

## Meeting of Full Council

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London Borough of Hackney Council

Municipal Year 2021/22

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

Wednesday 20 October 2021 at 7pm

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### Councillors in Attendance:

Mayor Philip Glanville

Cllr Michael Desmond - Speaker

Cllr Kam Adams, Cllr Brian Bell,

Cllr Robert Chapman, Cllr Mete

Coban, Cllr Sophie Conway, Cllr

Kofo David, Cllr Sade Etti, Cllr

Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cllr

Humaira Garasia, Cllr Margaret

Gordon, Cllr Christopher Kennedy,

Cllr Hershy Lisser, Cllr Yvonne

Maxwell, Cllr Clayeon McKenzie,

Cllr Anthony McMahon, Deputy

Mayor Guy Nicholson, Cllr Harvey

Odze,

Cllr Deniz Oguzkanli, Cllr M Can

Ozsen, Cllr Sam Pallis, Cllr

Benzion Papier, Cllr Sharon

Patrick, Cllr James Peters, Cllr

Steve Race, Cllr Ian Rathbone,

Cllr Nick Sharman, Cllr Anya

Sizer, Cllr Peter Snell, Cllr Simche

Steinberger, Cllr Vincent Stops,

Cllr Lynne Troughton, Cllr Jessica

Webb, Cllr Caroline Woodley, Cllr

Penny Wrouth and Cllr Sarah

Young

**Officer Contact:** Andrew Spragg, Governance Services Team Leader

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This meeting was live streamed and can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUZavmPr0m0>

### **The Speaker, Cllr Michael Desmond, in the Chair**

The Speaker welcomed Council members, officers and members of the public in attendance, and those watching the livestream.

The Speaker noted the death of Sir David Amess, MP for Southend West, who was killed on Friday 15 October 2021. He condemned the attack and informed Council that he was committed to working with the Mayor and Chief Executive to ensure elected members remained safe in their roles.

A minute's silence was observed, after which Cllr Steinberger paid tribute to Sir David Amess. He thanked officers for their continued efforts to keep Councillors safe.

Mayor Glanville proposed and Cllr Chapman seconded that Rule 25.1 of the Council's Procedure Rules be suspended for the duration of the meeting. It was agreed unanimously by all present that Councillors 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 could 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 Councillors Gregory, Joseph, Levy, Lynch, Rennison, Selman and Williams.
- 1.2 Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Conway, Papier and Peters.
- 1.3 It was noted that the following Councillors had joined the meeting remotely: Deputy Mayor Bramble, Councillors Adejare, Billington, Cameron, Chauhan, Hanson, Hayhurst, Lufkin, Moema, Potter, Smyth, Spence and Wrout.

## **2. Speaker's Announcements**

- 2.1 The Speaker welcomed the new Chief Executive, Mark Carroll.
- 2.2 The Speaker outlined his plans for his civic dinner on 27 October 2021.
- 2.3 Full Council was informed that the Speaker had coordinated with St Joseph's Hospice, one of his nominated charities, to provide facilities for team building activities for Council staff.
- 2.4 The Speaker had been working with civic representatives from Lewisham, Newham and Tower Hamlets to promote the role of the Speaker. He had also met with pupils from Urswick school to celebrate local democracy week. In particular, he highlighted the ambitions of the school's Youth Parliament representative to ensure closer working between Councillors and young people.

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 There were no declarations of interests.

## **4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

- 4.1 Cllr Steinberger and Cllr Odze raised the following corrections for the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Full Council on 21 July 2021:
  - 8.2 replace "equipment" with "premises".
  - 8.3 replace "Steinbergaer's" with "Steinberger's".
  - Replace "Cllr Hershy" with "Cllr Lisser" throughout.
  - Amend the duration of the meeting to 7.03pm - 9.54pm
- 4.2 The Council noted these corrections.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Council held on 21 July 2021 (Freedom of the Borough) be agreed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 21 July 2021 be agreed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

**5. Questions from Members of the Public**

**5.1 From Reiner Tegtmeier to the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Supply, Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy**

Concerning the Dalston Plan, what practical actions will be taken to fully respect views, suggestions and substantiated objections expressed by residents in creating “open green spaces” and housing for existing, poor residents as opposed to filling-in the various identified “opportunity spaces” and convert Kingsland Shopping Centre into a high-density Estate?

**Response from Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Supply, Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy**

Deputy Mayor Nicholson outlined the ongoing work to engage with residents in respect to the draft Dalston Plan. He highlighted that there had been an unprecedented level of engagement, with approximately 5,500 responses from the community. The discussions had been led by the Mayor and local ward Councillors, Cllr Adejare and Cllr Snell. Deputy Mayor Nicholson informed the Council that the consultation had enabled an improved understanding of the needs and ambitions of the community. He outlined that the community had asked for the following:

- Investment in Ridley Road Street Market;
- Protection of the Dalston Curve garden;
- Improvements in the cultural quarter, including the CLR James library;
- Action to address the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Ridley Road and Gillett Square;
- Open spaces;
- Improved public transport links; and
- Genuinely affordable homes and workspaces.

Deputy Mayor Nicholson stated that the Council was delivering on these ambitions, and they were reflected in the draft Dalston Plan and the Hackney Local Plan. He highlighted that there was a challenge in delivering on green spaces in the area when there was also a clear need for housing, citing the Kingsland Shopping Centre as an example. He informed the Council that the space could deliver up to 242 affordable homes, and that the Council had to hold the community’s different priorities in balance as set out in the Local Plan.

Reiner Tegtmeier asked a supplementary question regarding the impact of taller buildings being built in the area, and what the Council was doing to protect local views and ensure developments did not overshadow the pre-existing buildings.

Deputy Mayor Nicholson explained that the Council's planning policies identified criteria regarding height and massing that were intended to minimise the environmental impact for new developments. The draft Dalston Plan included further detail to support this and what specific needs applied to Dalston in order to safeguard against these issues. Deputy Mayor Nicholson offered to meet with Reiner Tegtmeier to discuss how the plans and policies could support his concerns.

### **5.2 From Adam Forman to the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Supply, Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy**

Given the options agreement between Hackney Walk and the Council over the Tesco site, Morning Lane, expires in March 2022, will the Council commit to exploring alternative funding for a plan including a high proportion of Council homes and an equivalent size Tesco store?

The Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Supply, Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy referred the question to the Mayor for response.

#### **Response from the Mayor**

The Mayor thanked Adam Forman for his question and the petition he submitted on behalf of the Morning Lane campaign group. He informed the Council that the Cabinet decision four years ago to purchase the site had been intended to prevent the kind of unrestricted development previously seen in the area. The agreement in place with Hackney Walk Ltd was designed to ensure that any proposal met the needs of local residents and businesses, as well as the requirements of the Local Plan. This included more affordable workspaces and homes, as well as securing a long-term return for the Council. Any proposal would also need to ensure that there was a replacement Tesco store, of a size specified by the company when the freehold was purchased. Council was informed that local residents and Tesco had both indicated that there should be no break in supermarket provision as the result of any development.

The Mayor stated that the option holder had a right to submit a proposal until March 2022. As the agreement reached its conclusion, the Council would be exploring any required alternatives. The Mayor explained that any proposal would be subject to consultation and engagement, and highlighted the role of the Hackney Central conversation in ensuring that local residents were involved in developing the planning policy for the area. He paid tribute to the work of the local ward Councillors for Hackney Central and Homerton, who had ensured that residents' voices were heard.

The Mayor concluded that any proposal would have to cross-subsidise the costs to the Council, including the provision of new public housing and a return on the cost of the land. He informed the Council that for every social housing home built, it was estimated that a

development would need to sell between 1.5 and 2 private homes. He also indicated that this did not include the cost of purchasing the freehold. The Mayor stated that there was no lack of ambition for Council housing, and he was prepared to explore what could be delivered either by the Council or with a development partner.

Adam Forman asked a supplementary question about how the Mayor proposed to involve the local community in developing proposals for the site.

The Mayor highlighted the role of the current steering group, and noted that the Morning Lane campaign group had a seat on this. He indicated that should Hackney Walk Ltd not pursue the option to submit a proposal, then he would expect the Council to lead this discussion using its established co-production principles.

### **5.3 From Alastair Binnie-Lubbock to the Cabinet Member for Housing Services**

I have encountered several Council residents reporting serious damp issues and their queries weren't taken seriously or dealt with promptly. In some cases queries on this issue are ignored completely. Does the Council commit to not keep residents in the dark and damp?

### **Response from the Cabinet Member for Housing Services**

Cllr McKenzie informed Council that all reported repairs were taken seriously, and that damp and mould were considered priority matters. He outlined the challenges faced by services in the last 18 months, with both the impact of the pandemic and the cyber-attack affecting performance. The loss of digital systems had affected non-urgent repairs and the ability to keep residents informed. Public health advice had also meant that services had been required to suspend non-urgent repairs as a consequence of the pandemic, although these had resumed in June 2021 and work was now underway to address the backlog. He apologised to those residents who had been impacted by the issues.

Cllr McKenzie informed the Council that contact centre call waiting times had reduced to 12 minutes as of September, and that a new call back option had been introduced to help minimise wait times. Options were being explored to enable residents to report repairs online, and staff were being supported to move to mobile working in order to improve productivity. The Cabinet Member stated that services were working closely with Tenant and Resident Associations and ward Councillors to address concerns.

Alastair Binnie-Lubbock asked a supplementary question regarding whether the performance data and targets could be made public. Cllr McKenzie committed to doing this.

### **5.4 From Kieran Kirkwood to the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Supply, Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy**

In 2020, Hackney Council passed an anti-racism motion pledging that "Hackney's Black Lives Matter". How is this specifically reflected in your planning policy?

### **Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Supply, Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy**

Deputy Mayor Nicholson explained that a number of work streams had been undertaken since the Council had passed its motion. He informed the Council that this included work that had informed the Local Plan and other planning policies. In particular he cited access to new homes and affordable workspaces as being a priority consideration for the Council. Deputy Mayor Nicholson stated that the different activities around developing planning policies had been focused on delivering an inclusive economy and inclusive regeneration. The work of the Young Futures Commission had identified a clear message about regeneration instead of gentrification, including steps to tackle disenfranchisement and exclusion.

Kieran Kirkwood asked a supplementary question about how the Council supported black owned businesses, including the market traders in the Ridley Road indoor shopping village. Deputy Mayor Nicholson outlined that the shopping village was owned by a commercial organisation and not the Council. It was explained that the Council was supporting business tenants affected by redevelopment to ensure that they were able to find new spaces or negotiate a return if they so wished.

### **5.5 From Rebecca Lammers to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety**

When does Hackney Council plan to fulfill its promise to obtain White Ribbon accreditation and what, if anything, has the Council done to ensure accreditation is obtained sooner rather than later?

### **Response from the Cabinet Member for Community Safety**

Cllr Fajana-Thomas confirmed that the Council had submitted its application and action plan to White Ribbon and was awaiting feedback. It was anticipated that it would gain its accreditation within the year. Cllr Fajana-Thomas went on to outline the work the Council was undertaking to address the four strands set out in its action plan. This was overseen by the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) operational group which comprised of statutory partners and community services. It was explained that training for licensed premises, schools and GPs was provided. Cllr Fajana-Thomas outlined the Council's ambition to support men and boys to become better allies. She explained that the Council also worked with male perpetrators to support and challenge them through the Safe and Together approach. The Council was informed that services worked closely with the police on a number of campaigns such as the "Ask for Angela" scheme and through initiatives such as outreach activities. Cllr Fajana-Thomas concluded by outlining the plans for The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, an international campaign that began in November and would include a launch at the town hall.

Rebecca Lammers asked a supplementary question regarding the role of male Councillors and staff in leading the accreditation. Cllr Fajana-Thomas explained that the officer leading on the accreditation work was male, and explained that she had repeatedly made public statements about the role men had to play in reducing VAWG.

## 6. Questions from Members of the Council

### **6.1 From Cllr Soraya Adejare to the Cabinet Member for Employment, Skills and Human Resources**

As a borough in which the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers reside, it is clear that our legacy of providing sanctuary is firmly embedded. Nevertheless, we are now faced with a government which has done its utmost to demonise those seeking refuge, including through the punitive Immigration Bill which goes so far as to criminalise Royal National Lifeboat Institution volunteers for helping drowning refugees and asylum seekers. As we sit in this meeting tonight, there are crises occurring across the world, where human lives remain at risk. Could the Cabinet Member please advise as to the ongoing work being undertaken to ensure that this is countered in our borough, including the support Hackney will give to Afghan refugees under the government's resettlement scheme and the Afghan local workers scheme?

#### **Response from the Mayor**

The Mayor stated that the borough had a proud legacy of welcoming refugees, which was core to the beliefs of the administration and wider community. He commented that the Council was in opposition to the hostile environment, citing the Home Office work with rough sleepers as an example. He acknowledged the efforts of Cllr Williams in lobbying against central Government policy, and spoke about how the Council had established a working group to support Afghan refugees. In partnership with London Councils, GLA and LGA, the Council had taken early steps to settle people under the existing local working scheme and the Afghan Relocation Assistance Programme. The Mayor highlighted the experience of those already placed in the borough and how abandoned they reported feeling. He announced that Hackney had already committed to housing 5 households for 5 years, with no detrimental impact to those already waiting for housing in the borough. Council was informed that the first home would be ready in the next few weeks, and each family would have a dedicated caseworker. The Mayor stated that there were approximately 13,000 refugees in bridging hotels across London, and that the needs of children would be paramount in such situations. The Mayor praised the Hackney Community and Voluntary Sector (HCVS) and wider community for its continued efforts to support refugees through offers of help and donations.

### **6.2 From Cllr Polly Billington to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care and Leisure**

What progress is being made to reintroduce face to face appointments with GPs in the borough to support those who need quality time with their GP and find virtual consultations unsuitable, thus limiting their access to the healthcare they need?

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

Cllr Kennedy opened by thanking all staff operating in GP practices and primary care settings across the borough. He informed Council that across the City and Hackney health

system, a “digital where appropriate” approach had been adopted. He highlighted the role of doorstep assessment teams, who had supported individuals isolating during the pandemic and were now visiting those for whom travel to a GP would be difficult or risky. Cllr Kennedy informed the Council that all local GPs were open and seeing patients face to face where there was a need to do so, or the patient requested it. He outlined that only one GP across City and Hackney had a low ratio of face to face appointments, and this was due to the GP having to isolate due to their personal circumstances. Cllr Kennedy highlighted the role of Hackney Healthwatch in providing challenge on performance, and quoted a recent report to the Primary Care Enabler Board which indicated no reported issues with patients being seen face to face. Cllr Kennedy referenced the additional funding provided by NHS England for a Primary Care Access Improvement Programme, and confirmed that City and Hackney would be looking at how to utilise this. He closed by inviting those who wished to provide feedback on GPs to attend a Healthwatch Hackney session on access to Primary Care, which was planned for the coming fortnight.

### **6.3 From Cllr Sarah Young to the Mayor**

Following the Council’s successful bid for funding from the Mayor of London’s Affordable Homes Programme, could the Mayor provide an update on Hackney’s progress on building the affordable homes our residents desperately need?

### **Response from the Mayor**

The Mayor welcomed Cllr Young as a newly elected Member, and thanked her for organising a public meeting on housing in Woodberry Down. He stated that it had been a decade since the Council had launched its in-house house building programme and it was a model now seen across other local authorities in London. He confirmed that of the 2000 homes the administration had committed to building between 2018-22, 1700 had now been built or received planning permission. The Mayor noted that this was in the context of huge pressures around cost-price, lack of funding and Brexit. He informed Council that approval had just been given for 23 Council homes in Frampton Park and that these would be assigned to local residents. He outlined the work underway in Tower Court in Stamford Hill, Kings Park, Clapton Park, De Beauvoir Estate, Lincoln Court, the Nightingale and Colville Estates, and Hoxton West. He paid tribute to the ward Councillors who had worked with himself and Deputy Mayor Nicholson to address the need in their areas. Council was informed that the Mayor of London had awarded Hackney £17.5 million for the next funding round. It was noted that Treasury rules had prevented Hackney’s preferred bid for 100% social rented homes. The Mayor acknowledged the role partnership played in delivering new housing in the borough, and how funds raised through the Right to Buy scheme was enabling the Council to invest in affordable housing in housing associations such as Peabody. The Mayor restated his commitment to ensuring the next masterplan for Woodberry Downs would see more social and affordable housing for residents.

Cllr Young asked a supplementary question regarding the ability of the Council to push back when developers used viability considerations to reduce the number of affordable and social housing. The Mayor responded by acknowledging the role of Deputy Mayor Nicholson and the Planning Sub-Committee in ensuring that developers were challenged appropriately. He set out the expertise gathered through delivering some developments

in-house and how this enabled an improved understanding of the assumptions made in respect to affordable housing. The Mayor also informed Council that where big applications could not demonstrate the proper considerations, he was confident in joining with local campaigners to make sure their views were heard. He noted that the system still favoured developers, and highlighted previous scrutiny reviews on the topic of viability and affordable and social housing. He noted the role of the Local Plan and London Plan in helping shape the market.

#### **6.4 From Cllr Ian Rathbone to the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Supply, Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy**

Would the Cabinet Member responsible for Street Markets and Outdoor Trading agree with me when I say that our street markets are recognised as the best and most successful not only in London, but also around the country, and would he tell us how we plan to make sure our street markets continue being good for traders, good for residents and good for our town centres?

#### **Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Supply, Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy**

Deputy Mayor Nicholson informed Council that there were approximately 60,000 on-street pitches across Hackney, and that these were a vital part of the supply chain for residents and businesses. He acknowledged the work of the Market Service and market traders, which had collectively won 8 national awards. Hackney Market Service had won one award for exceptional management, and another for its support for Hackney young people. Cllr Nicholson outlined how this support included opportunities for work and training. He noted that Broadway Market was now in operation two days a week, and praised ward Councillors for having supported the different markets across the borough - these included:

- Deputy Mayor Bramble, Cllr Plouviez and Cllr Ozsen - Broadway Market
- Cllr Patrick, Cllr Rennison and Cllr Troughton - Chatsworth Road Market
- Cllr Adams, Cllr Race and Cllr Sizer - Hoxton Market
- Cllr Adejare and Cllr Snell - Ridley Road Street Market

Deputy Mayor Nicholson concluded by informing the Council about insourcing the assembly of market stalls, which had created 29 new jobs and a saving of £350,000 over the next five years.

Cllr Rathbone mentioned that the Councillors in Lea Bridge Road in connection with Chatsworth Road Market. He asked a supplementary question regarding Ridley Road Market and employment opportunities

Deputy Mayor Nicholson praised Cllr Rathbone as a longstanding champion of street markets, and the team of the officers supporting the street markets. Deputy Mayor Nicholson outlined the investments the Council was making to Ridley Road Market which would improve the market stalls, payment machines, Wi-Fi and facilities. Council was informed that there were a number of environmental enhancements to be made. Deputy Mayor Nicholson set out how the Council had worked with residents from the Morningside

Estate to support and enable young people into careers as market traders, as well as the work it did with established traders in terms of training and development.

### **6.5 From Cllr Sophie Conway to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety**

Cllr Sophie Conway introduced her question, drawing particular attention to the recent murder of Sarah Everard and expressing her dissatisfaction with the Government and police response.

What representations has the Cabinet Member for Community Safety made to the Borough Commander of the Metropolitan Police seeking specific, measurable and immediate improvements to the way the police tackle violence against women and girls in the borough, in light of women's waning trust in the police to protect them and bring perpetrators of violence and abuse to justice?

### **Response from the Cabinet Member for Community Safety**

Cllr Fajana-Thomas echoed Cllr Conway's concerns about the response from the police and central Government. She raised a number of statistics that demonstrated that the issue remained a significant one, and informed the Council that there must be more done both by individuals and local authorities. Cllr Fajana-Thomas outlined the work of the Community Safety Partnership to ensure tackling VAWG remained a central priority and indicated that an integrated action plan was in place across partners. Council was informed that the Cabinet Member had written to the Basic Command Unit (BCU) Commander to seek assurances as to what the police had been doing to keep people safe. She outlined the ten points she raised, and offered to share the letter and response with all Councillors. It was noted that arrests were being made by the BCU Predatory Offender Unit, police presence had been increased and VAWG cases fast-tracked. Cllr Fajana-Thomas highlighted that the borough had a named officer leading with the issues, and this was not the case in all London local authorities.

Questions that were not taken at the meeting due to time constraints, and where a written response was to be provided are attached as **Appendix 1**.

Cllr Odze raised a point of order, noting that a number of questions from the previous Council meeting were awaiting a written response. Assurances were given by the Speaker that this would be addressed.

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

## **7. Elected Mayor's Statement**

7.1 The Mayor opened by paying tribute to Sir David Amess and condemned the attack. He welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement that Her Majesty The Queen has accorded city status to Southend-on-Sea. He also thanked staff for their continued efforts to keep elected officials safe. The Council was informed about the work undertaken as part of national hate crime awareness week and how the Mayor and services were engaging with communities to address these issues. The Mayor

condemned the anti-Semitic, homophobic and transphobic attacks that had been seen in the borough and across London. He thanked Cllr Conway and Cllr Fajana-Thomas for their work in respect to VAWG, and highlighted the work of Labour Councillors across London to tackle this.

- 7.2 The Mayor outlined how the Council would be celebrating Black History Season. The Black History flag had been raised over the town hall, and various events were planned in local schools and libraries. New public art by Veronica Ryan had been unveiled and was dedicated to the Windrush generation. The Council was also informed that the British Reggae Artists Famine Appeal (BRAFA) Square had been opened in commemoration of the campaign.
- 7.3 The Mayor expressed his thanks to Ian Williams for the period he was Acting Chief Executive, and paid tribute to his work during that time. He welcomed Mark Carroll, as the new Chief Executive, and Jacque Burke, Group Director for Children and Education.
- 7.4 The Mayor informed Council that the Government's plans to raise National Insurance and reduce Universal Credit were unwelcome, and would impact many Hackney residents. Noting rising fuel and energy bills, coupled with food shortages, the Mayor called on the Prime Minister to announce a plan as part of the Autumn Budget Statement to support people through the winter and fund local services. The Mayor acknowledged the Morning Lane, Ridley Road and Children's Centre campaigns, all of which had demonstrated outside the town hall before the meeting. Council was informed that any decision to close services was unwelcome, and consultation was underway in respect to the Fernbank and Hillside children's centres. The Mayor outlined the funding and demographic changes that had led to the consultation, and called on the Government to improve funding services for children. He committed to working with the family and staff affected to minimise the impact of any closure. The Mayor confirmed that he would be meeting with campaigners and Cllr Woodley to hear their concerns and he encouraged residents to submit to the consultation.
- 7.5 The Mayor concluded by outlining his role at COP26, representing London Councils as Lead Member for Environment and Transport. He would be joined by Cllr Coban, and informed the Council that the administration's roadmap to net zero had recently been updated and republished.
- 7.6 Cllr Steinberger responded on behalf of the opposition group. He noted the passing of MP James Brokenshire, and paid tribute to him. He condemned recent attacks in Stamford Hill. Cllr Steinberger noted the protests outside the town hall, and handed a petition to the Speaker on behalf of the Horrendous Hackney Road Closures campaign group. He criticised the Mayor and Cabinet for considering the closure of the children's centres, and the lack of action in addressing residents' concerns. Cllr Steinberger expressed the view that the Council had failed to do anything positive for residents during the pandemic, and criticised increases in the Council Tax. Cllr Steinberger closed by greeting Mark Carroll and Jacque Burke, and praising Ian Williams.

- 7.7 The Mayor responded by acknowledging the contribution of MP James Brokenshire in various Government roles, including the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). He recalled various campaigns he had participated in protesting cuts to local services by central Government. He confirmed that he would be meeting with the Horrendous Hackney Road Closures campaign group with Cllr Coban, reminded those present about the public consultation on the Emergency Transport Plan, and highlighted the extent of public engagement including recent consultations and co-production with residents on Church Street.
- 7.8 The Mayor condemned the anti-semitic attacks in Stamford Hill and paid tribute to Cllr Fajana-Thomas, the Shomrim and Rabbi Gluck in their work to support and reassure communities. The Council was informed that Council tax had been increased as a result of the Government's austerity measures, with the Mayor highlighting the 13% rise in the last two years. He commented that Cabinet had protected investment in front line services, and criticised the opposition group for not submitting any questions for Full Council for a second meeting.

The Speaker announced that item 10 would be the next item on the agenda.

## **10. Standards Committee Annual Report 2020/21**

- 10.1 Deputy Mayor Bramble introduced the report, highlighting how the Standards Committee had continued to promote high ethical standards in the local authority. She thanked the Committee Councillors, Co-opted Members and Independent Person for their contributions, in particular Adedoja Labinjo, Onagete Louison and Jonathan Stopes-Roe, all of whom had come to the end of their terms of office during the 2020/2021 municipal year.

### **RESOLVED:**

To note the annual report of the Standards Committee, attached at appendix 1 to that report.

## **8. Changes to the Terms of the Late Night Levy**

- 8.1 Cllr Plouviez introduced the report, setting out how the Late Night Levy had supported enforcement in the area. She outlined the partnership arrangements with the four local Pub Watches, Community Safety, Enforcement and the police. The Council was informed that the commitment of venue managers and owners contributed to the success of the partnership, despite the challenges of the pandemic. Cllr Plouviez praised the work of the Night Light Levy Manager, and her role in improving things and developing an online portal. The Council was updated on the accreditation scheme and called upon to support the amendment. Cllr Fajana-Thomas and Mayor Glanville praised Cllr Plouviez, the Licensing Committee and Licensing officers. The Mayor also noted the progressive approach taken by venues.

**RESOLVED:**

To approve the amendment to the terms of the Late Night Levy to enable a 30% reduction for 'Hackney Nights' accredited licence holders that takes effect from 1 November 2021, and the report and the appendices are noted.

**9. Licensing Service Annual Report 2020/21**

9.1 Cllr Fajana-Thomas introduced the report and thanked officers, the Licensing Committee and her predecessor, Cllr Selman.

**RESOLVED:**

To approve and note the annual report of the Licensing Service activities to demonstrate how it has undertaken and fulfilled its statutory and operational responsibilities during the municipal year 2020/21 and to show its aims and targets for the forthcoming municipal year 2021/22.

**11. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21**

11.1 The Speaker noted that a video covering the activities of the overview and scrutiny function had been shown prior to the meeting. Cllr Gordon introduced the report by outlining the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Commissions during the year. She highlighted the role virtual meetings had played in ensuring the public were able to engage with the scrutiny function, and how this had seen new and innovative ways of working. She thanked all Councillors, Co-opted Members, residents, partner services and officers involved in scrutiny across Hackney,

11.2 Cllr Sharman welcomed the report and outlined how the scrutiny function supported innovation, held Cabinet to account and ensured resident voices could be heard. Cllr Rathbone thanked Cllr Gordon and the Scrutiny Commission Chairs. He expressed concern that the opposition group did not participate in scrutiny, and urged them to take their seats on the commissions. Cllr Rathbone concluded by drawing attention to the work undertaken in reference to the use of Stop and Search in the borough. Cllr Patrick spoke about how the Living In Hackney Scrutiny Commission had held Thames Water to account.

11.3 The Mayor and Deputy Mayor Bramble praised the work of the scrutiny function and called on the Council to protect and invest in it, in order to ensure Cabinet was held to account. It was noted that the function had resumed shortly after the first lockdown had come into effect.

11.4 Cllr Steinberger expressed the view that the function was not effective, and referenced a previous external report and its findings. He criticised the majority group for not making changes and reverting to a previous form of governance. Cllr Gordon concluded and reiterated concerns about opposition group members not participating in scrutiny.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Function 2020/21 be noted.

**12. Dates of Future Meetings**

**RESOLVED:**

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

- 26 January 2022
- 23 February 2022

Cllr Steinberger and the Speaker concluded by thanking those officers and staff present with organising the meeting and ensuring they were kept safe.

**Meeting duration: 7pm - 9.52pm**

**Chair:** Cllr Michael Desmond, Speaker of the London Borough of Hackney

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