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Part A – Items considered in public

4	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2023, be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.
5	Cazenove Results of the By-Election	RESOLVED: To note the results of the recent by-election in Cazenove Ward as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
9	Proposed Changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme	RESOLVED: In recognition of the ongoing cost of living crisis in Hackney and the financial constraints placed on the Council, agree to revise the Council’s current Council Tax Reduction Scheme by reducing the minimum contribution which all working age CTRS claimants have to pay from 15% to 10% of their Council Tax liability from the 1 April 2024
10	Calculation of 2024/25 Council Tax Base and Local Business Rate Income	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Hackney Council as its Council Tax Base for 2024/25 shall be 77,766.9 Band D equivalent properties adjusted for non-collection. This represents an estimated collection rate of 93.5%. 2. That in accordance with The Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 Hackney’s non-domestic rating income for 2024/25 is £179,559,273 subject to verification by the Academy (our Revenues Software supplier) software release. This comprises three elements.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £66,209,106 which is payable in agreed instalments to the Greater London Authority • £54,298,802 which is retained by Hackney Council and included as part of its resources when calculating the 2024/24 Council Tax requirement. • £59,051,365 which is payable in agreed instalments to Central Government. <p>3. The proposal to levy a council tax premium equal to a 100% of the Council tax charge in 2024/25 on any liable property which is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for a continuous period of at least one year.</p> <p>4. The proposal that we signal our intent prior to 1st April 2024 that we will levy second homes premium from 1st April 2025.</p> <p>5. To note that changes are proposed to the current CTRS scheme in 2024/25 and that this is covered by another report on this agenda.</p>
11	Gender and Ethnicity Pay Gap 2023	RESOLVED: To note the contents of the report.
12	Members' Allowances Scheme	RESOLVED: To agree the report and the Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24 (Updated January 2024) at Appendix 1 of the report.
13	Licensing Committee Annual Report 2022/23	RESOLVED: To note the report and appendix

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14	Pensions Committee Annual Report 2022/23	RESOLVED: To note the report and appendix.
15	Confirmation of Political Proportionality and Appointments to Committees and Commissions	The Speaker advised that this report had to be deferred to the next meeting, to allow Group Leaders and Whips sufficient time to consider and present nominations to seats.
	Green Motion - Defending Our Democratic Rights	<p>RESOLVED: That the Labour amendments to the motion be carried</p> <p>This Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 2 May 2023 the final stages of the Public Order Bill passed through the House of Lords, which gives the Police greater powers to prevent serious disruptions caused by protests in England and Wales. • Article 11 of the Human Rights Act 1998 enshrines the Right to Peaceful Assembly into British law, guaranteed by Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) • A Legislative Scrutiny Report published by the Joint Committee on Human Rights called for key measures in the Public Order Bill to be amended or removed in order to reverse the “chilling effect” it is likely to have on the right to protest. • This report found that these offences have a very wide scope and criminalise those legitimately exercising their Article 10, 11, 8 and Article 6 rights. • Some aspects of the Public Order Act 2023 have been criticised by Amnesty International, Liberty, Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), and the UN Human Rights Commissioner. • The Right to Protest is a fundamental pillar of democracy. • The objective of a protest is to peacefully disrupt and agitate for change, such as the anti-apartheid and Civil Rights Movement, Women’s Suffrage, Gay Pride and workers’ rights.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baroness Casey’s Report into the Metropolitan Police Service found that there was a deepening mistrust of the force which is institutionally racist, sexist, homophobic and ‘broken’, compounded by a culture of denial and obfuscation. • The Administration’s ongoing work with the Metropolitan Police Service, MOPAC and local Borough Commander on improving standards through the Community Resilience Partnership and after the Casey Report and City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Panel Child Q reports. • The co-production of a local action plan with Hackney communities, the Met and the Council on improving trust and confidence. <p>This Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards Hackney’s local action plan on policing includes consideration of alternative ways to keep communities safe, and community education on the Police, Sentencing and Crimes Act 2022, and the Public Order Act 2023, so that Hackney residents are aware of their rights. • Refer local issues concerning the Right of Protest to the Hackney’s Cabinet Member for Community Safety. • Not agree to the deployment of Live Facial Recognition in Hackney until the Council is satisfied that the potential benefits to crime reduction will not lead to a further erosion of trust and confidence in policing in Hackney. <p>Proposed by: Cllr Fajana - Thomas Seconded by: Cllr Joe Walker</p>
	Green Motion - Standing up for Responsible Tax Conduct - Councils	RESOLVED:

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	for Fair Tax Declaration	<p>Hackney Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pressure on organisations to pay their fair share of tax has never been stronger. • Polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that “corporate tax avoidance” has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct. • Two thirds of people (64%) believe the Government and local councils should at least consider a company’s ethics and how they pay their tax, as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when awarding contracts to companies. • Around 17.5% of public contracts in the UK have been won by companies with links to tax havens. • It has been conservatively estimated that losses from multinational profit-shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK some £17bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues. • The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct, and has been secured by a wide range of businesses across the UK, including FTSE-listed PLCs, co-operatives, social enterprises and large private businesses. • Labour and Co-operative MPs and councillors have been at the forefront of the fight for a fairer tax system, with numerous Labour London boroughs having signed up. <p>Hackney Council believes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn’t be. • Tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies. • As recipients of public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where councils hold substantive stakes in private enterprises, influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned. • More action is needed, however, as current and proposed new UK procurement law significantly restricts councils’ ability to either penalise poor tax conduct (as exclusion grounds are rarely triggered) or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services. • Hackney Council can and should stand up for responsible tax conduct - doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice. • Hackney Council’s administration has long been a proponent for fair taxation and welcomes the Shadow Chancellor’s statements on fair tax. <p>Hackney Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaffirm its commitment to the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration and enact the Declaration through the points below. • Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in Hackney Council’s tax conduct, right across our activities. • Reaffirm IR35 is implemented robustly and contract workers pay a fair share of employment taxes. • Shun use of offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty. • Undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately by suppliers as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates. • Demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers UK and overseas and their consolidated profit & loss position, given lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due. • Support Fair Tax Week events in the borough and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses that are proud to promote responsible tax conduct and pay their fair share of corporation tax. • Support calls for urgent reform of UK law to enable local authorities to revise their procurement policies and better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct. • Recognise the principles of Fair Tax in its Sustainable Procurement Strategy. <p>Proposed by: Cllr Binnie-Lubbock Seconded by: Cllr Garbett</p>
	<p>Green Motion - The Crisis in Israel and Palestine: Call For a Ceasefire, Release Of All Hostages & More Support For Local Community Cohesion.</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That the Labour Amendments to the motion are carried</p> <p>This Council notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Across Hackney residents have been horrified by the violent conflict in Israel and Palestine and are grief stricken at the loss of lives, including thousands of children, following the terror attack on Israel by Hamas on 7th October. Many, especially in Jewish, Muslim and Arab communities, as well as those from other communities of all faiths and none, are concerned for the safety of friends, family and work colleagues in the region. 2. Previous conflicts in the region have been associated with increases in community tensions, Islamophobia, antisemitism and hate crime in the UK. 3. There has been a worrying rise in antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crime in Hackney since the terror attacks by Hamas on Israelis on 7th October and the siege, bombardment and ground invasion of Gaza. Hackney stands against antisemitism, Islamophobia, xenophobia and all forms of racism and hate crime, passing motions to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims definition of Islamophobia.

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		<p>4. That a range of international humanitarian organisations have been calling for an urgent ceasefire on all sides and lasting peace in the region and for a two-state solution.</p> <p>5. That Hackney is twinned with Haifa city in Israel. Haifa is 160km from the Gaza Strip.</p> <p>6. The brilliant work by Council officers, faith and community groups and partners including the Community Security Trust, Tell Mama, as well as others, and the police across the borough to hold our community together, provide solace for today and hope for the future.</p> <p>7. The vital and ongoing work undertaken by the Council with partners to ensure the safety of our communities, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sending of a letter from the Mayor to the Prime Minister expressing our concerns about the impact the conflict in the Middle East is having on Hackney residents and community cohesion, calling on the Government to: focus all efforts on bringing an immediate cessation to hostilities in Israel and Palestine, including an immediate and sustainable humanitarian ceasefire on all sides, lasting peace in the region and a renewed peace process, the urgent release of all hostages and provide central government funding to support community cohesion and peace-making at a local level • Increasing the number of council enforcement patrols and deploying the council’s mobile CCTV van into vulnerable communities • Meeting with the borough commander and continuing to work closely with the police to support their work • Co-hosting, with the police, community stalls around the borough as part of national hate crime awareness week • Responding swiftly to hate incidents, crimes and anti-social behaviour • Writing to faith leaders to express our support • Reaching out to our Jewish and Muslim community partners in particular to reiterate the work the Council is undertaking with the police to keep the community safe • Writing to all schools and education settings, including faith schools, and offering ongoing security liaison, support, resource and guidance • Holding interfaith events.

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		<p>This Council believes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. The truce at the end of November 2023 was a vital step towards releasing hostages and the provision of humanitarian aid. There must be an immediate cessation to hostilities in Israel and Palestine, including an immediate and sustainable humanitarian ceasefire on all sides. Humanitarian aid and basic services must be immediately restored. All hostages must be immediately released. 9. Peace, justice and reconciliation in the region is likely to have a positive impact on community cohesion in Hackney. 10. There can be no place for hate in our Borough. Hackney must be a safe place for those of all faiths and nationalities. We will continue to support those whose families and loved ones are caught up in this conflict. We must also stand up for those who may be perceived by others, sometimes because of assumptions regarding faith or race, to have links to the region and as a result are suffering from prejudice and discrimination; and as a Borough of Sanctuary we extend a special welcome to those fleeing war and persecution. <p>This Council resolves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11. To continue to work with borough partners to ensure safety for our Muslim and Jewish communities, hold interfaith events regularly, and to be ready to welcome refugees. 12. To continue to encourage interfaith and community groups to apply for funding, like Local Initiative Funding, to support community cohesion, peace-making and celebrating how Hackney fosters harmony between our diverse communities. <p>Proposed by: Deputy Mayor Guy Nicholson</p>

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		Seconded by: Cllr Ian Rathbone
	Green Motion: Reduce Glyphosate to Zero Now	In accordance with Part 4A Rule 16.4 of the Council’s Constitution, the Speaker advised that this motion which had not been debated would stand referred, without discussion, to the next ordinary meeting of Full Council.