Councillors have come forward with requests to be added to or removed from committee membership which is reflected in table 1.3 above. No other political groups have come forward with changes to their committee membership.

4. **Comments of the Interim Group Director of Finance**

- 4.1. The costs associated with administering the Committee and Commission are contained within the current approved budgets. There are no special responsibility allowances attached to membership of the Committee and Commission therefore no additional costs are incurred in that respect.

5. **Comments of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services**

- 5.1. Article 4.7(d) of the Constitution specifies that Full Council is responsible for the appointment of elected members to the various Council committees, with the exception of the executive appointments which are made by the Mayor. These appointments will ensure that the Committee and Commission will continue to exercise its full functions.
- 5.2. The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Commission is responsible for the scrutiny of any education functions which are the responsibility of the authority's executive.
- 5.3. The appointments of the Co-optees to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Commission are made in accordance with Appendix 1 (Council Non-Executive Functions) Paragraph 44B, Miscellaneous Functions of the Council's Constitution.

Appendices

None.

Background documents

None.

Report Author:	Natalie Williams, Senior Governance Officer natalie.williams@hackney.gov.uk
Financial comments on behalf of the Interim Group Director of Finance	Deirdre Worrell, Director, Climate Homes and Economy and Chief Executive deirdre.worrell@hackney.gov.uk
Legal comments on behalf of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services	Juliet Babb, Interim Assistant Director Legal and Governance juliet.babb@hackney.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank