
London Borough of Hackney Council

Municipal Year 2021/22

Meeting held at: Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8 1EA

Wednesday, 21 July 2021 at 7.00pm

Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Glanville,
Cllr Michael Desmond - Speaker

Cllr Kam Adams, Cllr Brian Bell,
Cllr Polly Billington, Deputy Mayor
Anntoinette Bramble, Cllr Sophie
Cameron, Cllr Ajay Chauhan, Cllr
Mete Coban, Cllr Sophie Conway,
Cllr Kofo David, Cllr Sade Etti, Cllr
Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cllr
Humaira Garasia, Cllr Margaret
Gordon, Cllr Katie Hanson, Cllr
Christopher Kennedy, Cllr
Hershey Lisser, Cllr Anna Lynch,
Cllr Yvonne Maxwell,

Deputy Mayor Guy Nicholson,
Cllr Harvey Odze, Cllr M Can
Ozsen, Cllr Sharon Patrick, Cllr
Clare Potter, Cllr Steve Race, Cllr
Ian Rathbone, Cllr Nick Sharman,
Cllr Anya Sizer, Cllr Peter Snell,
Cllr Patrick Spence, Cllr Simche
Steinberger, Cllr Lynne
Troughton, Cllr Caroline Woodley,
Cllr Penny Wrouth and Cllr Sarah
Young

Officer Contact: Andrew Spragg, Governance Services Team Leader

This meeting was live streamed and can be viewed at:

<https://youtu.be/htCbq1vj6ZY>

Mayor Glanville proposed and Deputy Mayor Bramble seconded that Rule 25.1 of the Council's Procedure Rules be suspended for the duration of the meeting. This was agreed unanimously by all present. In light of the meeting being conducted in a Covid-safe manner with social distancing being observed, Members agreed that they would remain seated when addressing the Council through the Speaker.

The Speaker reminded Councillors who were accessing the meeting remotely, that they would not be counted as being 'present' for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972 and may not propose or second a motion or vote on any item under consideration. They would however be able to speak at his discretion.

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors: Levy, Moema, Oguzkanli, Peters, Stops and Rennison.
- 1.2 It was noted that the following Councillors had joined the meeting remotely: Adejare, Cameron, Chapman, Hayhurst, Joseph, McKenzie, McMahon, Plouviez, Selman and Smyth.

2. Speaker's Announcements

- 2.1 The Speaker welcomed all present in the Council Chamber, Councillors who had joined remotely and members of the public watching on the live stream and addressed Council on the following matters:
 - The recent death of Jonathan 'Jono' Coleman, a prominent radio DJ and presenter born in Hackney.
 - The recent opening of the Britannia Leisure Centre, which marked the occasion by offering unlimited flume and leisure pool visits to under 16's.
 - The recent closure of the local Barclays Bank on Mare Street and HSBC Bank and the absence of a Lloyds Bank in the borough. The importance of residents being able to easily access financial services was highlighted.
 - Forthcoming Speakers' events which included: a bike ride to Brighton on 15 August 2021, a charity football match on Hackney Marshes on 22 August 2021 with pre-match games and activities, a Lego building event with Housing Directorate staff at St Joseph's Hospice and a dinner with other Speakers, Leaders and Mayors in the early autumn, sponsored by Union Developments. All monies raised would be donated to the Speaker's chosen charities, Hackney Empire and St Joseph's Hospice.
 - The project to find a new song for London was underway in collaboration with the Greater London Authority and London Mayor's Association. The song would be performed at the Hackney Empire during pantomime season.

3. Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 There were no declarations of interests.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting - 30 June 2021

- 4.1 Cllr Steinberger requested the additional wording 'due to bollards' at paragraph 6.2. This was in relation to concerns he raised about potential difficulty emergency services may experience in accessing School Streets.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 June 2021 be agreed as a true and correct record of proceedings subject to the addition at paragraph 6.2.

5. The Mayor's Civic Awards

5.1 The following individuals and organisations who had joined the meeting remotely, were awarded a Mayor's Civic Award in recognition and celebration of their community spirit and efforts over the past year:

- **Michelle Dornelly** - Who had supported Hackney's communities for over three decades through her charity Children with Voices, fighting holiday hunger and child food poverty and supporting families in need. During the pandemic, Ms Dornelly ran five food hubs that provided food to 600 people per week, amounting to over 70,000 people since March 2020.
- **Alfred Mugabo** - Head Coach of grassroots football club Impact Football Academy, which supported children from all backgrounds and abilities between the ages of 5 and 15. Mr Mugabo worked tirelessly to provide much needed companionship for local young people, by hosting various events during the pandemic.
- **Elaine Chalmers** - Who worked to prepare and deliver healthy cooked meals and generous food parcels to people in need through her community food hub, Poot it in Yer Bag. Using her catering connections, Ms Chalmers sourced fresh fruit and vegetables, alongside running a successful social media campaign for donations from local people.
- **Bangala Housing Association for their Bangala Covid-19 Advice Project** - Seeing the disproportionate effect that Coronavirus was having on Bangladeshi communities, Bangala Housing Association worked with its partners to produce and distribute vital public health information to local Bangladeshi communities. They reached out to 10,000 households and 40,000 Bangladeshi residents in Hackney and Tower Hamlets, through distributing translated leaflets to residents' homes, mosques, community centres, schools and doctors' surgeries.
- **E5 Baby Bank** - Set up in summer 2020 to provide struggling families with clean clothes, toys, nappies and other essential items. They supported hundreds of vulnerable families from Hackney and surrounding boroughs, including domestic abuse survivors, migrant families, homeless women and children and families facing financial hardship. They brought together volunteers, most of whom were local mums, to help sort, pack and deliver items - many of which were donated by the local community.
- **Round Chapel Old School Rooms** - A vibrant community hub and church in Clapton, which provided essential services for its local community for many years, including: a community nursery, family support services, adult social care services, fun clubs and classes for people of all ages. During the pandemic, the organisation delivered food parcels to 250 residents in need and coordinated a network of trained volunteers, to provide practical and emotional support to over 40 families and support isolated and vulnerable residents with their mental wellbeing.

- 5.2 Each recipient gave a vote of thanks in response to the receipt of their award. The Mayor thanked fellow judges: Euphemia Chukwu (Fame Star Youth and Woodberry Aid), Colette Allen (Hackney Quest) and Holly Chant (Hackney Gazette), those who had nominated, nominees and award winners - who had demonstrated their unwavering commitment to the very important causes they support and campaign for.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

6.1 Question from Mr Christopher Sills to the Mayor

Are you aware that I have reluctantly decided to refer Adult Social Care to the Care Quality Commission because of failures to deal with problems related to people who are seriously ill?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care and Leisure

Cllr Kennedy informed Mr Sills that he was not aware of his decision and there was no record of a complaint about Adult Social Care having been raised. He stated that whilst the role of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) was to register, inspect and monitor care provision, this did not extend to local authority adult social care departments, only to registered care provision that may be directly provided or commissioned by the local authority. Mr Sills was informed that the CQC was not a complaints receiving body and the most appropriate route for complaints about local authority adult social care was via the internal complaints process. The offer was made to Mr Sills to contact Cllr Kennedy and/or the Group Director for Adults, Health and Integration, who would be happy to attempt to resolve his complaint.

7. Questions from Members of the Council

Questions from Members of the Council and the responses given at the meeting are attached at **Appendix 1**.

Questions that were not taken at the meeting due to time constraints, and where a written response was to be provided are attached at **Appendix 2**.

The meeting adjourned for five minutes to enable Members to have a short break.

8. Elected Mayor's Statement

8.1 The Mayor addressed Council as follows:

- Cllr Mete Coban was congratulated on the receipt of his MBE. The Mayor described Cllr Coban's work to give young people a voice as inspiring and stated he was an asset to the Cabinet.
- Warmest wishes and Eid Mubarak were conveyed to everyone that observed and celebrated Eid the day before.

- Cases of Coronavirus within the borough had risen, with 976 newly confirmed cases in Hackney in the week ending 10 July 2021, the highest since January 2021. Cases had more than doubled among 20-39 year-olds since the last Council meeting on 30 June with another resident having succumbed to the virus. The Mayor warned that the virus had not gone away and still represented a significant threat.
- The Council, working with local NHS services, had stepped up its efforts to vaccinate residents. All Councillors were urged to encourage residents to take up the offer of the Coronavirus vaccine. The success of the recent mass vaccination drive at Hackney Service Centre that delivered over 1,000 doses in a single weekend was reported as well as other pop-up and walk-in vaccine centres and initiatives targeting various communities in the borough. Tribute was paid to the community pharmacists who had played an intrinsic role in the vaccine roll-out.
- The ongoing anti-vaxxer presence and intimidation of local residents in Hackney Downs was strongly opposed.
- The clear and cautious approach of the Council to the virus was contrasted to the careless and confusing approach of Central Government. Citing the 67% rise in Coronavirus inpatients in Homerton Hospital in one week, residents were urged to continue wearing masks in busy places and indoors, in crowded buildings and public transport.
- Tribute was paid to Cllr Kennedy, Cabinet Member with responsibility for health, Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), GPs and the unsung heroes in health and social care for their tireless leadership and efforts throughout the pandemic.
- Being cautious and recognising the difficulties that businesses, night-time venues and cultural organisations have faced were not mutually exclusive. He had recently joined Deputy Mayor Nicholson at a cultural organisations roundtable event to listen to concerns and discuss how the Council can help establishments reopen safely. The Council had helped secure over £18m in Arts Council England Cultural Recovery Funding (CRF) for local organisations, with approx 10% of CRF funding in London having gone to Hackney organisations. In addition, the Council had invested over £485k into local initiatives.
- The Council would be formally launching its new campaign: *Hello Again, Hackney*, aimed at promoting the safe reopening of businesses and venues. The new Cultural Reopening Fund and Neighbourhood Communities Fund would also be launched to facilitate this.
- Plans to rebuild a better Hackney which included: the recent announcement to refurbish the King's Hall Leisure Centre with over £3m on top of the investment in leisure facilities at Britannia, West Reservoir, London Fields Lido and Clissold, £3m investment for Hackney Central station entrance for a safer and more accessible entrance to the station and the newly opened City of London Academy Shoreditch Park, which he recently visited with Deputy Mayor Bramble. In addition, it was reported that Hackney was rated one of the top London boroughs in the Healthy Streets Scorecard. Thanks were relayed to the councillors who had been instrumental in campaigning and securing funding for these areas.

- In reference to the recent Euro 2020 football tournament, the Council stood united in support of the country's diverse national team. The racist abuse levied at Marcus Rashford, Bukayo Saka and Jadon Sancho following the finals, was described as completely unacceptable. The importance of the Council's anti-racism stance and continued work in this area was emphasised.

8.2 In the absence of Cllr Levy, the Opposition Group Leader, Cllr Steinberger addressed Council as follows:

- Congratulations were offered to the England national football team for reaching the finals in Euro 2020.
- Disappointment was expressed that cases of Coronavirus in the borough had risen and he believed the Mayor to have given mixed messages about remaining safe, in particular the wearing of masks and partaking in leisure and social activities.
- The Government's recent announcement of a 3% pay rise to be awarded to NHS staff was applauded.
- The Council's mismanagement in a variety of areas was raised, including: failure to supply Kosher food to vulnerable residents and those who were isolating during lockdown, the lack of necessary technical equipment and ventilation in the Council Chamber and Committee Rooms following the refurbishment of the Town Hall, the closure of roads due to the implementation of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) and School Streets with specific reference to Clapton Common and areas that had been opposed by Transport for London (TfL) and emergency services. He believed that the restrictions to roads could impede the emergency services' ability to operate and ultimately cost lives.
- Congratulations were conveyed to Hatzola on the purchase of new equipment and their ongoing tireless service to the borough.

8.3 In response to Cllr Steinbergaer's address, the Mayor stated that:

- This was the second in-person Full Council meeting where the Opposition Group had failed to ask a single question to hold the administration to account. He believed this to be a dereliction of their public duty.
- There had been on-going dialogue since September 2020 to ensure that Hatzola and all emergency services could continue to operate safely and without risk.
- Residents were in support of the road closures being trialled in the Clapton Common, Liberty Hall area which he described as a lethal junction.
- Diane Benjamin had joined the Council as Director of Children's Social Work; a warm welcome was conveyed to her. Jacquie Burke would be joining as Group Director for Children and Education in the coming weeks.
- Tribute was paid to Jake Ferguson, CEO of Hackney Community and Voluntary Sector (HCVS) who was leaving after almost 20 years of service.
- The advice of the Director of Public Health for Hackney and the City of London, had been followed throughout the pandemic.

- The Council had followed Government guidelines relating to the distribution of food parcels in the pandemic. When it became apparent that the food that had been distributed was unsuitable for specific community groups, the Council worked to produce a help and advice line and worked with members of the Jewish community to source Kosher food.
- He had always followed the advice and guidance relating to Coronavirus, noting it was important to, where possible, support cultural organisations and businesses where it was safe to do so.
- The Council was to invest £1.4m to keep rough sleepers in accommodation as support from Central Government in this area had ended. Council investment would extend to those with no recourse to public funds.

9. Annual Update On Progress With Decarbonisation Commitments

- 9.1 Members were requested to note the late circulation of Appendix 2 following consideration by Cabinet on 19 July 2021.
- 9.2 Cllr Mete Coban, Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm introduced the report.
- 9.3 Cllr Steinberger and Cllr Odze contributed to the debate, speaking in objection to the report. Mayor Glanville contributed to the debate, speaking in favour.
- 9.4 Concluding the debate, Cllr Coban highlighted the road map which detailed how the Council would work with local residents. He outlined other initiatives and events to be launched later in the year in line with the Council's commitment to build a greener Hackney.

RESOLVED: To note the Annual Update on progress with decarbonisation commitments and attached Appendices.

Cllr Hershey, Cllr Odze and Cllr Steiberger voted against the recommendations.

10. Renaming Gardens Formerly Known As Cassland Road Gardens

- 10.1 Cllr Carole Williams, Cabinet Member for Employment, Skills and Human Resources introduced the report. The project was a result of the Mayor's commitment in 2020 to audit streets, buildings, estates and public spaces in Hackney named after people who profited from the Transatlantic Trade and trafficking of enslaved African people, and later colonial history. This was a key part of the Council's anti-racism action plan.
- 10.2 Cllr Odze spoke in objection to the report, stating that the man after which the street was formerly named was a substantial benefactor to the borough.
- 10.3 Deputy Mayor Bramble spoke in favour of the report highlighting that racism was still very prevalent and experienced in a variety of ways across society. She cited the recent widespread public racist abuse experienced by black members of the

England football team as well as other examples. The Deputy Mayor and Mayor Glanville both highlighted the importance of this piece of work, the considered and sensitive way in which it was undertaken and similar work undertaken by other organisations. It was emphasised that every effort had been made to learn from the mistakes of the past and there was no place for hate and racism within the borough.

- 10.4 Concluding the debate, Cllr Williams outlined the measures that had been taken which included placing information in Hackney Museum and erecting an information and signage board at the site, ensuring that history was not erased but was appropriately contextualised.

RESOLVED: To approve the proposal to rename Cassland Road Gardens as Kit Crowley Gardens and to install new signage and information board at the site.

Cllr Hershey, Cllr Odze and Cllr Steiberger voted against the recommendations.

11. Corporate Plan Update

- 11.1 Mayor Glanville introduced the report which provided an update on the administration's progress against the Corporate Plan which was refreshed one year ago to take into account the Council's response to the pandemic. The report outlined the Council's seven priorities going forward.
- 11.2 Cllrs Steinberger contributed to the debate, confirming his opposition to benefit cuts made by Central Government and Cllr Odze queried the statistics contained within the report with specific reference to knife crime. Both Councillors stated their objection to the report.
- 11.3 Concluding the debate, Mayor Glanville spoke of the impact of the cyber-attack on the Council's ability to carry out many of its crucial functions. It was reported that while it would take many more months before all issues were resolved, a corner had been turned with regard to systems recovery. The continued focus was on assisting the most vulnerable members of the community.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the report.

Cllr Hershey, Cllr Odze and Cllr Steiberger voted against the recommendations.

12. The Appointment of the Chief Executive, Head of Paid Service and Returning Officer

RESOLVED:

- (i) To approve the appointment of Mark Carroll to the position of Chief Executive, Head of Paid Service and Returning Officer at the London Borough of Hackney from October 2021;
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Director of Legal and Governance Services to take any further action necessary to give effect to the contents of this report.

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

13.1 Members were requested to note the revised recommendation which included the names of additional Councillors. The content of the report remained unchanged.

RESOLVED: That the Council in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, approves Councillor Adejare, Councillor David, Councillor Gregory, Councillor Joseph, Councillor Levy, Councillor Lynch, Councillor Rickard and Councillor Smyth's non-attendance at meetings until May 2022.

14. Motion: The Future of Planning

14.1 The Council noted the motion as set out in the agenda pack. It was moved by Cllr Steve Race and seconded by Cllr Katie Hanson.

14.2 Cllr Race introduced the motion and outlined concerns relating to the proposed planning reforms. He believed these would strip local residents of their right to participate in local planning decisions, impede the participation of elected local representatives and result in the loss of Section 106 funding. He stated that the reforms would impact the provision of local affordable housing including social housing and centralise all planning gains. Cllr Race cited the Local Plan 2033 (LP33), the Council's strategic planning document, approved by Council in July 2020 as an example of the voices and needs of local people being central to planning policy. The new planning framework proposed by the Government was felt to be in direct contrast to the Council's approach as it would fail to deliver homes, had no plans for decarbonisation and would lead to inappropriate infrastructure.

14.3 Cllr Katie Hanson seconded the motion referencing the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the purpose of which was to enable local authorities to coordinate an approach to planning that promoted the health, wellbeing and safety of local people. Cllr Hanson stated that it was the housing delivery system that was in need of review.

14.4 Cllr Steinberger and Cllr Odze spoke against the motion, stating their objection to what they believed to be the Council's blanket approach to planning. They believed it failed to take into account the needs and views of certain communities in the borough. The need to eradicate the 'nanny state' was seen as vital for progressive development and empowering local property owners.

14.5 Deputy Mayor Nicholson, Cllr Bell, Mayor Glanville and Cllr Sizer shared their support for the motion, highlighting the Council's successful planning record and expressing concerns about: the future of participatory planning, the potential transfer of the planning system to Central Government, the current homelessness crisis, the dangers of a deregulated market, the risks to local development (should Section 106 agreements be discarded) and the disenfranchisement of local residents.

For: Many

Against: 3

RESOLVED: That the motion be carried as follows:

Hackney Council approved and adopted its new inclusive and sustainable Local Plan (LP33) after a lengthy period of community consultation. LP33 sits alongside a range of supporting policy documents that includes our ambitious community-led Area Plans for Shoreditch, Dalston, Hackney Central, and Stamford Hill, and a portfolio of progressive supplementary planning documents (SPD); the most recent SPD adopted by the Council, guides new development to create Child Friendly Places.

Hackney Council believes the Government's proposed Planning Reform white paper is fundamentally flawed. The proposals undermine the local democratic place-making and determination process, restricts residents' participation in the Planning process, and centralises all Planning gain, to be redistributed by central Government.

We believe that Planning works best when local communities, Councillors, Councils, and developers work together to shape local neighbourhoods to deliver much-needed new homes and workspaces, alongside coordinating the funding and delivery of neighbourhood-based infrastructure.

We believe that the benefits of Section 106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy Planning gain must remain locally-held by the Council for, and on behalf of, the community the Council serves. This means funding can be effectively targeted at and respond to the infrastructure needs created by the demand brought about by new development, and not handed over to central Government to distribute as it sees fit.

Council therefore resolves:

- To call on the Government to review the Planning Reform white paper to protect the right of local communities to object to individual planning applications and protect the right to engage with all aspects of the Planning process.
- To ensure that locally-collected Planning gain remains local.
- To ensure that future development is led by local planning and place-making.
- To ensure that local democratically accountable determination remains at the heart of Hackney's sustainable and inclusive Planning process
- That the Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Chair of Planning Committee write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government outlining the Council's concerns about the Planning Reform white paper, copying in Hackney's MPs, the Minister for Planning and the Shadow Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government.

15. Dates of Future Meetings

RESOLVED: To note that all meetings of Full Council will commence at 7.00pm and were scheduled as follows:

- 20 October 2021
- 26 January 2022
- 23 February 2022

End of Meeting.

Duration of the meeting: 19:00 - 21:54

Contact:

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Chair of the meeting:

Cllr Michael Desmond - Speaker of the London Borough of Hackney

APPENDIX 1 - Questions from Members of the Council Taken at the Meeting.

7.1 Question from Cllr Richard Lufkin to the Mayoral Adviser for Older People

In the absence of Cllr Lufkin, the following question was asked by the Speaker on his behalf.

It was my great pleasure to second the motion regarding the Ageing Well Strategy at Full Council last year and I think we are all aware of the great work that Councillor Maxwell has been doing on this. As part of that Strategy, a Hackney Older Citizens Committee was set up, could Cllr Maxwell update us on the progress of their work?

Response

Following the adoption of the Ageing Well Strategy in December 2020, the Hackney Older Citizen's Committee was set up to ensure ongoing involvement, co-production and monitoring of the strategy. A diverse group of over 40 older people had been recruited to steer delivery and ensure accountability over the next few years through the committee. The committee regularly engaged with other existing structures such as Age UK's Older People's Reference Group and Connect Hackney's Older People's committee. Cllr Maxwell highlighted some of what had been achieved in the first year of the strategy, which included: approval of a pilot to create a 'friendly bench' in one of the borough's parks, which if successful, would be rolled out across the borough. This was as a result of a request for opportunities to sit and chat and intergenerational work, working together with Cllr Woodley, Cabinet Member for Families, Early Years, Parks and Play in line with the pledge to build a child-friendly borough. In terms of ongoing and future work, Cllr Maxwell stated that some members of the committee were working on a user-friendly summary of the strategy for circulation, whilst others were part of a communications group. Plans were underway to co-produce a learning event and social event, for International Day of Older People on 1 October 2021. Plans were also underway for members to feed into upcoming reviews and strategies such as the Housing Strategy, Resident Engagement Strategy, the Library review, the Home Care service review and the LGBTQI strategy. Cllr Maxwell stated that good progress had been made to build a welcoming, accessible borough that provided opportunities for older people.

7.2 Question from Cllr Kam Adams to the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care

Could the Cabinet Member share with us, how many children have missed out on their top choice of secondary school this year compared to last year?

Response

Deputy Mayor Bramble reported that there had been a slight increase of 1% to 36% of children who were not offered their first preference of secondary school this year.

Hackney numbers this year were slightly below (3%) the Pan-London percentage for 1st choice placements, 1% below for 1st or 2nd choice placements - and just above for 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice placements. The Deputy Mayor stated that notable improvements had been made to schools in the borough with the great majority of Hackney secondary schools rated good or outstanding, ensuring an attractive range of choices. Hackney was in the top 20% of boroughs for the proportion of children attending good or outstanding schools. There was however one school which attracted significantly more first choice applicants than there were places, which led to a number of these applicants getting their second or third choice school. Hackney Education was working with the two schools which were below good to see them improve. Deputy Mayor Bramble relayed her thanks to schools in the borough (and their governors) for the efforts during the pandemic which extended beyond on-line learning, but also the distribution of food parcels and hampers to some of the most vulnerable students and their families in the borough.

7.3 **Question from Cllr Sophie Conway to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care and Leisure**

Please could you outline whether there are any health inequalities or disparities relating to the diagnosis and treatment of postnatal depression and postpartum psychosis in the borough and if so, what is being done to address these?

Response

Cllr Kennedy stated that although data on diagnosis and treatment was available on request, unfortunately it was not available within the timeframe for the Council meeting. A data request had been submitted and he would provide an updated response in due course. Cllr Kennedy surmised that given the health inequalities reflected in birth outcomes for some communities nationally, it was very possible that similar patterns for mental health associated with those outcomes, would be seen nationally and locally. He highlighted that a significant proportion of postnatal depression and perinatal mental health issues were undiagnosed. It was reported that the system locally worked on the assumption that these disparities exist and subsequently the Council was investing in a range of services to improve perinatal mental health, including postnatal depression and postpartum psychosis. Cllr Kennedy proceeded to outline the local services available through the East London Foundation Trust (ELFT) and the Shoreditch Trust, at regional level through the North East London (NEL) perinatal network and nationally through the health visiting service. In addition, Homerton University Hospital Foundation Trust had implemented emotional wellbeing screening at key points of contact antenatally for all pregnant women- which had received positive feedback. It was noted that this matter would be further discussed and investigated at the Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission meeting in October 2021.

7.4 **Question from Cllr Gilbert Smyth to the Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm**

How have the introduction of the emergency Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and the rollout of our School Streets programme affected or impacted:-

1. Local bus routes, including journey times along perimeter roads and routes through the targeted neighbourhood?
2. The cycling network in terms of safety, connectivity and inclusiveness across Hackney and further afield?
3. The quality of our walking environment through road space reallocation schemes?
4. Air pollution levels on perimeter roads and outside schools with school streets?
5. Safe access to schools?
6. Traffic reduction and car journey times?
7. Demographics, deprivation and inequalities/equalities?
8. Community space enhancement?
9. Access for freight workers and people that require cars, vans etc?
10. Local active travel opportunities?

Response

Cllr Coban provided a brief summary of the rationale behind the implementation of Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTNs) and the School Streets Scheme which was ultimately to facilitate residents to be able to walk, cycle and shop safely in their local vicinity. He highlighted that the primary focus of the scheme, still in its early stages, was to benefit residents and as such there was a strong commitment to engage and consult, with no fixed decisions having yet been made. Cllr Coban reported that the borough had become a national pioneer for LTNs, having rolled out 48 School Streets covering 50 schools. This had led to a 74% reduction in tailpipe emissions outside school gates. There had been an increase of 30% of children walking to school and 50% of children cycling and scooting to school. Going forward, a number of factors would be looked at as part of the scheme including: air quality, bus performance data, focus groups and the Common Place Consultation (which had so far received in excess of 19,000 responses). Cllr Coban reiterated the Council's commitment to listen and adapt the scheme in response to resident feedback and highlighted the recent announcement of the blue badge exemption as an example of this. It was reported that since the introduction of LTNs there had been a reduction of traffic levels by up to 50% within LTNs and decreased traffic also on boundary roads. It was however noted that the easing of restrictions could impact these figures, hence the extension of the consultation. Further data on the impact of LTNs and School Streets would be released in the coming weeks. In conclusion, Cllr Coban stated that the Council was ambitious in its plans to tackle toxic air pollution and protect the health of residents within the borough.

7.5 **Question from Cllr Ian Rathbone to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care and Leisure**

Could the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care and Leisure please provide an update on what is happening about the takeover of some GP surgeries by privatising companies like Operose?

Response

Cllr Kennedy advised that all GP practices were private businesses mostly owned by individual GPs, groups of GPs or by other larger organisations. In late 2020 AT Medics (a company founded by a group of London GPs which specialized in turning round struggling London and SE England practices) and the 34 GP surgery contracts that they held were taken over by Operose Health, the UK branch of Centene, a US health company. This had resulted in some NHS funding for primary care, albeit in small amounts, finding its way directly into the pockets of US shareholders. Cllr Kennedy informed Councillors that in March 2020, he and the Mayor joined other leaders and health leads from across London in requesting the Secretary of State for Health, launch an inquiry into that takeover, but to date they had not received a reply. It was, however, noted that there had been a change in personnel and a new Secretary of State had since been appointed. One of the GP contracts was not only in Hackney, but also in Cllr Kennedy's ward, at the Trowbridge surgery, with the contract expiring on 31st March 2022. It was emphasised that there were no staff changes when the contract changed hands and constituents and patients confirmed that it continued to offer an excellent primary care service. Cllr Kennedy stated that procurement for the new contract was being undertaken by North East London (NEL) Clinical Commissioning Group with patient engagement ongoing. Bidders would be required to take into account this feedback when outlining their plans for service provision, in order to meet the required criteria. A business case, approved by NHS England, had been given approval for a contract duration of 5 years with the option to extend for a further 5 years on two occasions. It was noted that previously AT Medics were the only bidders and this may be true for Operose. Cllr Kennedy proceeded to outline how the bids would be assessed and gave assurances that a rigorous process was in place to ensure that the quality of service remained in place. There was however no guarantee that the providers of the service might not in the end be beholden to shareholders far from Hackney.

7.6 **Question from Cllr Soraya Adejare to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety**

Over the past few months Gillett Square in Dalston has again experienced high level incidents including a shooting resulting in the tragic death of a young man, alongside a stabbing. We are in a space where vulnerable people are targeted by criminals who service the multiplicity of drug users in, or who visit, the area. Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) is a long-standing concern of residents. Could the Cabinet Member please advise as to the steps being taken to tackle these problems?

Response

Cllr Fajana-Thomas announced that it was ASB Awareness Week (19-25 July 2021). Gillett Square, Dalston and the surrounding streets were considered a priority area for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and continued to attract much attention. Cllr Fajana-Thomas highlighted her commitment to working with ward Councillors and local residents to tackle ASB. It was reported that the intention of the CSP was to work with law-abiding residents and business owners in the Square to ensure that it was a safe place for everyone, including vulnerable people. The strategy for tackling ASB was focussed on prevention, diversion and enforcement. Cllr Fajana-Thomas outlined the recent intervention and investment in the area which in summary, included: a monthly Gillett Square Task and Finish Group, weekly monitoring of the strategy, a number of Section 35 dispersal orders issued by the Police in the Dalston area as well as a continuous police presence and an operation to target drug supply. The installation of 6 further CCTV cameras, daily waste collections and cleaning services, Community Banning Orders (which had been applied for), commissioning of visits from the Licensing Service and Trading Standards, an initiative to seize unlicensed and dangerous mopeds by Parking Services and the removal of graffiti.

In accordance with Part 4 Paragraph 10.8 of the Council's constitution, the Speaker advised that the allocated 30 minutes for this item had come to an end. Written responses would be provided for the remaining questions (7.7, 7.8 and 7.9) as set out at **Appendix 2**.

**APPENDIX 2 - Questions from Members of the Council Not Taken at the Meeting Due
To Time Constraints**

To Follow