

London Borough of Hackney
Council
Municipal Year 2018/19
Date of Meeting Wednesday, 18th July, 2018

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

**Councillors in
Attendance:**

Mayor Philip Glanville, Cllr Kam Adams, Cllr Brian Bell,
Cllr Polly Billington, Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble,
Cllr Jon Burke, Cllr Sophie Cameron, Cllr Robert Chapman,
Cllr Ajay Chauhan, Cllr Mete Coban, Deputy Mayor
Feryal Demirci, Cllr Michael Desmond, Cllr Sade Etti,
Cllr Humaira Garasia, Cllr Margaret Gordon,
Cllr Michelle Gregory, Cllr Katie Hanson, Cllr Ben Hayhurst,
Cllr Ned Hercock, Cllr Clare Joseph,
Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Klein, Cllr Alex Kuye,
Cllr Richard Lufkin, Cllr Anna Lynch, Cllr Yvonne Maxwell,
Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, Cllr Anthony McMahon,
Cllr Sem Moema, Cllr Guy Nicholson, Cllr Harvey Odze,
Cllr Deniz Oguzkanli, Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Sam Pallis,
Cllr Benzion Papier, Cllr Sharon Patrick, Cllr Emma Plouviez,
Cllr Steve Race, Cllr Ian Rathbone, Cllr Rebecca Rennison,
Cllr Anna-Joy Rickard, Cllr Caroline Selman,
Cllr Nick Sharman, Cllr Gilbert Smyth, Cllr Peter Snell,
Cllr Patrick Spence, Cllr Simche Steinberger,
Cllr Vincent Stops, Cllr Carole Williams and
Cllr Caroline Woodley

Apologies:

Cllr Soraya Adejare, Cllr Sophie Conway, Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Michael Levy, Cllr James Peters and
Cllr Jessica Webb

Officer Contact:

Emma Perry, Governance Services

Councillor Clare Potter [Speaker] in the Chair

1 Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Billington, Conway, Adejare, Peters, Webb, Levy and Councillors Spence and Williams for lateness.

2 Speaker's Announcements

2.1 The speaker expressed her gratitude for the support she received from Councillor Adams for Pride, Hackney Mini Marathon, Cycle around the Borough, the equalities tea party. She told Council that she was raising money for 3 charities. There was to be a walking tour on 8 September, a quiz on 11 October and cricket fundraiser event.

3 Declarations of Interest

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4 Minutes of the previous meeting

4.1 Councillors Odze and Steinberger told Council that they had received the agenda and papers for the meeting on the previous Friday and had not received the usual electronic notification communication. They queried if the five clear days' notice had been given. The Director of Legal Services and Governance confirmed that the requisite notice had been given.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 May 2018 be approved as a correct record.

5 Questions from Members of the Public

5.1 Question from Muriel Gordon MBE to the Cabinet Member for Housing Services:

As Ms Gordon was unable to be present at the meeting, the speaker read out the question as follows:

'In light of Grenfell, what enforcement is taking place to ensure tenures, other than tenants, produce current gas certificates for inspection each year? Many will not take up the option that the Council is arranging so there is an on-going risk to all residents as we have mixed tenure blocks'.

The written response is below:

- The Council agrees in principal to mandatory gas safety checks and is committed to working towards a position where we can provide additional assurance to residents that we are maintaining the fire integrity of all our estates.
- Under the Gas Safety regulations landlords must arrange for an annual gas safety check to be carried out every 12 months by a Gas Safe registered engineer, unfortunately there is no legal requirement for a leaseholder or freeholder to carry out the same annual checks.
- Hackney's rules and regulations do require leaseholders and freeholders to have annual gas safety check, but we do not specify that they need to provide us, as the landlord, with a copy of this certificate.
- In 2013 legal advice was sought to see if we could enforce leaseholders and freeholders to provide a gas safety certificate. The advice at the time was that the council had no authority to enforce the production of a gas safe certificate.
- However we have been advised by our legal team this week that the standard RTB lease can be amended to include a provision to impose a requirement for leaseholders to provide a CP12 to the council.

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- As legal advice does support us enforcing the production of gas certificates on new leases then LBH would look at implementing this requirement from September 2019
- This will allow us to implement a suitable system and have adequate resources to collect the information.
- In respect of existing leases an application to vary existing leases can be made and this is being progressed via the litigation team in legal services who would deal with such an application.
- Further discussion with housing services and legal will need to be held to discuss how to enforce the requirement but this is likely to be done by way of an injunction.
- Following these discussions work will begin on amending the existing leases from April 2019.
- The council has also been given the support of the London Fire Brigade in its leaseholder/freeholder gas certificate enforcement.
- We have canvassed other local authorities to see if anyone else is enforcing gas safety certificates across all homes, to date we have not found anyone that has taken this approach.
- From previous experience I am aware that this is something that some councils have considered but found it difficult to implement.
- In the interim we will be contacting leaseholders and freeholders to ask if they would provide a copy of their gas safe certificate on a voluntary basis however with more than 8,000 leasehold properties and 1,300 freehold properties this task will take resources and time to complete.
- This work will also commence in September 2018
- The council is very committed to working with residents and enforcing bodies to implement the production of gas safe certificates for all homes.
- The resident safety team is also working with communications to highlight the need for a gas safety certificate via various communications channels, including social media, through the council's website as well as our newspaper and housing insert, in order reinforce the council's position with regards to our rules and regulations.
- This approach also gives the council the ability to work with residents in a meaningful way to improve safety for all residents with the introduction of mandatory gas checks.
- We will begin our campaign to encourage gas certificates in Hackney today next week.

5.2 Question from Christopher Sills to the Mayor:

‘Would you agree with me that the original agreement for Woodberry Down negotiated in 2006 is now in urgent need of renegotiation, because the passage of time is increasingly causing hardship for individuals, by increasing the amount of social housing being provided, but without increasing the overall density as that would cause further problems.’

Response:

Mayor Glanville stated that he had repeatedly made clear to Mr Sills, both at previous Full Council meetings and in written responses, that the Council had already renegotiated the agreement with Berkeley Homes, Notting Hill Genesis and local residents to ensure that the maximum number of affordable homes could be delivered, and a new masterplan had been agreed in 2014.

It was not accepted that by delivering more social homes that local people desperately needed that the Council is causing hardship. The Council had worked very closely with the Woodberry Down Community Organisation, led by residents, to make sure that the Council had been delivering responsible regeneration that brought benefits to the local people.

Mayor Glanville outlined the benefits that regeneration at Woodberry Down had already achieved: more than 1,500 new homes already completed and more than half for social rent and shared ownership; a new community centre; the reopening of the stunning Woodberry Wetlands for the first time in nearly 200 years; new play facilities; a new secondary school; a refurbished primary school; and better youth provision.

The Council planned to deliver hundreds more new homes over the next few years, as well as working with local people to design the next phases of the regeneration.

It was emphasised that any further increase in density at Woodberry Down would only be permitted if there was a corresponding increase not only in the number of genuinely affordable homes delivered, but also an increase in payments by the developer to help deliver improved education and health facilities alongside other community benefits.

Mayor Glanville stated that a long-term project like this would always have challenges and opportunities along the way, but the Council had always made clear that this was an equal partnership and that any changes would be agreed and accepted by all.

Suggestions for any alternative would be welcomed at a time when the government was providing no funding to Councils to build social housing. While Government was on its eighth housing minister in eight years, this Council would continue with the business of building the genuinely affordable homes Hackney's residents deserved.

6 Questions from Members of the Council

6.1 Question from Councillor Steinberger of the Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care, Transport and Parks

In the light of the cabinet member's reaction to TfL's decision to curtail the 277 bus route, the pre-election face saving exercise that the executive tried to pass off as a

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consultation on the future of public transport in Hackney and the inability of the Labour group to act in the best interests of Hackney residents when confronted with a perfectly sensible motion calling for pressure to be brought on TfL to restore the 73 bus to its original and logical route from Tottenham to Victoria, what does the cabinet member intend to actually do to assist those Hackney residents who rely on buses to go about their daily business, in particular those in the north of the borough who since the curtailment of the 73 have to take two or three buses to reach destinations which they formerly could get to on one bus all the way.

Response

Councillor Demirci told Council that the Labour Party had exerted much more opposition to the curtailment of the 73 bus route than the opposition. She confirmed that Boris Johnson's administration had cut the 73 bus route, with no thought given to the financial burden on residents that this had caused. Councillor Demirci told Council that the 73 bus route was a lifeline for residents and confirmed that the Labour Party would continue to fight the cuts regardless of who was in City Hall. She went on to refer to 700m cuts to the London transport grant affecting numbers of buses in London. This had most effect on low wage workers. A survey seeking views on this had taken place between February and April 2018. Comments made were being analysed and would be used as evidence.

Councillor Steinberger stressed the need to work together to retain local buses.

Councillor Demirci reiterated that the cut to the 73 bus route was made under the Boris Johnson administration and that the Conservatives had been lobbied on investment in the Borough.

Councillor Odze stated that he had discussed with Councillor Stops his concerns regarding bus route 73 and other bus services.

Councillor Demirci told Council that the matter had not been raised with her by opposition councillors as Cabinet Member and that Labour Councillors had raised the issue. The announcement had gone out that TfL would stop the Stamford Hill service. Conservatives had had much time to lobby on this.

6.2 Question from Councillor Harvey Odze to the Mayor

Following the High Court awarding an interim payment of £68,000 costs against the Senior Coroner for Inner North London, payable by Camden Council, one quarter to be reimbursed by Hackney. I would like to thank the Mayor for his cross party support to families affected by her unlawful policy. Even as we sit here she is formulating a new protocol to attempt to circumvent the court's decision and cause further unnecessary pain and anguish to relatives of Jewish and Muslim deceased, consequently I would like to invite the Mayor to use his good offices to support those people of all and no faiths who wish to see her dismissal and may I further invite the Mayor to join the campaign to bring pressure on the government to instigate a root and branch review of the Coroner system in England and Wales, which should aim, amongst other things, to bring its governance into line with the rest of the judicial system, provide a formal procedure for an emergency out of hours coroners service and ensure that there is no taxation without representation.

Response

Mayor Glanville told Council that he welcomed the cross party and cross borough approach to this issue. He stressed the importance of supporting the work to end discrimination and distress caused, stating that public services should reflect the diverse people that use them - by accommodating the needs and requirements of different communities and religious groups. Mayor Glanville echoed the statement given by Marie van Zyl, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews: "residents deserve a senior coroner they can rely on not to needlessly waste taxpayers' money and to treat all residents fairly." He told Council that efforts had been made to contact the coroner several times in advance of the high court case, and again during the hearing.

Mayor Glanville told Council that he had taken part in a meeting with Camden Council on this matter and that Councillor Abdul Hai in that Council had confirmed that he would be writing to the Lord Chancellor requesting that costs be reimbursed in full, a course of action that he supported. He said that he was disappointed that public funds had gone towards paying the legal costs of the Coroner.

Mayor Glanville welcomed the fact that there had been a public meeting on this matter. He stated that at this time the Council was not requesting a 'root and branch review', but recognised that this option should be kept open.

Councillor Odze referred to the fact that the Coroner was not changing her position and called on the Mayor to push for her dismissal. Mayor Glanville told Council that it was not for him to ask for a public official to be dismissed but recognised the need for change.

6.3 Question from Councillor Harvey Odze to the Cabinet Member for education, young people and children's social care

What effect does the Cabinet member think there would be on Hackney's schools and the borough's finances if we suddenly had to find extra school places for thousands of children between the ages of 5 and 18.

Response

Deputy Mayor Bramble told Council that Hackney Council took its duties in placing children in its schools very seriously. Hackney had very good schools and demand on school places was high. She told Council that if necessary, Officers would work with Members on this, looking at options, including staggering lunch/assembly and considering how the Council works with schools in neighbouring boroughs. Places would initially be provided at schools with vacancies. If this did not meet demand, existing schools could be expanded or new ones opened through the routes available at the time for the receipt of Capital to fund the school.

Deputy Mayor Bramble told Council that any additional funding required is set aside at the beginning of the financial year through the Growth Fund to provide for planned increases in roll the following September. The funding of a sudden increase in extra places was outside of the Dedicated School's Grant and the liability would need to be met from a core budget.

Councillor Odze expressed concern at what he called Ofsted's anti-faith campaign, impacting negatively on Jewish and Muslim schools, leaving parents with only options

to leave or to educate illegally. Deputy Mayor Bramble confirmed that these faith schools were part of the schools of Hackney and that the Council fostered equality and diversity.

6.4 Question from Councillor Brian Bell to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety

Further to previous questions to Council, and to local ward forums held in Brownswood, could the Cabinet Member for Community Safety update us on whether measures to alleviate the effects of large events held in Finsbury Park have been successful, and will she and the Mayor consider making direct representation to LB Haringey if these measures are not proving effective?

Response:

Councillor Selman replied that the Council had worked closely with residents to ensure that their concerns about events in Finsbury Park were heard at the highest levels through public Ward Forums, senior level meetings and resident working groups and working with Council officers to identify practical ways to improve the situation for Hackney residents.

As part of the preparations for the events, the Managing Director of Festival Republic and officers from Haringey had met with residents at Ward Forum meetings. In these meetings Festival Republic recognised that the events had caused significant public nuisance issues for Hackney residents and had committed to increasing the number of security staff to around 85 each day.

In addition, the Council's Parking Services extended Zone G parking restrictions for each day and had parking enforcement officers patrolling each day.

Resident meetings were also held each day to allow feedback directly from residents to those managing the event in order to address issues raised for the following night. The Council was now in the process of collating residents' feedback, which would feed into a wider debriefing session scheduled in September with Haringey and Festival Republic.

Based on the feedback received from residents to date, it was noted that there had been notable improvements in the management of the festival from previous years but significant concerns remained.

Haringey Council had recently received an application for the Review of Festival Republic's licence and Hackney Council would be submitting a response to this review by 2 August 2018.

Councillor Selman stated that she would be meeting with officers to review the details of the weekend in the coming weeks and would take forward the issues with Haringey Council and Festival Republic.

Supplementary questions

Councillor Bell expressed concern that the festivals were affecting residents of Hackney including those in Brownswood and requested that pressure continue to be exerted on Haringey Council to resolve these issues. Councillor Odze added that it

was necessary to address these issues as many events were held at the park and were causing a nuisance for residents.

Councillor Selman responded that provisions had been made for recent events however, it was the responsibility of the licensee to monitor noise levels in the park and that she was still awaiting the findings of a monitoring exercise that had been undertaken.

6.5 Question from Councillor Sophie Cameron to the Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care, Transport and Parks

‘Will the Cabinet member for Health Transport and Parks join with me in welcoming the recent announcement by the Mayor of London that the Ultra Low Emissions Zone will be expanded up to the North and South circular roads from 25 October 2021 and therefore that Hackney will be included within the zone. These bold measures will deliver a major improvement to Londoners health by reducing the toxic air quality that is currently responsible for thousands of premature deaths and other serious conditions. Research demonstrates these effects disproportionately impact the poorest Londoners. Expanding the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) beyond central London and introducing these strict standards for heavy vehicles across London will result in more than 100,000 Londoners no longer living in areas exceeding legal air quality limits in 2021, a reduction of nearly 80 per cent compared to without expansion.

Can the Cabinet member highlight other measures that Hackney Council are taking to improve air quality in the Borough and particularly in the ward I represent, Clissold ward.’

Response:

Councillor Demirci responded that she welcomed the announcement on the ULEZ expansion to North & South circular. Councillor Demirci along with four other inner London borough colleagues began lobbying for the expansion in 2013 before the central London ULEZ plans were announced.

The Council was delighted that the Mayor of London had been bolder than his predecessor in his proposals to tackle the very serious health impacts of road vehicle-related air pollution through the introduction of the toughest emission standard of any world city.

Hackney had lobbied for a London-wide scheme rather than a North/South circular boundary. Whilst air quality was a significant issue in Inner London there were still wider failures of the air quality policy in Outer London and it was predicted overall transport-related emissions would decrease for a London wide scheme.

Councillor Demirci believed that the Mayor of London had taken a bold step but requested that he go further and ensure that the emission standards for the ULEZ set for London should meet the National Air Quality Objective. Hackney’s current Air Quality Action Plan and Transport Strategy had seen a variety of high profile initiatives implemented across the borough including:

- **Emission based parking permits**

- **Hackney's Fleet Project** -The Council had been undertaking a programme of fleet replacements to the minimum emission standards or replacing vehicles with fully electric models to meet higher emissions standards.
- **Zero Emission Network** -. ZEN had delivered over 700 incentives to businesses and 300 to residents including electric van trials, Santander cycle hire credits and grants to help reduce businesses impact on air quality.
- **Electric Vehicle infrastructure** - Hackney had expanded the electric vehicle charging network to support the uptake of electric vehicles with 43 source London charge points and more lamp column charge points.
- **Implementing the City Fringe Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN)**
- **Neighbourhoods of the Future (NoF)** scheme had committed to delivering at least six Electric Streets, and Hackney would be implementing the UK's first Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) street.
- **Schools Air Quality Project** - Since 2016 the Council had monitored air quality at more than 50 schools and was working with the schools to mitigate air pollution.
- **Car Parking Zone (CPZ) projects** – this project had been implemented across most of the borough

6.6 Question from Councillor Tom Rahilly to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing Needs

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing Needs update members on work ahead of Universal Credit implementation in Hackney in October?

Response:

Councillor Rennison replied that Universal Credit (UC) would replace six working age means tested benefits and was the biggest change in recent years to the Benefits system. UC would be implemented in Hackney and the Council would ensure that its residents were given the support necessary. It was important to note that residents would move to UC when they made a new claim.

The migration process of all benefit claimants would start late 2019 until 2023 with no indication provided by government yet on how this would be managed. However, the Council would be undertaking a wider communications campaign to accompany the roll-out to raise awareness amongst residents, Council staff and partners around the key elements of the UC and what this would mean for residents. The Council would be communicating this message through a variety of methods including the Council's website, Hackney Today, newsletters, direct communications with residents through the use of key documents, social media and engaging at community events such as the Hackney Carnival in September 2018.

One of the major risks for residents, the Council and housing providers was the move to make the majority of tenants responsible for paying their rent. UC would be paid a month in arrears which could mean that those who had no problem paying their rent currently could face difficulties in the future.

Therefore the Council would be working with tenants so that they knew the importance of paying their rent and also provide support in managing finances properly and access to free advice and guidance including budgeting and banking. The implementation of UC could create a greater need to support residents with complex needs. Therefore the Housing team would be identifying potentially vulnerable

customers and making personal contact with them to ensure they understand UC and its implications.

UC also posed a risk for vulnerable groups such as women living in refuges as they could no longer make a dual claim.

The Council would continue to campaign for further changes to be made to Universal Credit so that the system provided support to the most vulnerable residents that an effective welfare system should.

6.7 Question from Councillor Sharon Patrick to the Cabinet Member for Housing

Can the Cabinet Member for Housing update the council on fire safety works to its properties?

Response:

The Mayor responded that following the tragic events at Grenfell Tower the Council had responded with a number of actions including:

- Enhanced Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) checks and publishing Hackney's FRAs online demonstrating its commitment to transparency and accountability.
- Carried out new FRAs
- All cladding on blocks and estates in Hackney had been tested and cladding had been removed from Hugh Gaitskill and work was being undertaken to remove cladding from Lincoln Court.
- Regular updates were being provided to residents through direct communications online and by post and Hackney Today. A letter would be issued outlining the programme of works when they have been agreed.
- Continue to manage the retro-installation of sprinklers at 355 Queensbridge and are making frequent site visits
- The continuation of the Council's programme of testing flat front doors and awaiting the full results from the latest batch sent to the laboratory
- Ensured that all Hackney's tower blocks were fitted with dry risers and that they were in working condition
- A new team dedicated to managing the FRA programme had been set up to manage the challenges ahead including responsibility for new 'Type 3' assessments and ensuring the recommendations from last year's published FRAs were delivered.
- Also ensuring residents were aware of their obligations in relation to fire safety are.
- Hackney would continue to lobby the government regarding building controls and regulatory reform clarity
- Hackney required proper funding from the central government for the fire safety works and the freedoms to fund these works without affecting other programmes.

7 Elected Mayor's Statement

7.1 Mayor Glanville told Council that the community strategy was the culmination of a three year journey with engagement with residents who, he said, loved Hackney but had concerns about such matters as crime, gentrification and change, with some residents feeling 'left behind'. This had laid the foundation for a new Hackney strategy that demonstrated the Council's ambition to tackle the challenges that face its'

residents, working with these residents and building on partnership work. Mayor Glanville commended all officers and Councillors involved in the preparation of the strategy.

7.2 Mayor Glanville told Council that he had attended a number of events in the Borough, including street parties, celebrated the 10th anniversary of Bridge Academy, and the first ever 'fantastic' Hackney Kid's Carnival.

7.3 Mayor Glanville told Council that he had celebrated the 70th birthday of the National Health Service, founded on the principle that, "illness is neither an indulgence for which people have to pay, nor an offence for which they should be penalised, but a misfortune, the cost of which should be shared by the community." He referred to the NHS as a fantastic post-war institution and confirmed that the Labour Party would continue to fight for healthcare free at the point of use. He thanked the people at the heart of NHS for the service that they provide and Cabinet Members for their work on Health and Social Care. He went on to thank residents who contributed to an innovative co-production model of social care alongside the NHS.

7.4 Mayor Glanville referred to the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the arrival of Windrush and hoped that members across the political divide would vote in favour of the motion before Council, calling on the Government to end the 'hostile environment' policy and criminalising a generation of people who had worked hard for this country. This sends a message that Hackney is a welcoming and open borough that celebrates the contribution of immigrants and the Windrush generation.

7.5 He told Council that he was also proud of the renewed commitment to tackling hate crime at Monday's Cabinet meeting. Adopting this strategy made a clear and strong statement that Hackney was no place for hate. Building a place for everyone also started by giving the Borough's young people the best start in life.

7.6 Mayor Glanville referred to the two reports on the meeting's agenda, responding to Scrutiny Commissions as part of being a transparent borough. In the Hackney's Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission report into unregistered educational settings, the response to Council set out its' determination to deliver a safe, secure and suitable education environment for all its children and young people. He thanked Cllr Chris Kennedy for his hard-work as the Scrutiny Chair that commissioned the investigation. Mayor Glanville told Council of the update on the Council's retention of foster carers as part of the manifesto promise to expand the number of foster carers and provide improved bespoke training to support them.

7.7 The Mayor told Council that he had sent a letter to the eighth housing minister in eight years, emphasising the need to build more houses. He said that no one in Government had taken on the challenge of reform and solving the housing crisis. Meanwhile, the Council had a number of housing initiatives underway such as at Kings Crescent. He told Council that at Cabinet on Monday he had introduced a Capital Update paper that introduced where the Council received grants to innovate the planning service and discharge social care using digital systems. The report also outlined where we have received grants to innovate our planning service and social care using digital systems.

7.8 Mayor Glanville stated that the Tories could not even agree the summer holidays. Theresa May was on her way out of power and was injuring business. He said that it was clear now, more than ever, that Labour, led by Jeremy Corbyn, was a government in waiting.

7.9 Councillor Steinberger started by congratulating the English football team on their successes in the world cup. He welcomed Joe Betsworth and Gordon Bell, Freeman of the Borough to the meeting. Councillor Steinberger told Council that he was impressed by the joint workings between the parties on the current difficulties with the Coroner. He went on to refer to the tragedy of the death of a 20 year young man in his ward. Councillor Steinberger sought clarification on who would be deputy in the mayor's absence. He asked for cross party discussion on the Budget for 2019/20.

7.10 Mayor Glanville told Council that he had embraced the World Cup and the fantastic atmosphere that surrounded it and had ensured that the St Georges flag was flying over the Town Hall during the event. He went on to welcome Joe Betsworth to the chamber. He confirmed that there was now a statutory Deputy Mayor and a Deputy Mayor in the Borough and the diversity of his Cabinet. He referred to the tragic death of the 20 year old man in the Springfield ward and the need to learn lessons from this and to have effective working relations with relevant agencies such as the NHS and other partners.

7.11 The Mayor hoped that Cllr Steinberger's offer was genuine and indicated that he would be willing to take a cross party approach on the Budget 2019/20 and the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources would also be available to discuss the budget.

8 Report from Cabinet: Community Strategy Report

8.1 The tabled paper amending recommendation 3.1 was circulated at the meeting.

8.2 Councillor Selman introduced the Hackney's Community Strategy 2018-2028, which set out the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for promoting and improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of Hackney for the next ten years. The strategy had been developed in consultation with the local people and organisations over the last three years.

8.3 Councillor Selman emphasised that Hackney had undergone significant changes over the past fifteen years and the borough's public services and schools had gone from the worst to amongst the best in the country. It was noted that Hackney still had unacceptable high levels of poverty and the community strategy would address the challenges of delivering affordable housing, local spaces, minimising climate change and setting of broader challenges.

RESOLVED:

That Council approves and adopts the Hackney Community Strategy 2018-2028

9 Executive Response to Scrutiny Report on Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers

9.1 Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble introduced the report of the Commission on recruitment and retention of foster carers that she had worked on with Councillor Christopher Kennedy. As part of this work she had spoken to foster carers and young people about their experiences. She confirmed that a broad programme existed that would benefit young person's staying with foster carers, while attending university. 'Staying put' arrangements were in place for a young person of a certain age, when they have to pay the foster carers to stay. A new strategy would be launched with a new training programme. She paid tribute to the work of foster carers and stressed the importance of a Hackney for everyone, opening homes to children with difficulties.

RESOLVED:

To note the Commission's report on Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers and the response from the Executive.

10 Executive Response to Scrutiny Report into Unregistered Educational Settings

10.1 Councillor Bramble, Deputy Mayor, introduced the executive response to the report of the Scrutiny Commission carrying out an investigation into unregistered educational settings in Hackney following concerns around safety, safeguarding and the quality of education provided in such settings. Councillor Bramble welcomed the report and ensuring that all children and young people in educational settings have the same protections and access to high quality education as other children in Hackney.

10.2 Councillor Bramble thanked officers for their work on the report and the Local Government Association for assisting in the setting up of a conference on unregistered educational settings including private tuition.

10.3 Councillor Kennedy thanked the Mayor, Councillor Bramble, former Councillors Jacobson and Sharer, Rabbi Pinter and the partner organisations for their contribution to the review and indicated that he would welcome participation from Conservative Group Councillors in the Council's scrutiny reviews.

10.4 Councillor Steinberger indicated that Conservative Members would like to participate on the Council's Scrutiny Commissions but Members believed they were undervalued and not offered appropriate positions on the Commissions.

10.5 Councillor Odze welcomed the report and expressed concern that Ofsted's actions in relation to unregistered educational settings were having a detrimental impact on the existing educational system.

10.6 Councillors Gordon and Bramble emphasised that they wanted Conservative Councillors to engage and contribute in the Council's Commissions reviews and would welcome discussions with the group following the meeting. Councillor Bramble indicated that she would be willing to discuss with Conservative Group concerns regarding religious education within unregistered education settings and reiterated that the education delivered in such settings must be of a high quality

RESOLVED:

To note the Commission's report into Unregistered Educational Settings and the response from the Executive.

11 Report of the Licensing Committee: Statement of Licensing Policy

11.1 Councillor Emma Plouviez introduced the report. She emphasised that the policy was not restrictive but set guidelines for licensed premises in the Borough and that it would encourage new business. The proposed policy and the decision to extend the Shoreditch Special Policy Area was evidence based following consultation with residents, evidence of a proliferation of intoxicated people, violence and anti-social behaviour in the area, with an unsure economic impact. Councillor Plouviez stressed that the Council wished to encourage a diverse range of activities in the area and that the policy must balance the needs of the business community and residents and that the proposed policy would deliver and underpin this. She said that a large number of independent businesses operated in the Borough and that the proposed licensing policy would not change this.

11.2 Councillor Caroline Selman thanked Councillor Plouviez for the work that had gone into the development of the licensing policy, including evidence gathering. She stressed that this was not a blanket policy but ensured that the Council had the tools to tackle public nuisance. She referred to the fantastic night life in the Borough but that this did impact on the lives of residents. It was important to strike the right balance and she considered that the proposed policy achieved this. Councillor Selman told Council that she was aware of residents' concerns in the areas they live. She was aware that the area was developing and that this fact would justify an early review of the proposed licensing policy. However, it was also necessary to give the policy time to embed. She told Council that the Council's enforcement service had been restructured with a broader remit. Practical steps were taken to mitigate noise. The Council had taken all responses into account and had taken other routes of engagement. There was a clear understanding of the need for a balanced licensing policy.

11.3 Councillor Kam Adams thanked all those involved in the preparation of the plan including Councillors Selman and Plouviez. He told Council that he represented the Shoreditch area and that the night time economy came at a cost. He confirmed that Licensees would have to demonstrate that their premises were well managed.

11.4 Councillor Desmond told Council that he had received a large number of emails from concerned residents in the area and that they now had firm assurance that there would be flexibility and a licensing policy that was fit for purpose. He confirmed that each licensing application would be considered on its own individual merits and that there would not be a blanket policy. Further, the night time economy, which he was proud of, should be supported, together with businesses. He stressed the need to take account of the needs of residents whilst ensuring that people could also have a good time.

11.5 Councillor Harvey Odze stated that the Council supported big business in the Borough whilst small businesses and start-ups could not compete.

11.6 Councillor Papier referred to the contents of the leaflet 'We love Hackney' and that there were restaurants closing down at 10am, giving into the idea that larger organisations could operate while other small organisations could not. He stated that

there was noise problem in the Borough and that the Council's noise unit was insufficiently staffed, with only two officers dealing with cases on Saturday. He said that the vast majority of people were against the proposals during the consultation and that the Council was not listening to the people.

11.7 Councillor Brian Bell referred to the fact that Hackney had the biggest concentration of licensed premises in the country. He added that the Licensing Sub-Committee was very rigorous in its approach to considering licensing applications at its hearings.

11.8 Mayor Glanville told Council that he had moved to Shoreditch and had taken advantage of the night time economy but upon being elected as a local councillor reflected on casework and regular meetings of the Shoreditch Neighbourhood Panel who wanted to see the introduction of the Special Policy Area and a balance between the needs of business and those of local residents. Mayor Glanville confirmed that the Council did not wish to see a stifling of new business or the night time economy and stressed that the Labour Party supported independent business, a fact made clear in the manifesto. He concluded by saying that he supported a night time economy with a well-managed town centre.

RESOLVED:

1. To approve the proposed Policy at Appendix 1 to be published, effective from 1 August 2018.
2. To note the report on the Statutory Consultation at Appendix 2
3. To note the Cumulative Impact Assessment at Appendix 3 of the report.
4. To note the Behaviour Audit at Appendix 4
5. To note the Cost Benefit Analysis at Appendix 5 of the report.
6. To note the Equalities Impact Assessment at Appendix 6 of the report.
7. To authorise the Group Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing to make any non-substantive changes to the Policy as appropriate before approval by Full Council.

12 Report of the Licensing Committee: Resolution not to issue Casino Premises Licence under the Gambling Act 2005

12.1 Councillor Selman introduced the report proposing a resolution not to issue casino licences under the Gambling Act 2005 for a further period not exceeding three years. The borough suffered high levels of deprivation and having casino premises would not be in residents' interest.

12.2 Councillor Odze fully supported the recommendation and welcomed this measure discouraging betting companies due to the harmful effect of gambling and addiction.

12.3 Councillor Selman welcomed the support and asked that the Conservative Group also apply pressure on central government to bring forward the proposals in relation to gambling machines.

RESOLVED:

To not issue casino premises licences under the Gambling Act 2005 for a further period not exceeding three years effective from 31 January 2019 given the characteristics of the Borough and following the recommendation of the Licensing Committee.

13 Standards Committee Annual Report 2017/18

13.1 Deputy Mayor Bramble introduced the report. She told Council that this had been her second year as chair and she welcomed the opposition party to serve on the Committee.

RESOLVED:

To note the Standards Committee's Annual Report for 2017/18 at appendix 1 of the report.

14 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017-18

14.1 Councillor Hayhurst presented the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18 and provided a brief outline of the activities undertaken and impact of the four themed Scrutiny Commissions. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission's review of unregistered educational setting, Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission's work looking into supporting adult Carers, Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission's work in providing public reassurance following the Grenfell Tower tragedy and Working in Hackney Scrutiny Commission's review on Future World of Work and Skills.

14.2 The work of the commissions would elevate the quality of debates and he thanked officers for facilitating this work.

RESOLVED:

To note the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2017-18

15 Report of the Chief Executive: Members' Allowances Scheme 2018/2019

15.1 Tim Shields, Chief Executive, introduced the report. He told Council that the report recommended a 2% uplift in Members' allowance and referred Council to the recommendation at page 686 of the Council papers.

15.2 Councillor Steinberger referred to the redistribution of the allowance in previous years and asked that the allocation be reconsidered as the membership balance had changed and there was no Liberal Democrat Leader position. The Chief Executive confirmed that he would request Rodney Brookes to review the scheme following the suggestion with a report back to a future meeting of Council.

15.3 Councillor Harvey Odze opposed the recommendation, considering it invidious for members to vote on their own allowance.

15.4 Mayor Glanville told Council that he shared some concerns with Councillor Odze. He stated that there was no change to the underlying scheme and that the 2% uplift in members allowance was in line with the local government agreement for 2018/19.

Votes:

For: Majority

Against: Two

Abstain: 0

RESOLVED:

To agree the report and the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2018/19 attached at Appendix 1.

16 Report of the Chief Executive: Section 85 Local Government Act 1972 - Resolution to Extend Six Month Rule

16.1 Tim Shields, Chief Executive introduced the report requesting Council to consider an extension of the six month rule for Councillor Rickard on the grounds of her maternity leave.

RESOLVED:

That the Council in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, approved Councillor Rickard's non-attendance at meetings until the next Council AGM on 22 of May 2019 to accommodate her maternity leave.

17 Report of the Chief Executive: Constitutional Changes

The Chief Executive introduced the report recommending technical adjustments to the constitution.

RESOLVED to:

Approve the changes to:

1. Contract Standing Orders as set out in the attached appendix 1 of the report.
2. Name change for the Working in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

18 Motions

18.1 Councillor Williams proposed and introduced the motion:

Hackney has a long cherished history of being a destination for new arrivals in the UK, making it the special place it is today.

Hackney's migrant communities contribute a huge amount to the borough, and are the heart of the borough's cultural identity.

About 8% of the borough's population is of Afro-Caribbean ethnicity and, though the Council does not have precise figures, it is believed the borough is home to hundreds, if not thousands, of the Windrush generation, and many more come from other Commonwealth countries across the globe.

Hackney Council expresses dismay at the 'hostile environment' initiated by Theresa May when she was Home Secretary and at the financial and emotional impact this has had on the Windrush generation and their families, including children and grandchildren.

This council welcomes:

- the work done by former Councillor Patrick Vernon who launched the petition, *'Amnesty for anyone who was a minor that arrived In Britain between 1948 to 1971'*, calling on the Government to stop all deportations, change the burden of proof and establish an amnesty for anyone who was a minor, and to also provide compensation for loss & hurt,
- the steps already taken by the Mayor of Hackney, expressing his concerns over the treatment of the Windrush generation,
- Deputy Mayor Bramble's participation in the Windrush roundtable discussions, work to mark the 70th Anniversary of Windrush and further legacy work,
- the contribution that the Hackney Museum and Archives have undertaken over many years to capture the history and legacy of the Windrush Generation,
- the work of organisations the JCWI, BME Lawyers 4 Justice, the Runnymede Trust, MPs and the All Parliamentary Group on Race who have been campaigning on these issues, and
- the role the Caribbean High Commissions have played in lobbying the Government.

18.2 Councillor Williams paid tribute to Patrick Vernon for his campaign to introduce a national Windrush Day to recognise and celebrate the achievements of the Windrush generations. Councillor Williams emphasised that many of this generation had responded to the call from Britain and contributed to the rebuilding of the country after World War 2. She listed many achievements of the Windrush generation and the significant contributions they made to sectors such as the NHS. Many of this generation had encountered racial discrimination in housing, employment and opportunities. Councillor Williams stated that the government needed to end all hostile environment policy measures, protect the rights of this generation's children, compensate those affected by the government's policy and a plan of action to bring back those deported.

18.3 Councillor Bramble seconded the motion and emphasised that the Windrush generation had been invited to rebuild and fill vital skills shortages in Britain. They had taken pride in coming to this country and they had improved the experience for other

migrant communities. Councillor Bramble was proud of her Caribbean heritage and would continue to lobby for the eradication of these hostile policy measures.

18.4 Councillor Odze indicated that he could not support the motion unless reference to Theresa May was deleted from the motion as this was factually incorrect and the previous Labour government had created the hostile environment.

18.5 Councillors Hercock, Burke, Desmond, Etti, Coban and Kuye supported the motion and stated that a national day should be adopted to remember the contribution of migrants in this country, in particular the Caribbean community. The achievements of Basil Sterling who attended Woodberry Down School and became the first Caribbean immigrant to win a British boxing title in 1976 should also be recognised. A public inquiry was necessary to ensure that lessons were learnt and mistakes were not repeated with EU citizens following Brexit. Such policies were creating a hostile environment for immigrant communities with a Hackney constituent that had arrived in the 1960's and had contributed for decades to this country had been dismissed from his job at a Housing Association after being unable to provide evidence regarding his legal status. It was important to defend the Windrush generation who had contributed much to Britain and had faced many challenges and discrimination.

18.6 Mayor Glanville stated that the Conservative government needed to take responsibility for the hostile environment it had created for the Windrush generation and to provide funding and support to those affected by its policy.

18.7 Cllr Williams responded that many of the Windrush generation had contributed to rebuilding this country and this hostile policy had significantly affected many people's lives and families and their access to healthcare and employment.

RESOLVED to:

1. Continue actively campaigning for an end to all 'hostile environment' policy measures and to continue to call on the Government to enable the Windrush generation to acquire British citizenship at no cost and with proactive assistance throughout the process,
2. Lead the way, by celebrating an annual Windrush Day in Hackney and for Hackney to welcome the government's announcement to make 22 June each year an annual celebration to recognise and honour the enormous contribution of those who arrived between 1948 and 1971
3. Press the Prime Minister to call for an independent public enquiry into the Windrush scandal,
4. Demand the Government fully supports advice agencies in their work to achieve justice (and compensation for all losses, injury and damages to date where necessary) for all Hackney residents of the Windrush generation,
5. Review our own policies and procedures to ensure we support those affected,
6. Support the call for fees for naturalisation to be waived for all those who have been affected, and
7. Oppose the criminalisation of Windrush families.

Against: Councillor Odze

19.1 The Chief Executive introduced the report.

RESOLVED:

To approve:

1. The appointment of Cllr Odze to the Licensing Committee and the Audit Committee.
2. The appointment of Cllr Snell on the Licensing Committee to replace Cllr Adejare.
3. The appointment of Cllr Smyth on the Working in Hackney Scrutiny Commission to replace Cllr Etti.

20 Appointments to Outside Bodies

20.1 The Chief Executive introduced the report.

RESOLVED:

To approve the appointment or nomination of appointment of Members to Outside Bodies on behalf of the Council as listed in the Schedule at Appendix 1 of the report.

Duration of the meeting: 7:00 – 9:45