



## London Borough of Hackney – Decisions taken by the Council on Wednesday 28 February 2024

Decisions listed below that are Key Decisions will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 clear working days unless called-in by at least 5 non-executive members in writing and submitted to the Monitoring Officer using the form; Executive Decision Call-in Request.

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### Items considered in public

4	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 24 January 2024 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.</p> <p>That the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held 24 January 2024 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.</p>
9	Budget and Council Tax Report 2024/25	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That Council bring forward into 2024/25 the Council's projected 2023/24 General Fund balance of £17.0m with the aim of increasing this to £20m over the medium-term period to 2026/27 noting the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) projected 2023/24 balance of £15m with the aim of increasing to £17.6m by the end of March 2024.</li><li>2. That Full Council agree for approval the directorate estimates and estimates for the General Finance Account items set out in Table 2 in Section 14 of this report.</li><li>3. That Full council note that the budget is a financial exposition of the priorities set out within the Strategic Plan summarised at Section 6 below.</li><li>4. That Full Council note that in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, the Interim Group Director of Finance, is of the view that:</li></ol> <p>The General Fund balances which currently stand at £17.0m and the level of other reserves are adequate to meet the Council's financial needs for 2024/25</p>

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		<p>and that considering the economic uncertainty they should not fall below this level and that the aim is to increase these to £20m over the medium term period to 2026/27 from a review of current earmarked reserves.</p> <p>This view takes account of the reserves included in the Council’s latest published 2022/23 Accounts and the movements of those reserves since that date – which have been tracked through the Overall Financial Position (OFP) Reports, and the latest OFP projections. Note also, that the projections in the HRA Budget to increase the balance to £17.6m by 31 March 2024 are also considered to be adequate at this point in time but will need to continue to be reviewed in the light of the challenges facing the HRA.</p> <p>The General Fund estimates are sufficiently robust to set a balanced budget for 2024/25. This takes into account the adequacy of the level of balances and reserves outlined above and the assurance gained from the comparisons of the 2023/24 budget with the projected spend identified in the December 2023 OFP. The overall level of the corporate contingency has been set at £2m.</p> <p>5. That Full Council approve the proposed General Fund fees and charges as set out in Appendix 7 for implementation from 1st April 2024.</p> <p>6. That full Council continue the policy requiring the Interim Group Director of Finance to seek to mitigate the impact of significant changes to either resources or expenditure requirements.</p> <p>7. That Full Council require the Mayor, Cabinet and the Corporate Leadership Team to develop robust plans to deliver against the revised Medium Term Financial Plan included at Appendix 5 taking into account the recommendation of the S151 Officer as set out in the Section 25 Statement (Appendix 11). This is needed to maintain the financial resilience of the Council and to avoid the requirement to make short-term decisions which will adversely impact on our residents.</p> <p>8. That Full Council note the summary of the HRA Budget and Rent setting report proposed to</p>

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		<p>Cabinet on 22nd January 2024.</p> <p>9. That Full Council authorise the Interim Group Director of Finance to implement any virements required to allocate provision for demand and growth pressures set out in this report subject to the appropriate evidence base being provided.</p> <p>10. That Full Council approve: The allocation of resources to the 2024/25 capital programme referred to in Section 22 and Appendix 6.</p> <p>11. That Full Council note that the new capital expenditure proposals match uncommitted resources for the year 2024/25.</p> <p>12. That Full Council agree the prudential indicators for Capital Expenditure:- the Capital Financing Requirement; the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt; the Affordability prudential indicators; and the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for 2024/25 as set out in Section 23 and Appendix 3.</p> <p>13. That Full Council confirm that the authorised limit for external debt of £792m agreed above for 2024/25 will be the statutory limit determined under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003. Further reassurance about the robustness of the budget is the confirmation that the Council’s borrowings are within the boundaries of prudential guidelines.</p> <p>14. That Full Council continue to support the approach of using reserves to manage emerging risks and liabilities.</p> <p>15. That Full Council note that at its meeting on 24th January 2024 the Council agreed its Council Tax Base for the 2024/25 financial year as 77,766.9 in accordance with regulations made under section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The Council Tax Base is the total number of properties in each of the eight council tax bands A to H converted to an equivalent number of band D properties.</p> <p>16. That Full Council agree that the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31A to 36 of the Localism Act 2011.</p> <p>The authority calculates the aggregate of: (in accordance with Section 31A (2) of the Act)</p>

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		<p>(a) £1,374.738m being the expenditure which the authority estimates it will incur in the year in performing its functions and will charge to a revenue account, other than a BID Revenue Account, for the year in accordance with proper practices.</p> <p>(b) £2m being such allowance as the authority estimates will be appropriate for contingencies in relation to amounts to be charged or credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices.</p> <p>(c) £nil being the financial reserves which the authority estimates it will be appropriate to raise in the year for meeting its estimated future expenditure.</p> <p>(d) £nil being such financial reserves as are sufficient to meet so much of the amount estimated by the authority to be a revenue account deficit for any earlier financial year as has not already been provided for.</p> <p>(e) £nil being the amount which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its general fund to its collection fund in accordance with section 97(4) of the 1988 Act, and</p> <p>(f) £nil being the amount which it estimates will be transferred from its general fund to its collection fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(5) of the 1988 Act and charged to a revenue account for the year.</p> <p>17. The authority calculates the aggregate of: (in accordance with Section 31A (3) of the Act)</p> <p>(a) £1,263.182m being the income which it estimates will accrue to it in the year and which it will credit to a revenue account, other than a BID Revenue Account, for the year in accordance with proper practices.</p> <p>(b) £4.218m being the amount which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with section 97(3) of the 1988 Act.</p> <p>(c) £nil being the amount which it estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(4) of the 1988 Act and will be credited to a revenue account for the year, and</p> <p>(d) £nil being the amount of the financial reserves which the authority estimates it will use in</p>

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		<p>order to provide for the items mentioned in subsection (2) (a), (b), (e) and (f) above.</p> <p>18. £109.338m being the amount by which the aggregate calculated under subsection (1) above exceeds that calculated under subsection (2) above, the authority calculates the amount equal to the difference; and the amount so calculated is its Council Tax Requirement for the year.</p> <p>19. £109.338m being the amount at (3.2.18) divided by the amount at (3.2.15) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31A of the Act, £1,405.97 as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.</p> <p>20. That the Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council tax for 2024/25 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.</p> <p><b>Valuation Bands Hackney</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>A</th> <th>B</th> <th>C</th> <th>D</th> <th>E</th> <th>F</th> <th>G</th> <th>H</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>£937.31</td> <td>£1,093.53</td> <td>£1,249.75</td> <td>£1,405.97</td> <td>£1,718.41</td> <td>£2,030.84</td> <td>£2,343.28</td> <td>£2,811.94</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>21. That Council noted that for 2024/25 the Greater London Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.</p> <p><b>Valuation Bands GLA</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>A</th> <th>B</th> <th>C</th> <th>D</th> <th>E</th> <th>F</th> <th>G</th> <th>H</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>£314.27</td> <td>£366.64</td> <td>£419.02</td> <td>£471.40</td> <td>£576.16</td> <td>£680.91</td> <td>£785.67</td> <td>£942.80</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>22. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3.2.20 and 3.2.21 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the</p>	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	£937.31	£1,093.53	£1,249.75	£1,405.97	£1,718.41	£2,030.84	£2,343.28	£2,811.94	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	£314.27	£366.64	£419.02	£471.40	£576.16	£680.91	£785.67	£942.80
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		<p>amounts of Council Tax for 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings as shown below.</p> <p><b>Valuation Bands Combined Hackney/GLA</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>A</th> <th>B</th> <th>C</th> <th>D</th> <th>E</th> <th>F</th> <th>G</th> <th>H</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>£1,251.58</td> <td>£1,460.17</td> <td>£1,668.77</td> <td>£1,877.37</td> <td>£2,294.57</td> <td>£2,711.75</td> <td>£3,128.95</td> <td>£3,754.74</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>23. That Full Council agree, subject to the decision of Members on recommendations 3.2.16 to 3.2.18 that Hackney’s Council Tax requirement for 2024/25 be £109.338m which results in a Band D Council Tax of £1,405.97 for Hackney purposes and a total Band D Council Tax of £1,877.37 including the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept.</p> <p>24. That Full Council agree that in accordance with principles approved under section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and the new provisions included in the Localism Act 2011, the increase in the Council’s Council Tax requirement for 2024/25 as shown at Appendix 8 is not excessive (5% or above) and therefore does not require the Council to hold a referendum.</p> <p>25. That Full Council agree the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25, set out at Appendix 3.</p> <p>26. That Full Council agree the criteria for lending and the financial limits set out at Appendix 3.</p> <p>27. That Full Council approve the Minimum Revenue Provision statement setting out the method of calculation to be used, as set out in paragraphs 23.19-23.28 below.</p> <p><b>REASONS FOR DECISION</b></p> <p>The Council has a legal obligation to set its Council Tax and adopt its annual budget. This report is seeking formal approval of the 2024/25 budget.</p>	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	£1,251.58	£1,460.17	£1,668.77	£1,877.37	£2,294.57	£2,711.75	£3,128.95	£3,754.74
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		<p>Previous decisions in this context relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Overall Financial Position reports presented monthly to Council during 2023/24.</li> <li>● The Calculation of the 2024-25 Council Taxbase &amp; Local Business Rates report approved by Council on 24th January 2024</li> </ul>
<b>10</b>	Equality Plan 2024-26	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That the Equality Plan be adopted by Full Council, along with the anti-racism framework and LGBTQIA framework:</p> <p>Appendix 1: Equality Plan  Appendix 2: the anti-racism framework  Appendix 3: the LGBTQIA framework</p> <p>That Full Council note that a full action plan for the Equality Plan will be brought to Cabinet later this year</p> <p>that Full Council note that the Equality and Cohesion Policy is also brought to Cabinet later this year, so it can reflect the new objectives</p>
<b>11</b>	Children and Families Service Full Year Update Report to Members 2022/23	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>Council are recommended to note and endorse the content of the Children and Families Annual Report 2022/23 (Appendix 1).</p> <p>Reason(s) for decision</p>

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		The report is for information and endorsement only
12	Stamford Hill Area Action Plan	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>Approve the proposed submission Stamford Hill Area Action Plan at appendix 1 for publication and subsequent submission to Government for an independent examination in public.</p> <p>Delegate authority to the Group Director, Climate, Homes and Economy to approve administrative alterations, graphical, typographical amendments, to improve cross referencing (e.g. para numbering, page numbering) ahead of consultation or ahead of submission to Government for examination in public.</p> <p><u>Reason(s) for decision</u></p> <p>Following consultation on a draft Stamford Hill AAP, the Council has now produced the proposed submission version of the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan (Stamford Hill Area Action Plan, 2024 Regulation 19 Publication Version). The Council is to publish this for comment before submitting it to the Secretary of State for independent examination in public. The AAP will manage existing development pressures and shape future growth in a sustainable manner.</p>
13	Pay Policy Statement 2024/25	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That Full Council note that Corporate Committee has reviewed and agreed the Pay Policy Statement 2024/2025</p>



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		That Full Council are recommended to approve the Pay Policy Statement 2024/25
14	Confirmation of Political Proportionality and Appointments to Committees and Commissions	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That Full Council note the revised political proportionality that applies to Committees, Sub-Committees, Commissions, Panels and Boards as detailed in paragraphs 3.18, 3.19 and 3.20 of this report following the by-election in the Cazenove Ward.</p> <p>The Full Council approve the appointments appearing in Appendix 2:</p>
15	Proposed Calendar of Meetings 2024/25	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That Full Council is recommended to note the proposed Council meeting calendar for 2024/25.</p>
	Green Motion - Reduce Glyphosate to Zero Now	<p>The Labour Amendments to the Motion were <b>Carried</b></p> <p><b>This Council notes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The use of herbicides has a significant impact on the environment by removing plants that are an important food source for a wide variety of native insects. Pesticide product mixtures have also been shown to be toxic to bees and earthworms. There is also a risk of runoff from hard surfaces into waterways, putting aquatic ecosystems at risk. We not only face a climate emergency, we also face the related emergency of collapsing biodiversity that is increasingly referred to as the 'sixth mass extinction' (1):</li> <li>2. That 99% of pesticides are made from fossil fuels (2). Furthermore, pesticides exacerbate the climate emergency throughout their lifecycle via manufacturing, packaging, transportation, application, and even through environmental degradation</li> </ol>

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		<p>and disposal;</p> <p>3. There is a growing body of scientific evidence showing a link between glyphosate exposure and an increased risk of cancer; the World Health Organisation (WHO) deemed glyphosate a ‘probable carcinogen’ (3). It has been also shown to worsen chronic conditions such as asthma, and particularly affects children and pregnant people. In addition, it poses a health hazard to workers who spray Hackney’s streets.</p> <p>4. The spraying of glyphosate in Hackney is causing concern among residents and elected representatives about its potential harmful effects on children, animals, wildlife and biodiversity on our streets, housing estates and parks;</p> <p>5. The contracting staff who carry out this work need to be protected from harm, which is of utmost importance to the council and is why contractors carry out specialist training and wear PPE;</p> <p>6. The Mayor of London’s commitment in the Environment Strategy to “reduce the use of pesticides and peat-based products, such as compost”;</p> <p>7. The work of Transport for London (TfL) with suppliers and contractors to explore safer alternatives such as hot foam, for essential vegetation management and weed control.</p> <p>8. Glyphosate, the most used herbicide was narrowly relicensed in the EU with the condition that Member States “minimize the use in public spaces, such as parks, public playgrounds and gardens.”</p> <p><b>Hackney Council further notes:</b></p>

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		<p>9. The work of the council to date in reducing the use of glyphosate with a 50% reduction in on-street spraying against 2017 levels.</p> <p>10. That Hackney Council’s Environmental Services conducted a trial using pelargonic acid also known as fatty acid, a natural herbicide, but found that this product does not effectively kill the plant root system.</p> <p>11. The Council’s Housing Grounds Maintenance Service is responsible for the maintenance of 247 housing estates green areas covering approximately 73 hectares, and uses glyphosate to treat invasive species only - in 2022 the Service only used 0.28 litres for this purpose.</p> <p>12. The Council’s Parks and Green Spaces Service is responsible for the maintenance of 58 sites totalling some 282 hectares, and uses glyphosate to treat invasive species only - in 2022 the Service only used 0.8 Litres for this purpose.</p> <p>13. That Hackney Council’s Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport has signed the Pesticide Free Town pledge.</p> <p><b>Hackney Council has demonstrated:</b></p> <p>14. A commitment to further reducing spraying across the borough, including a total cessation of spraying in Hackney’s Town centres, by removing weeds by hand; a successful year-long pilot for more than 200 out of a total 237 green areas across Hackney’s housing estates which will now go glyphosate-free permanently, with an intention to upscale to all estate-based green areas; a change in how the council sprays, from operatives mounted on vehicles to spot-spraying with knapsacks; a no-spray 10x Green area around Daubeney Road to explore whether a no-spray approach</p>

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		<p>is more beneficial to biodiversity by avoiding the removal of plants that support insect populations. These changes have been well received by the public.</p> <p><b>The Council acknowledges:</b></p> <p>15. Several councils around the country have gone fully glyphosate-free including in London. The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham was the first council in London to cease the use of glyphosate, to support biodiversity and protect habitat against any long-term chemical effect by using chemical-free weedkillers, such as hot foam and hot steam, although the borough do still use it against invasive species. Lambeth and Westminster have also gone pesticide-free and are rolling out programmes for increased biodiversity. Lambeth has a community weeding scheme which encourages residents to leave some annual plants to grow, as well as other initiatives, and Westminster is developing a new 'Greening Project'.</p> <p>16. That some councils, such as Brighton and Hove, have had to return to using glyphosate following many formal complaints by the public about the uncontrolled growth of weeds on pavements and other public footpaths.</p> <p>17. Where there is a duty to eradicate Japanese Knotweed because of risk to critical infrastructure or mobility issues risking residents' safety, then glyphosate may be used until an acceptable non-chemical alternative becomes available. But its use should be limited to stem injection rather than spraying.</p> <p>18. That Hackney Council's administration committed in their manifesto to extend the Council's commitment to weedkiller-free zones to reduce the use of Harmful weedkillers and help increase the biodiversity of plants and flowers.</p> <p><b>The Council resolves to:</b></p>

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		<p>19. Investigate the best way to educate residents in the way that weeds are actually ‘pavement plants’ (4) and a much needed source of biodiversity in the city. This could take the form of maintaining regular communications in all appropriate council forums and on estates, as well as with biodiversity events and workshops for residents if/where financially feasible;</p> <p>20. Consider bringing forward an action plan which takes into consideration technical and financial concerns and cost-saving opportunities (5), including a timetable for a complete phase-out of the spraying of glyphosate and any other pesticides, substituting them with non-chemical alternative weed management methods including leaving areas for biodiversity in all council operations.</p> <p>21. Ask the Cabinet Member to consider adopting a clear policy for the council’s weed management strategy which details a phase-out plan and timetable.</p> <p>22. To engage with organisations working to reduce the use of pesticides, such as the Pesticide-Free London Leaders Network, to work towards developing a clear phase-out plan, as well as share learnings with other councils in the network.</p> <p><b>Proposed by:</b> Cllr Mete Coban</p> <p><b>Seconded by:</b> Cllr Kam Adams</p>