



London Borough of Hackney – Decisions taken by the Council on Wednesday 24 February 2021

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

4.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 27th January 2021	RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 27th January 2021, be confirmed an accurate record of the proceedings, subject to amendments raised during consideration.
9.	2021/22 Budget Report	<p>An amendment to the proposed budget was proposed by Cllr Simche Steinberger and seconded by Cllr Harvey Odze.</p> <p>On a recorded vote :</p> <p>there being 2 for : Cllrs Odze & Steinberger,</p> <p>and 47 against : Cllrs Adams, Adejare, Bell, Billington, Bramble, Cameron, Chapman, Chauhan, Coban, Conway, David, Desmond, Etti, Fajana-Thomas, Garasia, Glanville, Gordon, Gregory, Hanson, Hayhurst, Joseph, Kennedy, Lufkin, Lynch, Maxwell, McKenzie, McMahon, Moema, Nicholson, Oguzkanli, Ozsen,Patrick, Pallis, Peters, Plouviez, Potter, Race, Rathbone, Rennison, Sharman, Smyth, Snell, Spence, Stops, Webb, Woodley, Wrout</p> <p>And no abstentions,</p>

The amendment to the MOTION was lost, and the amendment to the proposed budget was not carried.

The substantive MOTION was put to the vote.

On a recorded vote :

there being 47 for :

Councillors Adams, Adejare, Bell, Billington, Bramble, Cameron, Chapman, Chauhan, Coban, Conway, David, Desmond, Etti, Fajana-Thomas, Garasia, Glanville, Gordon, Gregory, Hanson, Hayhurst, Joseph, Kennedy, Lufkin, Lynch, Maxwell, McKenzie, McMahon, Moema, Nicholson, Oguzkanli, Ozsen, Patrick, Pallis, Peters, Plouviez, Potter, Race, Rathbone, Rennison, Sharman, Smyth, Snell, Spence, Stops, Webb, Woodley, Wrout

And 2 against : Councillors Odze and Steinberger

And no abstentions, the MOTION was carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Council:

3.2.1 Agreed to bring forward into 2021/22 the Council's projected General Fund balances of £15.0m and to note the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balances of £11.2m

3.2.2 Agreed for approval the directorate estimates and estimates for the General Finance Account items set out in Table 1, below.

3.2.3 Noted that the budget is a financial exposition of the priorities set out within the Corporate Plan included at Section 6 below.

3.2.4 Noted that in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, the Group Director, Finance and Corporate Resources, is of the view that:

The General Fund balances of £15.0m and the level of reserves, particularly in relation to capital, are adequate to meet the Council's financial needs for 2021/22 and that considering the economic uncertainty they should not fall below this level. This view takes account of the reserves included in the Council's latest published 2019/20 Accounts and the movements of those reserves since that date – which have been tracked through the Overall Financial Position (OFP) Reports, and the latest OFP projections. Note also, that the projections in the HRA Budget to maintain the balance at £11.2m by 31 March 2021 are also considered to be adequate at this point in time but will need to continue to be reviewed in the light of the challenges facing the HRA. The HRA balance has reduced from £15m in 2020-21 because of the need to set up a provision for Thames Water agency refunds but there is a plan to get back up to £15m by increasing the savings plan over the medium term to replenish reserves.

The General Fund estimates are sufficiently robust to set a balanced budget for 2021/22. This takes into account the adequacy of the level of balances and reserves outlined above and the assurance gained from the comparisons of the 2021/22 budget with the projected spend identified in the December 2020 OFP. The overall level of the corporate contingency has been set at £2m.

3.2.5 Approved the proposed General Fund fees and charges as set out in Appendix 8 for implementation from 1st April 2021.

3.2.6 Agreed to continue the policy requiring the Group Director, Finance and Corporate Resources to seek to mitigate the impact of significant changes to either resources or expenditure requirements.

3.2.7 Noted the summary of the HRA Budget and Rent setting report agreed by Cabinet on 25th January 2021.

3.2.8. Authorised the Group Director, Finance and Corporate Resources to implement any requirements required to allocate provision for demand and

growth pressures set out in this report subject to the appropriate evidence base being provided.

3.2.9 The Council approved:

The allocation of resources to the 2021/22 Non-Housing capital schemes referred to in Section 24 and Appendix 7.

The allocation of resources to the 2021/22 Housing indicative capital programme referred to in Section 24 and Appendix 7, including the HRA approvals previously agreed by Cabinet on January 25th 2021.

3.2.10 Noted that the new capital expenditure proposals match uncommitted resources for the year 2021/22.

3.2.11 Agreed the prudential indicators for Capital Expenditure and the Capital Financing Requirement, the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt, the Affordability prudential indicators and the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for 2020/21 as set out in Section 25 and Appendix 3.

3.2.12 Confirmed that the authorised limit for external debt of £536m agreed above for 2021/22 will be the statutory limit determined under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003. Further reassurance about the robustness of the budget is the confirmation that the Council's borrowings are within the boundaries of prudential guidelines.

3.2.13 Continued to support the approach of using reserves to manage emerging risks and liabilities and to note the latest reserve position.

3.2.14 Noted that at its meeting on 27 January 2021 the Council agreed its Council Tax Base for the 2021/22 financial year as 72,039 in accordance with regulations made under section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The Council Tax Base is the total number of properties in each of the eight council tax bands A to H converted to an equivalent number of band D

properties.

3.2.15(1) Agreed that the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Sections 31A to 36 of the Localism Act 2011.

The authority calculates the aggregate of: (in accordance with Section 31A (2) of the Act)

(a) £1,199.503m being the expenditure which the authority estimates it will incur in the year in performing its functions and will charge to a revenue account, other than a BID Revenue Account, for the year in accordance with proper practices.

(b) £2m being such allowance as the authority estimates will be appropriate for contingencies in relation to amounts to be charged or credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices.

(c) £nil being the financial reserves which the authority estimates it will be appropriate to raise in the year for meeting its estimated future expenditure.

(d) £nil being such financial reserves as are sufficient to meet so much of the amount estimated by the authority to be a revenue account deficit for any earlier financial year as has not already been provided for.

(e) £18.171m being the amount which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its general fund to its collection fund in accordance with section 97(4) of the 1988 Act, and

(f) £nil being the amount which it estimates will be transferred from its general fund to its collection fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(5) of the 1988 Act and charged to a revenue account for the year.

3.2.16(2) The authority calculates the aggregate of: (in accordance with Section 31A (3) of the Act)

(a) £1,116.488m being the income which it estimates will accrue to it in the year and which it will credit to a revenue account, other than a BID Revenue Account, for the year in accordance with proper practices.

(b) £nil being the amount which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with section 97(3) of the 1988 Act.

(c) £nil being the amount which it estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(4) of the 1988 Act and will be credited to a revenue account for the year, and

(d) £13.967m being the amount of the financial reserves which the authority estimates it will use in order to provide for the items mentioned in subsection (2) (a), (b), (e) and (f) above.

3.2.17 £89.219m being the amount by which the aggregate calculated under subsection (1) above exceeds that calculated under subsection (2) above, the authority calculates the amount equal to the difference; and the amount so calculated is its Council Tax Requirement for the year.

3.2.18 being the amount at (3.2.17) divided by the amount at (3.2.14) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31A of the Act, £1,238.47 as the basic amount of its council tax for the year

3.2.19 That the Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council tax for 2021/22 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation Bands Hackney

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
825.65	963.25	1100.86	1238.47	1513.69	1788.91	2064.12	2476.95

3.2.20 The Council noted that for 2021/22 the Greater London Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Bands GLA

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
242.44	282.85	323.25	363.66	444.47	525.29	606.10	727.32

3.2.21 That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3.2.19 and 3.2.20 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for 2021/22 for each of the categories of dwellings as shown below.

Valuation Bands Combined Hackney/GLA

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1068.09	1246.10	1424.11	1602.13	1958.16	2314.20	2670.22	3204.27

That the Council:

3.2.22 Agreed In the event of any changes to the proposed levels of the GLA Precept as set out in 3.2.20 following the consideration of its budget on 25 February 2021, to (a) delegate authority to the Group Director Finance and Corporate Resources to reflect any amendments to the GLA Precept in the Council's Council Tax billing information and (b) to agree to convene a further meeting of full Council to consider any such amendments in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

3.2.23 Agreed, subject to the decision of Members on recommendations 3.2.16 to 3.2.18 that Hackney's Council Tax requirement for 2021/22 be £89.219m which results in a Band D Council Tax of £1,238.47 for Hackney purposes and a total Band D Council Tax of £1,602.13 including the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept. An analysis of the tax base total Band D Council Tax across Council Tax Bands is shown in 3.2.21 above and an exemplification of the taxbase and discounts by band, is shown in Appendix 5.

3.2.24 Agreed that in accordance with principles approved under section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and the new provisions included in the Localism Act 2011, the increase in the Council's Council Tax requirement for 2021/22 as shown at Appendix 9 is not excessive (5% or above) and therefore does not require the Council to hold a referendum.

		<p>3.2.24 Agreed the Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22 to 2023/24, set out at <u>Appendix 3</u>.</p> <p>3.2.25 Agreed the criteria for lending and the financial limits set out at <u>Appendix 3</u>.</p> <p>3.2.26 Approved the MRP statement setting out the method of calculation to be used, as set out in paragraphs 25.21-25.26 below.</p>
10.	Amendments to the Council's Constitution	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That approval be given to the amendments to the procedure for motions, as set out in appendix 1 of the report , and the amendments to the Audit Committee terms of reference as set out in appendix 4 of report.</p>
11.	Dispensation Report	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, approval be given to Deputy Mayor Rennison's non-attendance at meetings until September 2021 to accommodate her maternity leave.</p>
12.	Calendar of Council Meetings	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the proposed Council meeting calendar for 2021/22, be noted.</p>
13.	Motion	<p>The Motion was passed as follows:</p> <p>Hackney Council recognises the importance of place and belonging and that older residents feel that Hackney is a great place to live and grow old in. Council endorses the successful application to join the World Health Organisation's global network of</p>

age-friendly cities and communities and that there is ongoing attention to creating an age-friendly borough.

15% of our population in Hackney are over 55 years old and the recently approved Ageing Well Strategy shares the vision that residents feel empowered, informed, valued and supported; through age-friendly communities and services and specialist care if the need arises. Council celebrates the diversity of roles that older people in Hackney play, and the contribution they make to our local community.

Ageing is an experience that is unique and different to each individual. However, through the strategy's engagement work, notable consistent themes were highlighted as to what constitutes a better ageing experience for residents across the spectrum of adult age bands:

- being connected and engaged with society, tackling ageism and respected;
- keeping active physically, mentally and socially;
- a keenness to be empowered to take responsibility for individual own health where possible;
- the importance of feeling safe at home and out in the community;
- better access to information and communication;
- championing more age-friendly activity and infrastructure in our neighbourhoods.

It is around these themes and others that the council resolves to work with services, stakeholders, partners and residents to effect change that is tangible and makes a difference. At the heart of this work is co-production; and really considering both the needs and interests of this population.

Council commits to make Hackney age-friendly, and ultimately a place for everyone.

Council therefore resolves:

- To endorse Hackney's membership to the World Health Organisation's Global Network for age-friendly cities and communities.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To embed the commitments of membership within the Council's ageing well approach and to involve older residents in this pursuit. <p>Proposed by: Cllr Sade Etti Seconded by: Cllr Richard Lufkin</p> <p>Voting:</p> <p>For: Many Abstentions: 1</p>
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