



London Borough of Hackney – Decisions taken by the Council on Wednesday 28 January 2021

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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Part A – Items considered in public

4	Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 21 October 2020	RESOLVED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● To agree the minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 21st October 2021, were agreed as an accurate record of those meeting's proceedings.</li></ul>
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9.	Council Taxbase and Local Business Rates Income 2021/22	RESOLVED: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, that amount calculated by Hackney Council as its Council Tax Base for 2021/22 shall be 72,039, Band D equivalent properties adjusted for non-collection. This represents an estimated collection rate of 94%.</li><li>2. That in accordance with the Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013, Hackney's non domestic rating income for 2021/22 is 91,064,033, subject to completion of NNDR1. This comprises three elements:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 33,471,970 which is payable in agreed instalments to the Greater London Authority</li><li>● 27, 738,583 which is retained by Hackney Council and included as part of its resources when calculating the 2021/22 Council Tax requirement</li><li>● 29,852.480 which is payable in agreed instalments to Central Government</li></ul></li><li>3. To note that no changes are proposed current CTRS scheme in 2021/22</li></ol> Voting: For: 44 Against: 2
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		Abstentions: 0
10.	Children and Families Services 2019/20 Full Year Report	RESOLVED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To note the report.</li></ul>
11.	Annual Pay Policy Statement	RESOLVED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To agree the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22, as recommended by the Corporate Committee at their meeting on 16th December 2020.</li></ul>
12.	Gender and Ethnicity Pay Gap Report	RESOLVED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To note the Gender and Ethnicity Pay Gap report.</li></ul>
13.	Pensions Committee Annual Report	RESOLVED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To note the Pensions Committee Annual Report</li></ul>
14.	Licensing Committee Annual Report	RESOLVED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To note the Licensing Committee Annual Report.</li></ul>

15.	Appointments to Committees and Commissions	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to agree the appointment of Richard Brown, statutory representative from Church of England, London Diocesan Board as a voting co-optee to the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Commissions until 1 May 2022.</li> </ul>
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16.	Motion	<p>The Motion was passed unanimously as follows:</p> <p>Hackney Council notes that one in four parents, c.2.9 million people, are single parents in the UK 1 ; around one third of parents experience some period of single parenting 2 . Although almost 70% of single parents are employed 3 a third of children in working single parent homes live in poverty 4 and almost 30% (double that of coupled parents) report mental health concerns 5 . Single parents face discrimination throughout their daily lives, from the workplace to accessing housing. This has knock on effects for them, their children and society as a whole. Hackney has a higher rate of single parent households than the London average – at the 2011 census, 11% of all households in Hackney were single parent households whereas the London average is 7%. These figures are likely under-reported.</p> <p>Hackney Council further notes that the Equality Act 2010 outlaws discrimination towards certain groups deemed to have Protected Characteristics including age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation. This Council believes single parenthood deserves similar protections to these existing characteristics.</p> <p>Single parents invariably face numerous challenges because of their status. Many of these challenges are intersectional in nature; 90% of single parents are women 6 , around 27% live with a disability 7 (compared with 21% of couple parent households), and black and mixed ethnicities communities have higher numbers of single parents 8 compared with white communities.</p>
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This Council welcomes the call from single parent rights groups to encourage employers, businesses, policy makers and service providers to proactively consider their treatment of single parents in the provision of goods and services so that where unfair treatment occurs, it can be challenged.

Hackney Council is committed to promoting equality irrespective of marital or civil partnership status and valuing the contribution made by all citizens. The 2019 document, 'A Profile of Hackney, its People and Place' 9 , captures Hackney's population in terms of the nine characteristics currently protected by the 2010 Equality Act. It also examines wider factors influencing equality and cohesion like language, as well as factors influencing future population growth and change like migration and household composition.

At a national level, however, the legislative oversight in respect of single parents is a chasm which needs to be addressed. We have a characteristic which is subject to systematic discrimination across every aspect of life, and it is unconscionable that these circumstances have existed for so long.

This motion seeks to ensure that the Council continues to embed equality in its practice and policies with regard to single parents, truly making Hackney a Place for Everyone. This Council also commits to campaigning to ensure that single parent rights are protected at a national level.

**Hackney Council commits to advocate for single parent rights, working with local and national Government to ensure that single parents become a protected characteristic in the Equality Act.**

Notes

With thanks to the Single Parents Rights Campaign <https://www.singleparentrights.org>  
Discrimination towards single parents occurs in:

- the workplace when it comes to recruitment, professional development and promotion 10 ;
- housing, specifically accessing private rentals properties especially for those reliant on housing benefit 11 ;

- child benefit calculations: a couple earning £98,000 combined will receive full child benefit for one child, whilst a single parent on £60,000 will receive no child benefit for two children;
- childcare vouchers with couples able to access double the amount of vouchers where both are working, regardless of the actual amount they spend on childcare;
- universal credit childcare payments 12 ;
- support and adaptations required for a disabled child to live safely in both homes where parents sharecare, see Pete’s story in Single Parents Campaigning for Change 13 ;
- entrance fees at tourist attractions are often higher per person for single parent families than couple families 14 . At the National Trust, single parents pay 25% more per adult;
- membership fees e.g. for birthing/ parenting classes where the second parent in a couple is often ‘free’;
- inheritance tax where the child(ren) of a couple essentially has double the threshold compared to the child(ren) of a single parent;
- the cost of holidays 15 ; and
- government and business policies and rules during the Coronavirus lockdown 202016 .

Making this law change would have a number of benefits, including:

- greater single parent employment;
- reduced reliance on government benefits;
- greater disposable income for single parents to spend in society;
- more stable and decent housing for single parent families;
- better mental health for single parents;
- lower poverty levels for children of single parents; and
- better outcomes for the children of single parents.

**Proposer:** Cllr Soraya Adejare

**Secunder:** Cllr Sophie Cameron

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 <a href="http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcomm/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/bulletins/familiesandhouseholds/2019">www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcomm/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/bulletins/familiesandhouseholds/2019</a></li><li>2 <a href="http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.812161!/file/Sheffield_Solutions_Modern_Families.pdf">www.sheffield.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.812161!/file/Sheffield_Solutions_Modern_Families.pdf</a></li><li>3 <a href="http://www.gingerbread.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/One-in-four-a-profile-of-single-parents-in-the-UK.compressed.pdf">www.gingerbread.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/One-in-four-a-profile-of-single-parents-in-the-UK.compressed.pdf</a></li><li>4 <a href="http://www.itv.com/news/2018-02-21/poverty-report-single-parent-families">www.itv.com/news/2018-02-21/poverty-report-single-parent-families</a></li><li>5 <a href="http://www.gingerbread.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/One-in-four-a-profile-of-single-parents-in-the-UK.compressed.pdf">www.gingerbread.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/One-in-four-a-profile-of-single-parents-in-the-UK.compressed.pdf</a></li><li>6 <a href="http://www.statista.com/statistics/281640/lone-parent-families-in-the-united-kingdom-uk-by-gender/">www.statista.com/statistics/281640/lone-parent-families-in-the-united-kingdom-uk-by-gender/</a></li><li>7 <a href="http://www.gingerbread.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/One-in-four-a-profile-of-single-parents-in-the-UK.compressed.pdf">www.gingerbread.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/One-in-four-a-profile-of-single-parents-in-the-UK.compressed.pdf</a></li><li>8 <a href="http://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/uk-population-by-ethnicity/demographics/families-and-households/latest#ethnic-groups-by-household-type">www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/uk-population-by-ethnicity/demographics/families-and-households/latest#ethnic-groups-by-household-type</a></li><li>9 <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JZLZFzNUSO40I7-vCA_dy9Dk08e6jXa_/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JZLZFzNUSO40I7-vCA_dy9Dk08e6jXa_/view</a></li><li>10 <a href="http://www.kentonline.co.uk/herne-bay/news/single-mum-wins-sex-discrimination-15639/">www.kentonline.co.uk/herne-bay/news/single-mum-wins-sex-discrimination-15639/</a></li><li>11 <a href="http://www.mirror.co.uk/money/single-mum-wins-huge-case-22348952">www.mirror.co.uk/money/single-mum-wins-huge-case-22348952</a></li><li>12 <a href="http://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/news/article/universal-credit-childcare-rules-could-discriminate-against-women">www.nurseryworld.co.uk/news/article/universal-credit-childcare-rules-could-discriminate-against-women</a></li><li>13 <a href="http://inews.co.uk/opinion/single-parents-rights-lockdown-campaign-582986">inews.co.uk/opinion/single-parents-rights-lockdown-campaign-582986</a></li><li>14 <a href="http://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jul/05/revealed-hidden-costs-of-a-day-out-for-single-parent-families">www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jul/05/revealed-hidden-costs-of-a-day-out-for-single-parent-families</a></li><li>15 <a href="http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/holiday-firms-charging-single-parent-12869842">www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/holiday-firms-charging-single-parent-12869842</a></li><li>16 <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/coronavirus-lockdown-single-parents_uk_5e8c8175c5b62459a92f4e1e">www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/coronavirus-lockdown-single-parents_uk_5e8c8175c5b62459a92f4e1e</a></li></ol>
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