

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET
MONDAY, 22 MAY 2023**

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, HACKNEY TOWN HALL,
LONDON, E8 1EA

THE MEETING WAS LIVE STREAMED AND CAN BE VIEWED HERE:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECjVA0kdqJQ>

- Councillors Present: **Mayor Philip Glanville in the Chair**
- Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble (Vice-Chair),
Cllr Robert Chapman, Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas,
Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cllr Clayeon McKenzie,
Cllr Guy Nicholson and Cllr Caroline Woodley**
- Apologies: **Cllr Mete Coban MBE, Cllr Carole Williams and Cllr
Sem Moema**
- Officers in Attendance: **Mark Agnew, Governance Officer
Jacqui Burke, Group Director Children & Education
Dawn Carter-McDonald, Director of Legal,
Democratic and Electoral Services
Rickardo Hyatt, Group Director, Climate, Homes
and Economy
Sam Kirk, Head of Sustainability & Environment
Natalie Kokayi, Governance Officer
Niamh Massey, Mayor's Political Advisor
Tessa Mitchell, Team Leader, Governance Services
Paul Senior, Interim Director of Education
Jason Marantz, Senior Leadership and
Management Adviser School Improvement Primary
Ian Williams, Acting Chief Executive
Natalie Williams, Senior Governance Officer**
- Also in Attendance: **Cllr Grace Adebayo
Cllr Zoë Garbett
Mike Cooter
Chris Davis
Jullien De Rosee
Hendrick Elstein
Dorothea Kanellopoulou
Carine Lucchese
Tara Mack
Other representatives of the Save Colvestone
Primary School Campaign**

1 Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mete Coban, Cllr Sem Moema, and Cllr Carole Williams.

1.2 Cllr Sade Etti and Cllr Sem Moema joined the meeting remotely.

2 Urgent Business

2.1 There was no urgent business for consideration.

3 Declarations of Interest - Members to declare as appropriate

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4 Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private, Any Representations Received and the Response to Such Representations

4.1 The Mayor discussed 'Appendix O - Save Colvestone Primary School' from agenda item 10, CE S190 Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy, which had been initially published as an exempt appendix. The Mayor thanked the campaign group for their representations and the Governance and Legal services for enabling a redacted version of the appendix to be included in the supplementary papers.

4.2 The Mayor noted that 'Appendix P - Why should we keep Randal Cremer Primary School open?' remained exempt, but confirmed that all members of Cabinet had received and considered the original exempt appendices.

4.3 No other representations were received.

5 Questions/Deputations

5.1 Following the publication of the agenda the Chair advised that Cllr Adebayo had submitted questions related to agenda item 10, CE S190 Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy, and Cllr Garbett had submitted questions related to agenda item 10, CE S190 Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy and agenda item 11, CHE S162 Adoption of Climate Action Plan.

5.2 All questions would be considered during the discussion of the relevant agenda items.

6 Unrestricted Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Cabinet

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 April 2023 were agreed.

7 Unrestricted Minutes of Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee

- 7.1 The Mayor requested Cabinet to note the membership of the Cabinet Procurement Insourcing Committee, which had been confirmed at the Annual Meeting on 17 May 2023, and thanked Deputy Mayor Bramble for her service to the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Procurement Insourcing Committee held on 17 April 2023 were noted.

8 New items of Unrestricted Urgent Business

- 8.1 No new items of unrestricted business were received.

9 FCR S196 Capital Update and Property Disposals And Acquisitions Report

- 9.1 The Mayor introduced the report noting the investment into the voluntary and community sector (VCS), highlighting in particular the dedicated building portfolio that the Council maintained, which supported VCS organisations to serve Hackney's communities, and thanked the Council's Commercial Property Team who managed the portfolio and had developed the capital bid ensuring a £14m investment through to 2027/28.
- 9.2 During a brief discussion, Cllr Kennedy noted that 21 of the Council's 46 VCS buildings would receive mechanical and electrical works, redecoration, and be updated to ensure they reach the newest fire and safety standards. Cllr Woodley welcomed proposals for two new biodiversity projects.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the scheme for Finance and Corporate Resources and Housing as set out in section 11 be given approval as follows:**

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Property Portfolio Works: Resource and spend approval of **£14,170k (£2,827k in 2023/24, £3,054k in 2024/25, £2,923 in 2025/26, £2,592k in 2026/27 and £2,774k in 2027/28)** is requested to carry out CIPFA recommended remedial works and Fire Risk Assessed compliance works to 21 properties under the leasehold responsibility of the Landlord (Hackney Council).

- 2. That the scheme for Climate, Homes and Economy as set out in section 11 be given approval as follows:**

Grow Back Greener North Marsh Pavilion: Resource and spend approval of **£45k in 2023/24** is requested to fund the improvements to habitat in Hackney Marshes to increase biodiversity around the North Marsh.

Rewild London River Lea Biodiversity Improvement Project: Resource and spend approval of **£63k in 2023/24** is required to fund the increasing biodiversity across Hackney in line with the emerging Local Nature Recovery Plan, creating more wild areas across all parks and green spaces.

Hackney Wick and Fish Island Public Realm Framework: Resource and spend approval of **£70k in 2023/24** is requested to appoint an experienced landscape-led consultant team to develop a Public Realm Framework for Hackney Wick and Fish Island (HWFI) which sets out a vision for HWFI and an approach to implementing a shortlist of deliverable projects in the area.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 23 May 2023 and can be [found here](#).

10 CE S190 Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy - falling rolls

- 10.1 Deputy Mayor Bramble introduced the report by celebrating the improvement in education standards in Hackney and noting that the decision that was being considered was not a reflection of the performance of the schools, but that there were now not enough children seeking places as a result of factors outside the Council's control.
- 10.2 Hackney's schools received funding based on attendance, so each school was now missing out on significant resources which was having an impact on their ability to deliver extracurricular activities and maintain the number of teaching assistants.
- 10.3 Cllr Adebayo asked Cabinet if it was possible to have a better understanding of the costs of keeping the school open or reopening it in the near future; what support would be available for parents and students to deal with any closure; whether there was enough space for special educational needs students at Princess May Primary School; whether it was better to leave the school open in response to the Dalston Plan; whether the consultation would be open to all residents in Dalston, and if the consultation would have an impact on future plans; what the costs of maintenance would be if the school closed; and what the Council's plans would be for the building.
- 10.4 Cllr Garbett asked Cabinet about roll number comparisons and the number of children who would likely move to Princess May from Colvestone; whether a consultation would be about how to close schools rather than whether to close them; whether the term 'merger' was misleading; why Faith schools were not being considered; whether schools being considered have been given an equal opportunity to succeed and if their local contexts have been fully considered; and if the Council is meeting its obligation to consider the medium - long term.
- 10.5 Deputy Mayor Bramble and the Mayor responded to the questions, confirming that;
 - there would still be capacity to accept additional children should demand increase;
 - Cllr Woodley had attended all informal sessions with schools reflecting the importance of ensuring that children with Special Educational Needs (SEND) were supported;
 - Hackney's Education department had given consideration to the support that would be required;

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- there were 10 children at Colvestone and 10 children at Princess May with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP), and Princess May was equipped to accommodate all those children.
- the school had been reflected in the Dalston Plan, but the new housing that was planned would still not bring in enough children to impact demand;
- consultation documents would be made available to all Hackney residents and would be provided in different languages as required;
- there was a categorical commitment that the Council would not sell any of the education sites and certainly not to assist private development.
- none of Hackney's schools had failed, which was why the decision being
- the Council had the power to reduce Published Admissions Numbers (PAN) in schools under its control, but not academies, free schools, or faith schools. For those schools the Council could only make recommendations;
- in September each of Hackney's Roman Catholic schools would move to 1 form entry and the Church of England schools would reduce their PAN by 15 places;
- the term 'merger' was not misleading as one of the proposals was about bringing two school communities together;
- schools had been given an equal opportunity to succeed and Hackney Education had worked closely to provide support;
- if the decision was approved, informal consultation would take place between 5 June and 16 July, 2023;
- the 120 identified spaces at Princess May Primary School would be enough space to accommodate all children who were currently at Colvestone Primary School;
- and the merger would allow children to move to Princess May Primary School as one class.

10.6 The Mayor accepted representations from members of the Save Colvestone Primary School campaign, as listed in 'Others in Attendance', and they raised issues including that 24% of Colvestone Primary School pupils had special educational needs, nearly double the national average; that parents had been disappointed to only have had a one hour meeting to discuss the proposals so far, and that they had received cut and paste responses to correspondence; that closing a school was expensive, especially one that ran a deficit; that Colvestone Primary School was an asset for the borough; and that the process of going through a consultation would have a negative impact on the school.

10.7 The members of the Save Colvestone Primary School campaign asked Cabinet whether the Council could invest some of the additional £5m resource for SEND into Colvestone Primary School; whether financial assumptions had been made that all the pupils in the schools proposed to close would remain in the local authority system, rather than attend an academy, a faith school, or a free school; what the Council expected to learn from continued consultation and engagement; why the impact of the Dalston Plan, and the proposals of 200 new affordable family homes, were not fully accounted for; what the difference between short – mid term demand and mid - long term demand was; whether the Council would consider removing a school from the list of mergers and closures, and what would need to be demonstrated to be removed; what considerations had been made regarding the impact on Hackney's wider plans of the decision to close the school, and what other options were considered; and what plans were in place to help the schools overcome the negative impacts of the consultation process.

10.8 Deputy Mayor Bramble, the Mayor, and Cllr Woodley responded confirming that;

- the conversations that had been undertaken so far had been pre-engagement meetings, and that the decision being proposed was part one of a three part process that would, if agreed, see informal consultation begin;
- the pre-engagement conversations were designed to ensure parents did not hear about proposed changes to the school estate through the local press, or when a proposed decision was about to be made;
- the informal consultation would allow a structured approach and ensure all questions were picked up and all parents were heard;
- interventions that had been tried, including mixed classes, staff restructures, and reducing the number of children who could attend schools, had failed to mitigate the financial pressure in Hackney's school system;
- parents who were unsatisfied with the responses they had received could contact Deputy Mayor Bramble;
- Hackney had a high proportion of special educational needs across all its schools;
- the Council was committed to supporting children with special educational needs and had made a commitment to create 300 additional SEND places;
- the Council's ambition was to make all schools inclusive, and the £5m additional funding for SEND was capital development funding;
- the proposals were not being put forward in the hope of financial benefits, but because not doing anything would mean some schools would no longer be financially sustainable;
- the Council recognised parental choice, and that some parents would choose to take their children from outside of the Hackney school system. However, this was not a Hackney issue, but a London issue, and there would be no guarantee that other similar decisions would not be made elsewhere;
- a free school in Lambeth had provided parents with only three months' notice of their intention to close;
- the Council had an ambitious home building plan, but even the new homes planned in Dalston would not bring in enough children to impact school place demand as there would be enough capacity in the rest of the estate;
- the Council had a school place surplus of 22% in the borough, and in De Beauvoir, Dalston, Haggerston, Hackney Downs, where the schools were located, the plans for substantial housing growth did not create enough demand in the short, medium, and long term;
- In 2015 Colvestone Primary School had 207 children, in 2027 that was projected to be just over 100 children.
- to be removed from the proposed list a school would have to demonstrate a sustainable long term plan of funding and an increase in the number of children attending. The schools referred to in the report were in scope because they weren't able to demonstrate that financial sustainability;
- any solution could not be one that only worked for one school, but work for the other schools in scope, the wider system;
- conversations were had with the Blossom Federation to possibly put some additional support in place at Colvestone Primary School and the Council

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had provided the school with some financial support to help tackle the deficit;

- and if a decision was made to keep the schools open the Council would have to find the resource to provide the financial support that would be required and also identify what would also need to be done differently in our school system.

10.9 The Mayor and Deputy Mayor Bramble thanked parents for their attendance, their questions, and their submission.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approve that informal consultations are carried out on the:

- 1. Proposed closure of De Beauvoir Primary School from September 2024.**
- 2. Proposed closure of Randal Cremer Primary School from September 2024.**
- 3. Proposed merger/amalgamation of Colvestone Primary School and Princess May Primary School, onto the Princess May site from September 2024.**
- 4. Proposed merger/amalgamation of Baden Powell Primary School and Nightingale Primary School, onto the Nightingale site from September 2024.**

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 23 May 2023, and can be [found here](#).

11 CHE S162 Adoption of Climate Action Plan

- 11.1 The Mayor thanked Officers for their work and highlighted that the Climate Action Plan (CAP) represented the ambition the Council had in relation to the Climate Emergency and the Green New Deal for Hackney, but also reflected that its ambitions wouldn't be delivered without contributions from our communities and Hackney's civic society.
- 11.2 Cllr Garbett welcomed the report and asked Cabinet how they saw the CAP changing decision making in the Council; whether accepting the Climate Emergency declaration had changed any decisions; and about plans regarding Pension investments.
- 11.3 In response the Mayor confirmed that the Climate Emergency declaration had pushed the Council to go beyond the targets that existed in 2018 and highlighted the work of the Council on bike and EV infrastructure, community energy, and the introduction of the fortnightly collection of residual waste. The Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service confirmed the Pension Fund had a target of reducing its exposure to fossil fuel reserves by

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50%, but it had reduced its exposure by over 90%. The new policy was to be carbon free and to seek positive investment into renewable and biodiverse opportunities.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To approve the final Climate Action Plan attached as Appendix 1 for adoption;**
- 2. To delegate authority to the Group Director for Climate, Homes and Economy to make amendments to the Climate Action Plan as necessary.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 23 May 2023, which can be [found here](#).

12 Officer Key Decision CHE S194 Wick Road - Road Safety and Public Realm Scheme

RESOLVED:

- 1. Cabinet is recommended to note this report.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 23 May 2023, which can be [found here](#).

13 Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies

RESOLVED:

- 1. Agree the appointment of the Councillors on behalf of the Council to Outside Bodies on behalf as listed at Appendix 1.**
- 2. Note the appointments made by the Mayor to Outside Bodies on behalf of the Council as listed in Appendix 1.**

14 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED: THAT the press and public be excluded from the proceedings of the Cabinet during consideration of Exempt items 15 - 16 on the agenda on the grounds that it is likely, in the view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that were members of the public to be present, there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

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15 CE S190 Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy - falling rolls - Exempt Appendices

15.1 The Cabinet agreed that no further consideration of the exempt appendices in relation to agenda item 10 were required.

16 New items of Exempt Urgent Business

16.1 There were no new exempt items for consideration.

Duration of the meeting: 6.00pm – 8.04pm