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**London Borough of Hackney**  
**Extraordinary Full Council Meeting**  
**Municipal Year 2022/23**  
**Date of Meeting: Wednesday, 26 October 2022**

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

<b>Councillors in Attendance:</b>	Cllr Humaira Garasia - Speaker of Hackney Mayor Philip Glanville - Mayor of Hackney  Cllr Kam Adams, Cllr Grace Adebayo, Cllr Soraya Adejare, Cllr Frank Baffour, Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble, Cllr Robert Chapman, Cllr Mete Coban, Cllr Sophie Conway, Cllr Michael Desmond, Cllr Sade Etti, Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Zoë Garbett, Cllr Eluzer Goldberg, Cllr Margaret Gordon, Cllr Clare Joseph, Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cllr Shaul Krautwirt, Cllr Lee Laudat-Scott, Cllr Hershy Lisser, Cllr Anna Lynch, Cllr Yvonne Maxwell, Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, Cllr Jon Narcross, Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren, Cllr Ozsen, Cllr Benzion Papier, Cllr Sharon Patrick, Cllr Clare Potter, Cllr Fliss Premru, Cllr Ian Rathbone, Cllr Ifraax Samatar, Cllr Caroline Selman, Cllr Anya Sizer, Cllr Gilbert Smyth, Cllr Simche Steinberger, Cllr Sheila Suso-Runge, Cllr Lynne Troughton, Cllr Claudia Turbet-Delof, Cllr Joe Walker, Cllr Jessica Webb, Cllr Caroline Woodley, Cllr Penny Wrout and Cllr Sarah Young
<b>Apologies for Absence:</b>	Cllr Billington, Cllr Hayhurst, Cllr Moema, Deputy Mayor Nicholson, Cllr Oguzkanli, Cllr Pallis, Cllr Race, Cllr Ross, Cllr Sadek and Cllr Williams.
<b>Apologies for Lateness:</b>	Cllr Selman and Cllr Potter
<b>Officer Contact:</b>	Natalie Williams, Senior Governance Officer <a href="mailto:governance@hackney.gov.uk">governance@hackney.gov.uk</a>
This meeting was live streamed and can be viewed here: <a href="https://youtu.be/xPctMck__c">https://youtu.be/xPctMck__c</a>	

**Councillor Garasia [Speaker] in the Chair**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Mayor Nicholson and Councillors Bllington, Hayhurst, Moema, Oguzkanli, Pallis, Race, Ross, Sadek and Williams.
- 1.2 Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Selman and Potter.

**2. Speaker's Announcements**

- 2.1 The Speaker informed Council of recent civic events and visits, which included:
- A visit to Hoxton market and Chatsworth Road Market .
  - Leading tours for schools and community groups
  - A visit to the Brady Club archive
  - Joined Junior Safety Officers programme at a primary school
  - Hosted Hackney Older Citizens at the Town Hall
  - The Act of Hope and remembrance service at St Paul's Church
  - Hackney Youth Parliament Resources launch
  - Fame Star Youth Black History Month event at the Edge Youth Club
  - Diwali celebrations
  - Clapton Community Feast celebrating Black History Month with the older residents of Hackney
  - An intergenerational Silver Sunday fun day at St Mary's Secret Garden
- 2.2 The Speaker invited Members to a Christmas panto event which she was hosting on the 21st December. Tickets could be booked via the Speaker's Office.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 Cllr Adejare declared an interest in relation to the deputation at agenda item 5 by virtue of the fact that her sibling was a member of the campaign group Morning Lane People's Space who were presenting a deputation.

**4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

- 4.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the previous meeting of Council held on 14 September 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**5. Deputation**

At July's Full Council meeting, Councillor Garbett asked about the plans for 55 Morning Lane following the end of the Option Agreement. In this deputation we will focus on a different aspect of planning for the site: the need for transparency, openness and accountability. After a failed and poorly constructed Option Agreement there has been a breakdown of trust between Hackney Council and local residents about the future of the site. Essential to addressing this is to be open about what has happened up to now.

We demand that our Council make public: the un-redacted Option Agreement, any checks that were done on Hackney Walk before entering into an agreement with them, and all the pre-application exchanges between the Council and Hackney Walk. As well as rebuilding trust, this will enable residents to engage fully with the process and to hold our Council to account.

We also demand that our Council make public and discuss at the Full Council meeting the reports that informed the Option Agreement including any viability studies or other reasoning that contributed to the decision to set a target of 20% affordable housing on the site.

**Deputation leader:** Heather Mendick

**Councillor introduction:** Cllr Clare Joseph

- 5.1 Cllr Joseph introduced the deputation. It was highlighted that residents overwhelmingly wanted to see social housing and the retention of a supermarket in any new development plans for the site. She implored the Council to be transparent in decisions going forward and to investigate different funding streams in order to provide the maximum level of social housing.
- 5.2 Adam Forman, Margaret Trotter, Pat Quigley and Heather Mendick addressed the chamber. They stated that there was a lack of transparency and scrutiny of the failed options agreement with Hackney Walk. A survey which they carried out showed that local residents wanted any future development plans to include a supermarket akin to that already on the site as well as affordable council housing. Concerns were raised that following the lapsed options agreement, the Council would sell to private developers. They informed Members that they had created a financial viability study to build low rent homes as well as commercial and retail space for rent on the site. The study (undertaken by students on a Planning Masters programme at University College London) showed it was viable to build a development with 50 percent or more council housing. Requests were made to speak with the Council's quantity surveyor and housing officers to discuss MOPS' proposals and to see the basis for any contrary proposals. Concluding, it was stated the Council needed to acknowledge there had been a breakdown in trust with residents. To rebuild this trust, it was requested that the priorities of local residents be embedded in any future plans for the site.
- 5.3 Following questions from Members, Heather Mendick stated that a Freedom of Information request was made as set out in the deputation text. It was felt that commercial sensitivity was outweighed by the level of public interest and was no longer relevant as the deal had collapsed. She did not believe that the lapsed options agreement was an opportunity for a fresh start unless there was openness about what had gone wrong and transparency and accountability going forward. Homerton ward Councillors were encouraged to engage with the campaign to codesign a suggested way forward.

#### Mayor Glanville's Response

- 5.4 Mayor Glanville emphasised his administration's commitment to listening to the views of local people and disputed that the options agreement was poorly constructed and lacked transparency. He believed that, while it failed, ultimately

it always sought to manage risk and protect the interests of the Council and the community.

- 5.5 The Mayor reported that there were no plans to sell the site. The intention was to commence a competitive procurement process with an experienced developer that could work with the Council and community. He believed that it was possible to deliver on an exciting collective vision for the site, based on the priorities of the community.
- 5.6 The Mayor explained that the options agreement and pre-application correspondence was confidential and exempt from disclosure under FOI legislation. The Council remained bound by the confidentiality wording in the agreement for a further seven years, which was normal and accepted practice for such agreements. The Council could not release the option agreement without the risk of legal action at the expense of the council tax payer. Assurances were given that extensive due diligence checks were undertaken on Hackney Walk and Dukeminster to comply with the Council's legal and financial obligations.
- 5.7 It was explained that the 20% affordable housing level set out in the option agreement was the minimum level of affordable housing required to be met in any development scheme at the time. This was set by the London Plan under the previous Conservative Mayor of London. The Mayor advised that a new 35% affordable housing target had since been implemented by Sadiq Khan, Labour Mayor of London. Any plans for the site would require to be in line with the Council's planning policy and be subject to planning permission.
- 5.8 It was stated that on average it costs between £350,000 to £400,000 to build a new Council home. 450 homes on the site at 100% Council rent before anything else was built would cost £180m. This would be the baseline for any modelling. It was confirmed that as there was not a current scheme proposed, there were no viability studies.
- 5.9 Concluding, the Mayor committed to prioritise the delivery of genuinely affordable housing. He committed to pursue every option to fund this and work with partners to deliver on a supermarket. He pledged to use the site to benefit Hackney Central and the borough, delivering housing, workspaces, opportunities for businesses, more jobs and high-quality and greener public spaces. The development of the site would be underpinned by the views of the community.

## **6. Questions from Members of the Public**

- 6.1 From Debbie Anyo (AFRUCA Safeguarding Children) to the Mayoral Adviser for Housing Needs and Homelessness

What is the Council doing to address the growing cases of housing needs in families with no recourse to public funds, the impact on children in these families and temporary accommodation outside the borough.

In the absence of Debbie Anyo the Speaker read the question as set out, following which a response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care

Deputy Mayor Bramble advised that there was a team dedicated to supporting children living with parents/carers with no recourse to public funds, who struggled to meet their children's needs due to this status. The No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and the Private Fostering Team also offered support to children living in private fostering arrangements. The team endeavoured to resolve immigration issues as quickly as possible. As a result of the commissioning contract with Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network, families were offered timely access to immigration advice and support.

The Council had been supporting each family for just under one year. The families supported by the team were from a diverse range of backgrounds with 6 new families referred to the team for a Child and Family Assessment in the past month.

Over the past 5 years, the number of families that required accommodation and/or subsistence support through the NRPF and Private Fostering team at any one time had decreased. It was found that this was primarily related to the support received and subsequent resolution of their immigration status. As of September 2022, the team were supporting 50 families, with 79 children between them, with no recourse to public funds, with accommodation and/or subsistence, or other support needs related to their status. Support offered to those living outside the borough included assistance with registering with local GPs and maintaining links with Hackney services.

6.2 From Helen Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Recently Hackney Central has been targeted by graffiti such that the Narrow Way is now a disgrace. This is particularly evident on the shop shutters when they are down. Shouldn't the Council take responsibility for cleaning our civic centre and not leave it to individual shop owners?

In the absence of Helen Lewis the Speaker read the question as set out, following which a response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban explained that the Council was committed to reducing and removing undesirable graffiti, and considered any graffiti on buildings and other structures without the owner's consent to be an interference with the property owner's rights. The Council's Graffiti Removal Service responded to reported graffiti issues from internal colleagues and from members of the public (via email, phone or the Fix My Streets app). The service also worked proactively to identify graffiti and carry out removal work, where possible. Where graffiti was deemed to be offensive, removal could take place within 24 hours where possible.

Cllr Coban explained the potential complexity of graffiti removal, the different methods used and measures to ensure its safe removal with no damage to surrounding property or infrastructure. For complex jobs, there was a charge to businesses and removal was subject to the property owner's permission, by

way of a signed disclaimer. Without this, the Council was unable to remove graffiti. In addition, depending on the shutter type there was a possible risk of flooding in particular basement areas of premises.

In reference to the Narrow Way, the graffiti team had already attended the site, and the shutters on these businesses would not withstand the Council's graffiti removal jet washers without incurring damage. The businesses would need to respray their shutters to remove the graffiti. The Council reserved the right to take formal action against owners to secure removal. Should business owners not comply, the Council could remove the graffiti and recover the costs from the owner.

The Speaker decided to vary the order of public questions and prioritise questions from those who were present in the chamber and remotely.

6.9 From Catherine Cannon to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Given the climate emergency and Hackney Borough Council's stated aim to reduce their emissions, will the council consider committing to serving fully plant-based fare at any future catered meetings and events as other councils have done?

This question was asked by Louisa Hillwood who was in attendance in the chamber.

Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban advised that on Monday, 24 October 2022, Cabinet approved the draft Hackney Climate Action Plan (CAP) for public consultation. He explained that as part of the draft CAP, the Council would be looking at reducing emissions from food as well as promoting sustainable diets to residents and encouraging climate friendly menus to schools and care services.

Cllr Coban stated that input from residents and various stakeholders would be very welcome as part of the CAP consultation process. He believed that in order to reach Net Zero by 2030 and to tackle the climate crisis, a wider look at lifestyle choices including travel and dress would also need to be explored.

It was reported that Hackney was leading on work relating to food emissions as part of the One World Living, consumption based emission work from London Councils. A workshop with fifteen other boroughs was recently held in Hackney Town Hall to encourage London boroughs to increase plant based meals as part of their procurement processes, as well as reducing food waste from contractors and increasing agro-ecological sourced food.

Supplementary Question

What is the timeline for the CAP and food emissions work?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban explained that a Climate Emergency was declared in 2019 and the Council had been a leading forerunner with regard to this. The Council had

recently won the Local Government Chronicle national award for its response to climate change. He advised of the intention to bring together a strategic framework across the Council which encompassed low carbon development, transport, and food emissions. The CAP would include not only Council areas of responsibility but also actions that local people could take to assist in tackling climate change. A 3 year detailed implementation plan would be put in place to assist. Cllr Coban highlighted the importance of responding during the 10 week consultation period as this would inform how best to deliver commitments and ensure an ambitious pioneering CAP.

6.3 From Larry Keegan to the Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Resident Participation

How can the Council justify leaving a community flat on Warburton Estate empty, especially with 3 community halls in walking distance available for TRA meetings? Apart from the loss of revenue, it deprives a family of a home.

In the absence of Larry Keegan, the Speaker read the question as set out, following which a response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Response from the Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Resident Participation

Cllr McKenzie reported that the Council had 10 flats and one studio (bedsit) designated for community use. He explained that historically, most had been managed by Tenants and Residents Associations (TRAs) and used for their meetings, office administration and ad hoc social events. These arrangements had been in place for many years and agreed at a time when there was significantly less demand for social housing in the borough.

Following a review of community halls 2019, and since the pandemic, the Council undertook work to begin to revert these flats back to housing use and create much needed homes for vulnerable households. Patterns of use have changed, with over half of the flats no longer actively used by TRAs. However, because of the length of time the flats had been designated for community use, planning permission was required to return them to residential use. For those flats no longer in use, the Council was actively working on planning applications to secure change of use and these were on track to be submitted by December 2022. If planning consent is granted, these flats would be allocated through the Council's letting policy in 2023.

Concluding, Cllr McKenzie stated that where flats remained in use by TRAs, work would be undertaken to identify alternative suitable meeting spaces so residents' interests could continue to be championed. This included discussions with Warburton and Darcy TRA who continued to manage and make use of the community flat at Warburton House for their meetings. A full report on the community flats would be presented to Cabinet for decision early in 2023.

6.4 From Fozia Bham to the Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Resident Participation

Why has it been so problematic for long standing tenants to add their name to the housing register for a bigger place? The cyber attack happened 2 years ago and the Council keeps giving conflicting information.

In the absence of Fozia Bham, the Speaker read the question as set out, following which a response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Response from the Mayoral Adviser for for Housing Needs and Homelessness

Cllr Etti advised that Hackney as well as most parts of London was in the midst of an affordable housing crisis. This was due to rapidly rising rents combined with cuts in financial support for low income families which had directly resulted in rising homelessness, increased overcrowding and extended social housing waiting lists. Demand by far outstripped available supply.

Cllr Etti informed that the Council operated a Choice Based Lettings (CBL) scheme, where those accepted on the housing register were able to “bid” for social housing properties. The redesigned Allocations Policy recognised that overcrowding was a significant issue and the need to prioritise severely overcrowded households.

To be considered as severely overcrowded, households required two more bedrooms (or rooms that could be used as bedrooms) than they have in their current accommodation. With high demand and an extremely limited number of properties available for social rent, acceptance on the housing register would not address immediate housing needs. Applicants accepted as severely overcrowded would be placed into Band B with waiting times of; 9 years for 3 bed properties, 13 years for 4 bed and 39 years for 5+ bed need.

Cllr Etti reported that the Council’s Housing Register IT System was irreparably damaged by the criminal cyber attack and work was underway to build a new system. Teams were updating records for single households and homeless families for whom a housing duty had been accepted.

Council tenants experiencing overcrowding should talk to their Housing Officer to explore all options available. Support to access a range of toolkits of advice and guidance about rehousing including: mutual exchange, Homeswapper, Homefinder UK and the The Fresh Start Scheme was available.

The Mayoral Adviser relayed apologies for the delays residents had experienced in the processing of applications to join the housing register as a result of the cyber attack. Assurances were given that officers were working tirelessly to resolve the remaining issues whilst making sure that residents did not miss out.

6.5 From Zaynab Aswat to the Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure

There has been a remarkable increase in the number of phone thefts and assaults surrounding Springfield Park and surrounding roads up to Clapton.

What plans are in place to increase security and prevent these crimes reoccurring on a daily basis?

In the absence of Zaynab Aswad, the Speaker read the question as set out, following which a response was provided by the Cabinet Member.

Response from the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Cllr Fajana-Thomas informed that she had liaised with Inspector Rob Bradley, Safer Neighbourhood Inspector, who informed her that there had been several crimes of theft reported in the vicinity (approximately 4 in one month). The Integrated Gangs Unit lead officer had given assurances that the area was not one known for recent or historical gang violence.

Cllr Fajana-Thomas reported that the Safer Neighbourhood Team for the area had committed to ensuring that all reported crimes were investigated thoroughly and the victims provided with a full update after the investigation. Police officers had been directed to increase patrols in this area particularly in the winter months. The Council Enforcement Officer was working closely with the Police to prevent further crimes in the area. In addition, Parks Officers for Springfield Park had been briefed to be extra vigilant and to report any suspicious activities to the police.

In conclusion, Cllr Fajana-Thomas encouraged residents to ensure that all phone thefts were reported to the Police via the 101 telephone number. This would ensure that the Community Safety Partnership was made aware of all crimes in the area which would assist them to patrol the area in a focused way.

6.10 From Sophie Cameron to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

October is menopause awareness month and it is 6 months since Hackney Council passed a motion calling for better support for those experiencing menopause. Can I ask what actions have since been taken to improve menopause support for women in Hackney and to campaign for better outcomes for women nationally?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

Cllr Kennedy highlighted that following the passing of the motion, the requests of the council had been passed up to national level for consideration in the creation of the national Women's Health Strategy.

The Council welcomed the publication of the [Women's Health Strategy for England](#) in summer 2022. The new strategy accepted that insufficient focus was placed on the menopause at a national level. Although the strategy set out encouraging 10 year ambitions, it was felt that the pace at which these would be delivered was inadequate particularly without dedicated funding to ensure improvements. The Council would however work with local partnerships with the NHS and voluntary sector, to act as an advocate for sustained change to better address the menopause.

A women's reproductive health survey was held by City & Hackney NHS Trust in April-May 2022. Over 2,500 people completed the survey which provided invaluable insight into what women were experiencing in terms of (peri-)menopause, symptoms, and the care received. Cllr Kennedy reported the results of the survey demonstrated that whilst some of the women had received good support, more was needed to ensure (peri)menopause support was available and accessible.

To help address the need for better information and support for the menopause, the City & Hackney NHS Trust had developed, an innovative Community Gynaecology Service which included menopause virtual patient engagement events and smaller group consultations. He highlighted the various events and attendance levels, which had received excellent feedback, with more events planned in coming months.

Concluding, Cllr Kennedy pledged that the Council would continue to work to ensure all employees were aware of the council's menopause policy and advocate for greater awareness and support in local workplaces.

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 A**.

## **7. Questions from Members of the Council**

### **7.1 From Cllr Binnie-Lubbock to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport**

Residents are worried about the felling of mature trees on Council land, which does not need to go through usual planning processes, even in a conservation area. Has an assessment been made on the possible impact to Hackney's mature tree targets as a result of this, also including the recent heatwave and vandalism?

#### Response from the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure

Cllr Woodley expressed extreme pride in the wealth of trees maintained in Hackney. Work was ongoing to increase Hackney's tree canopy, with 5,000 new street trees and more than 12,500 new trees in its parks and green spaces. Acts of vandalism on trees were described as few and far between. Contractors and volunteers undertook extensive watering programmes both on the streets and in parks and assisted in keeping tree loss to a minimum. All trees that had died due to vandalism or disease would be replaced to ensure continuity in provision.

A list was kept of trees that required replacing under contract, as well as other replacements. For the year 21/22, there were 30 street trees that were replaced under contract. There were plans to continue to build upon the Tree Champion and Tree Carers networks. Future plans included tagging street trees with QR codes linking to a mapping project showing Hackney's trees with their locations, and names.

Cllr Woodley explained that there were occasions where trees had to be

removed due to being hazardous. The Council's tree surveyors assess and commission the work and liaise with tenants impacted to agree a plan and a date for removal. She explained that only trees that were dead, dying or diseased or where there was a public safety issue were removed. Any tree which was removed was automatically replaced. When a tree poses a safety hazard, the tree is either reduced to a monolith - where all main branches are removed or, the tree is felled and the remaining trunk or stem left in place on the ground to provide biodiversity benefits. The loss of trees was considered as part of any planning applications in line with the Council policies which sought to protect trees of amenity value and deliver biodiversity gain.

Concluding, Cllr Woodley spoke of the connection between the Climate Action Plan and the Council's building of affordable homes. Keeping mature trees remained a priority, but it was acknowledged that due to the housing crisis and need to build affordable homes, this may not always be possible. However, the Council would work with the community to design and deliver better communal space, a net increase in the number of trees on site and more biodiversity.

#### Supplementary Question

The loss of mature trees can be a shock to residents. Can the Council improve its consultation process and make its tree database publicly accessible? This would enable the public to map trees and understand the reasons behind felling decisions?

#### Response from the Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure

Cllr Woodley looked forward to the launch of the mapping programme. She explained that the Council kept data on trees that could potentially cause harm. These could be shared with ward councillors who in appropriate circumstances could share with residents who had concerns or who may be impacted.

#### 7.2 From Cllr Suso-Runge to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service

According to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, the Government's unfunded tax cuts as part of their recent 'mini-budget' could result in £18bn of cuts to public services in the coming financial year. What assessment has the Council made of the potential impact of these cuts on the people of Hackney?

#### Response from the Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service

Cllr Chapman stated that following the U-turn on the 45p tax rate, on 3 October, the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) warned that an extra £18bn was needed in each of the next two years in order to restore the 2021 plans, as inflation was then (and now) sitting at around 10%.

Cllr Chapman advised that following a change in Prime Minister and Chancellor, most of the tax measures in the Mini Budget had been revoked and the duration of the Energy Support Scheme reduced to 6 months. This created a great deal

of uncertainty, which widened further when the new Chancellor announced that a Medium Term Financial Plan would be announced on 17 November. It was reported that this would involve a combination of spending cuts and tax increases.

The Council would not have a firm indication of how it would be affected in 2023-24 until the announcement of the Provisional 2023-24 Local Government Finance Settlement in December 2022. It was expected that Conservative government austerity would continue for some years to come.

Concluding, Cllr Chapman advised that he and Deputy Mayor Bramble had written to the Chancellor requesting appropriate levels of support for Hackney Council and its residents and to avert a further wave of austerity. He gave assurances that the Council had introduced a variety of initiatives to help residents through the cost of living crisis. He referenced the Help at Hand: a guide to the support available for Hackney residents during the cost of living crisis which was available in paper format and online. Members were informed that various Council measures and initiatives would be continually reviewed and reshaped according to changing economic conditions. In the event of public spending cuts, the Council would respond pro-actively and positively through existing framework and policies.

### 7.3 From Cllr Garbett to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Will the CO2 emissions from the Edmonton incinerator be included in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and the 2030 net-zero target?

#### Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban explained that the CAP was the first holistic plan to address the climate and ecological crisis. It was based on evidence, having undertaken emissions pathways studies, both for Council emissions and borough-wide emissions. The total emissions for treating waste, which included recycling, food and garden waste and the residual element from waste facility in Edmonton, were included in the consumption emission category as Scope 3 emissions.

Cllr Coban reported that the waste element of all the consumption emissions was very small; whilst emissions from consumption were the biggest category for the borough, the waste element only accounted for 2% of that overall 74%. The emissions from the energy from waste facility, known as Scope 1 & 2, were included in the national territorial accounts by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy as industrial or commercial emissions for Enfield, due to the activity taking place within Enfield's boundaries.

North London Waste Authority (NLWA) was actively investigating the use of Carbon Capture Use and Storage technology for the new Energy Recovery Facility, and were continually assessing the feasibility and likely timeline for when it was likely to be implemented.

Cllr Coban highlighted that Cabinet had also agreed to rejoin the UK100 Network of Councils. This committed the Council to net zero emissions by 2030 across specific Council functions, namely non-tenanted council buildings and

fleet. The Council's goals aligned with the Paris Agreement, thereby making the Climate Action Plan not only ambitious but also more robust than many other council plans.

Supplementary Question

Carbon Capture Use and Storage technology is unproven, how does this align with the 2030 target when the real solution is the sorting and recycling of waste?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban stated that in 2016 the NLWA carried out extensive research on the sorting and disposal of waste. The only alternative available to the Council was to send waste to landfills or to incinerate; whether it be in London or elsewhere. Carbon Capture Use and Storage technology was requested by campaigners. Subsequently, the NLWA committed to incorporate use of the technology to assist in the reduction of emissions. He advised that this was the cleanest and greenest method available.

7.4 Question from Cllr Margaret Gordon to the Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure

Hackney's poverty strategy calculates that 48% of our children are living in poverty after the cost of housing is taken into account. What is the Council doing to mitigate the impact of the cost of living crisis on children already experiencing poverty or in danger of falling into poverty?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure

Cllr Woodley stated that it was unacceptable that nearly half of children in Hackney lived in poverty, once housing costs were taken into account. Poverty for most part was linked to the cost of housing, childcare and insecure low wages. This meant that many parents and carers in Hackney were working and struggling financially. It was highlighted that if national policy was more focused on affordable housing, childcare and better paid jobs, as well as having an adequate benefit system in place, there would not be so many children living in poverty.

Cllr Woodley reported that so far in 2022, 18,000 of the estimated 32,000 children likely to be in poverty in Hackney had received support, with more support available to those identified as vulnerable. Concerns were raised about the long term impacts for those who experience poverty early in life and the outcome of poor emotional and physical health as well as challenges in employment and secure housing in later years.

It was acknowledged that the Council was limited in what it could do, however the scarce resources were focused on those who needed the most help. From April 2022, a greater share of the Community Grants budget (£1m out of a £2.5m budget) had been dedicated to developing advice provision. This included the Hackney Money Hub, the Help at Hand Booklet and the upcoming commission into affordable childcare. A Cost of Living Panel discussion would be taking place with the Mayor and Cabinet on 9 November. A Poverty

Reduction framework was being worked on across finance, health, policy and early years, in conjunction with community partners.

Specific support for children and families in summary included:

- Half of the £2.8 million of Government funding via the household support fund, earmarked to support families with children.
- Access to £15 of support for all children on Free School Meals
- Support for families contacting or being referred to the Council via children's centres, youth hubs and community partners.
- Access to Healthy Start and Alexander Rose vouchers for eligible families.
- Access to the national Holiday and Activities Programme (a meal and activities)

Concluding, Cllr Woodley advised that the Council was working to become a Right to Food Borough, joining up with other London Boroughs and cities across England. The Council was committed to continuing its work locally whilst lobbying the government on a range of issues to help mitigate the impact of the cost of living crisis on children and their families.

#### Supplementary Question

Does the Cabinet Member agree that what the children really need is a general election and the return of a Labour Government?

#### Response from the Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure

Cllr Woodley expressed her agreement to the question posed.

#### 7.5 Question from Cllr Binnie-Lubbock to the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care

Are there residents with children who have school lunch arrears; if so, how many and what debt collection methods are used in those situations?

#### Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care

Deputy Mayor Bramble informed Members that the Council was working with local schools and education settings to offer advice and support on tackling food hunger in schools and during school holidays. She advised that she had written to all headteachers to remind them of the support available and to help signpost families to key information, advice and guidance. This included support for families with no recourse to public funds.

All maintained schools and academies were required to provide free school meals (FSM) to eligible children. In 2022, 38% of all state-funded pupils in Hackney were eligible for FSM (13,352 pupils), the 7th highest among all English local authorities. The percentage of pupils eligible for a FSM and taking up a meal was 30.6%, meaning that around 20% of pupils that were eligible (2,800 pupils) were not claiming free school meals. The Council was working with schools to increase uptake.

The Deputy Mayor reported that information regarding income from school meals and debt collection was initially managed at school level. The Council's Education Department, with the support of partners, was engaging with local schools with a focus on putting in place processes that allowed and enabled schools to share information and escalate 'family at risk' concerns outside of their normal processes. This would assist in targeting additional support for families that may be struggling with the cost of living crisis.

Concluding, further measures for schools to address food poverty were highlighted. These included a dedicated task group to look at local pupil hunger, assessing how schools were supported and what additional support could be provided. Additionally, she welcomed work in this area undertaken by the Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission.

#### Supplementary Question

Can the Council commit to stopping the use of bailiffs and other debt collection methods, where in their remit to do so?

#### Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care

The Deputy Mayor invited any specific cases to be brought to her attention. She advised that she did not have the current figures for individual schools as this was being collated.

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 B**.

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

- 8.1 Mayor Glanville relayed his thanks to the Speaker for her handling of the request for an extraordinary Council meeting and for the quick response and mobilisation of the Monitoring Officer and Governance team.
- 8.2 The Mayor also offered a vote of thanks to various Council teams, the fire brigade, businesses, residents and Cllr Woodley for their quick response to the flash floods in Cazenove Road and Stamford Hill areas. He acknowledged the frustrations of residents and businesses in the area and informed the chamber that a meeting was convened the following day to discuss surface water flooding. Additionally, the Council had met with Transport for London (TfL) to discuss the frequency of gully cleansing and their timetable for working with the Council on a long term solution and response to flash flooding on TfL roads. Mayor Glanville highlighted the Council's commitment to climate mitigation and green infrastructure to alleviate and absorb rain water across the borough. He emphasised his commitment to improving the Council's response and ensuring action from TfL and Thames Water.
- 8.3 The Mayor spoke about the different events which took place during the recent Local Democracy Season, notably: Hackney Youth Parliament's attendance at Cabinet, local schools touring the Town Hall and his visit to Mossbourne Riverside Academy to meet their school council. The first in-person Mayor's

question time since the pandemic was held on 17 October. The Mayor highlighted his administration's manifesto commitment to improve democratic accountability of the Executive as well as increased resident involvement. The Mayor also attended the Hackney Youth Parliament 'Who Do They Trust?' event with representatives from Hackney Youth Parliament, Hackney's Young Futures Commission, Voyage Youth, Rise 365 and the local police.

- 8.4 The commitment to rebuild trust and make Hackney an anti-racist borough was highlighted. The Mayor informed the chamber that he and the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services had written to the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police following the findings of the Casey Review, which found the Metropolitan Police's internal disciplinary system to be racist, misogynist and sexist. The Mayor stated that his administration wanted to work with the Police to see institutional change. As such, the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services would continue to engage with communities and hold the Police to account.
- 8.5 The Mayor referenced former Prime Minister Liz Truss' mini-budget which saw record high levels of inflation, tax cuts for the richest and a new wave of austerity, ultimately crashing the economy. He believed that Rishi Sunak, the third prime minister of the year and first Asian prime minister, was an important moment for the country and for diverse representation and leadership. The Mayor however expressed dismay at Mr Sunak's track record as Chancellor, his choice of Home Secretary and Equalities Minister and the Conservative Party's ongoing mismanagement. He raised concerns that Hackney would bear the brunt of more Tory austerity and chaos.
- 8.6 The Mayor spoke about his attendance at the recent Labour Party Conference in Liverpool and commended plans for a fairer, greener Britain set out in the Labour Party leader's speech. The Mayor highlighted his administration's achievements since the last Full Council meeting, which in summary included:
- The approval of the ambitious Climate Action Plan — an evidence-based approach which set out plans to decarbonise Hackney in a socially just way.
  - The refreshed Parking Enforcement Plan.
  - Sustainability Day, held on 23 October, where residents got advice on energy saving and sustainable living.
  - Investment in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities system, expanding places and opening the newly refurbished Pavilion School.
  - The Here to Help offer and booklet - a cost of living support guide.
  - Ongoing work with the Council's partners, NHS, local charities and other public bodies to investigate further support for residents.
- 8.7 The Mayor outlined plans to restructure and invest in the Libraries Services to ensure an efficient and reliable service. This included major renovations to Stoke Newington Library, improved accessibility to Stamford Hill Library and plans to deliver a new Library for Woodberry Down in Phase 4 of the regeneration project. Regarding the new staff structure, it was explained that

all staff would be on a higher pay grade and had been offered support and training for the new roles. It was highlighted that a new Libraries Strategy was recently approved by Cabinet.

- 8.8 Concluding, the Mayor was proud that Hackney was a cooperative and social enterprise Council. Having signed up to the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network, the Council would work with and learn from like-minded councils and organisations across the country. The network would seek to find solutions to some of the problems faced by residents during these difficult times. Mayor Glanville committed to working together for a better Hackney.

#### Conservative Group Response

- 8.9 Cllr Steinberger spoke of his attendance at Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II funeral which he described as a very moving occasion. He praised the efforts of former Conservative Prime Minister, Liz Truss, which he felt had positively impacted Hackney and welcomed Rishi Sunak as Prime Minister. He believed that the appointment of Britain's first Asian Prime Minister demonstrated the Conservative Party's commitment to diversity.
- 8.11 Cllr Steinberger thanked Cllr Woodley for her attendance at the flood scenes and questioned whether road works had impacted drainage which contributed to the flooding.
- 8.12 Cllr Steinberger raised a number of points which included: the Council's lacklustre response to deputations and the recent efforts of Cllrs Levy and Papier who intervened in an attack on a female outside the Town Hall. He thanked Andy Cunningham, Head of Streetscene, who was retiring after several years of service and Eda Ziya Conti, former Speaker's Officer, who was leaving the Council and wished them well for the future.
- 8.13 Cllr Steinberger questioned why after two years following the cyber-attack all council systems and software were not up and running. He also questioned how a new housing policy could be implemented given the ongoing issues from the cyber attack which he believed had impacted the housing register.
- 8.14 Concluding, Cllr Steinberger stated his dissatisfaction with the lack of consultation with the Conservative group with regard to the calling of this extraordinary meeting.

#### Green Group Response

- 8.15 Cllr Garbett acknowledged the difficult times that many people experienced and believed that compassionate Green policies were needed to address these. She stated that a Prime Minister was needed who would set a budget that responded to the issues faced by people across the country, however she did not believe that new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak would deliver this. She urged the importance of continued lobbying of the Government and the power of the Council to call for better.
- 8.16 Reflecting on the recent Green Party Conference, Cllr Garbett reported that a motion was passed to back the Enough is Enough campaign; a mass movement resisting the cost of greed crisis and backing striking workers. In

light of this, she stated that the Green group stood in solidarity with Library staff in the borough against proposed job cuts. She emphasised the importance of libraries being adequately staffed. The Green group supported Unison's call for the Council to hold its restructure consultation to allow for the new Library Strategy and changes to embed before considering staffing levels. The Mayor and Cabinet were implored to listen to the concerns raised by staff and unions.

- 8.17 Cllr Garbett stated that a general election was required to address the destruction caused by successive Conservative Governments. It was hoped that this would be the last election under the first past the post voting system. It was also hoped that the Fair Votes motion for consideration later in the meeting would garner cross party agreement, showing support for genuinely representative democratic justice. It was stated that proportional representation was not only needed to stop Conservative Governments, but to ensure there were more Green MPs proportionate to the number of people who vote Green. Cllr Garbett stated that more people were needed to speak positively about immigration, stand in solidarity with striking workers and treat the climate emergency with required urgency.
- 8.18 Cllr Garbett was pleased to see the administration's commitment to the 2030 Net Zero target in the Climate Action Plan (CAP), which was lobbied by the Green group and in their manifesto. However, concerns were raised regarding the lack of targets and specific plans to achieve these goals and refusal to commit to a people's assembly. She believed this demonstrated a lack of accountability and ability to see the public as partners with equal ownership. She believed this attitude extended to the Morning Lane People Space group who had not been recognised as an equal partner regarding plans for the development of 55 Morning Lane. The importance of the site and why it mattered was highlighted. Further parallels were drawn with the site at the Shopping Village at Ridley Road. She believed the Council needed to listen and respond to the voice of residents and stakeholders and raised concerns regarding potential gentrification.
- 8.19 Cllr Garbett spoke of events that she and Cllr Binnie-Lubbock had attended during October in support of Black History and looked forward to working with black led organisations in the borough to effect change. She believed that recognising and celebrating black history, achievements and culture should not be restricted to a particular season. Cllr Garbett emphasised the importance of being anti-racist in words, policies and actions to address the inequalities experienced by black and global majority communities.

#### The Mayor's Reply

- 8.20 The Mayor stated that the inflation, economic and interest rate crises were all a result of Conservative mismanagement. Citing the actions of the current Home Secretary and her comments at the recent Conservative Party Conference, The Mayor believed the PM's solidarity with black and global majority people in the UK and abroad was short lived.
- 8.22 The Mayor shared concerns relating to the flooding and explained the complexities which were due to road ownership split between the Council and TfL and a nearby Thames Water sewage system, all within close proximity to

the flood site. He stated that the people of Stamford Hill and Stoke Newington required all agencies to provide a long term solution as well as a suitable response in the event of flooding.

- 8.23 Tribute was paid to Andy Cunningham, Andrew Monk and Eda Ziya Conti all of whom were leaving the Council.
- 8.24 The Mayor acknowledged the impact of the criminal cyber-attack on residents. In relation to the housing register, he explained the intention was not to rebuild the old system that did not work but to produce an improved system which would focus on the most vulnerable. He pledged his administration's commitment and that of officers to rebuilding services. He commended the leadership of Ian Williams and Rob Miller in this matter and encouraged Cllr Steinberger and any other interested councillors to contact them to find out more.
- 8.26 Mayor Glanville stated that the proposed libraries restructure presented no threats to safety, services or provision. He informed that library staff had redesigned the service and were being consulted as part of a statutory process.
- 9.27 The Mayor stated that he was proud of the Council's commitment relating to emission reduction and his administration's ambitious climate action to ensure Net Zero targets are attained. He advised that all plans would be fully accountable within the democratic structure of the Council.
- 8.28 Mayor Glanville gave assurances that the Council would continue to work in partnership with residents. With regard to future plans for publicly owned sites. Where possible, these would be co-produced but needed to be realistic. In closing, he stated that the reason the Council had purchased private assets bringing them into public ownership was because his administration were municipal socialists who sought to build an anti-racist borough with Socialism at its heart.

## **9. Licensing Committee Annual Report**

- 9.1 The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services introduced the report. Commending the work of the Licensing Team, she made special mention of the Hackney Nights campaign which sought to provide a safer night time economy in the borough. The Council was committed to working in partnership with licensed premises, residents, the police and other agencies to ensure Hackney remained a pleasant and safe environment. She highlighted her commitment to ensuring that all decisions were fairly taken, upholding the licensing objectives and consideration given to the views of residents. It was reported that local MP Meg Hillier had undertaken to work with the Council on some of the challenging areas of the Licensing Act 2003 which was felt to require legislative changes.
- 9.3 The Chair of the Licensing Committee thanked the lead member for her support. He paid tribute to licensing officers and members of the sub-committees who worked to ensure that the needs of residents were balanced whilst supporting businesses to be part of a vibrant and mixed economy. He commended the Licensing Service for meeting the challenges

and pressures of leading a world class night time economy which was an intricate part of forming Hackney's reputation as a great place to live, work and visit. Cllr Smyth described the Hackney Night's Portal and Late Night Levy as inspirational and integral to providing a safe space for all. He commended the report to Council.

**RESOLVED:** To note the Licensing Committee Annual Report.

## 10. Motions

The proposed tabled amendments to the motions are attached at **Appendix C**

### 10a Long Covid

The motion as set out at agenda item 10a within the agenda was MOVED by Cllr Lynch and SECONDED by Cllr Sizer.

Cllr Lynch introduced the motion. She spoke of her experience of having lived with long covid since contracting it in March 2020. She also spoke of the nursing community who undertook their job in the height of the pandemic with no PPE provision, many of whom were still suffering the effects of long covid. The purpose of the motion was to raise awareness of long covid, to advocate for those with long covid and to garner support for the campaign for long covid to be recognised as a disability. She thanked consultants and healthcare professionals at the Homerton Hospital and Lower Clapton Health Centre who had looked after her.

Cllr Sizer spoke in support of the motion, which she believed was contrary to the government's lacklustre engagement with the issue. She quoted the recent All Parliamentary Party Group on covid which found that 'the UK Government covid policy making has continuously failed to take into account long covid'. Concluding, Cllr Sizer referenced that the pandemic revealed and caused deep unfairness in society, the disproportionate effect of covid on those of black and global majority and the mental health implications of long covid.

The proposed amendments as set out in the tabled papers Amendments to Motions were MOVED by Cllr Garbett and SECONDED by Cllr Binnie Lubbock

Cllr Garbett spoke to the proposed amendments explaining that she saw the continued impact of covid on people's lives. The proposed amendments sought to enhance specific points, speak to the experiences of residents and incorporate learning from working in the NHS. They related to: the parity of esteem, the role of carers being a crucial public service and a call on the Council to use its local influence with regard to employment policies. The amendments also requested the Council keep up to date with research on the issue and recognise the financial implications of covid.

The proposed amendments were put to the vote without debate.

**The amendments to the MOTION were lost and were declared NOT CARRIED.**

The substantive motion was put to the vote without debate

**The MOTION was declared CARRIED.**

**RESOLVED:**

**Hackney Council notes:**

- As of 1 May this year, [figures from the Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS) reveal that two million people living in private households in the UK – or 3.1% of the population – reported they were still experiencing Covid symptoms more than four weeks after their first suspected coronavirus infection.
- About two in five of those with long Covid, or 826,000 people, noted that infection was at least a year ago while one in five, or 376,000 people, said it was at least two years ago. In addition, 71% of those with Long Covid said their symptoms had a negative impact on their day-to-day activities, with 20% saying their ability to undertake such activities had been “limited a lot”.
- As a proportion of the UK population, the prevalence of self-reported long Covid was greatest in people aged 35 to 69 years, females, people living in more deprived areas, those working in social care, teaching and education or health care, and those with another activity-limiting health condition or disability,” the ONS added.
- At present it is not clear what causes Long Covid, but it can be the result of the initial infection sending some people's immune systems into overdrive, meaning they attack not just the virus but their own organs.
- NICE (National Institute for Health & Care Excellence) describes Long Covid as “signs and symptoms that continue or develop after acute Covid-19”. This definition includes both ongoing symptomatic Covid-19 and post Covid-19 syndrome. Therefore, according to this definition, Long Covid starts from four weeks onwards.
- Long Covid symptoms are plentiful, and more are being seen as related to Covid 19 infection.
- At a local level Hackney Council celebrates the Post Covid Specialist Assessment Clinic and The Covid Rehabilitation (CoRe) service provided by Homerton Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, including the work of respiratory consultants Professor Karalasingam Rajakulasingam and Dr Santino Capocci.
- Hackney Council will continue to highlight the needs and support our school children experiencing long Covid symptoms and issue guidance when available from the government to schools and educational settings on the many pupils living with Long Covid, and support for them.

**Hackney Council therefore resolves to:**

- Working with our health partner organisations to ensure that support for those experiencing Long Covid is a central part of the next City and Hackney Long Term Conditions Strategy.
- Recommend to the Head of the Paid Service that the Council's employment policies and procedures be reviewed to ensure that those with Long Covid symptoms are supported.
- Consider the key recommendations of the Long Covid publication by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Coronavirus.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Anna Lynch

**Seconded by:** Cllr Anya Sizer

10b

**Fair Votes**

It was noted that the proposer and seconder had agreed to a number of suggested amendments. As such, an amended motion incorporating these amendments was tabled.

The amended tabled motion was MOVED by Cllr Garbett and SECONDED by Cllr Binnie-Lubbock

Cllr Garbett introduced the motion, reflecting on the current state of politics. She believed that people had lost confidence in politics and politicians, voter turnout to elections was low and people did not believe their vote made a difference. Some of the reasons cited for this were: incompetence, corruption, misogyny and the choice of prime minister reserved for a select few. It was stated that in Europe, only the UK and Belarus use the archaic first past the post voting system in general elections. The benefits of proportional representation (PR) were outlined. Cllr Garbett expressed disappointment that electoral reform was not a priority for the Labour party despite support from Labour MPs. The support for similar motions amongst neighbouring Labour Councils and beyond was highlighted. Cllr Garbett informed that she did not agree that PR allowed additional risk of extremist views or unstable coalitions and as such was not able to agree to the further proposed amendments to the motion.

The proposed amendments as set out in the tabled papers Amendments to Motions were MOVED by Deputy Mayor Bramble and SECONDED by Cllr Ogundemuren.

Deputy Mayor Bramble spoke to the proposed amendments. She stated that people had become disillusioned with politics and politicians. The importance of political education was emphasised. She believed the motion did not reflect the imperfections of democracy and that the real barrier was voter identification which would silence the voice of many, irrespective of the voting system. In conclusion, the Deputy Mayor stated that until such time of an electoral review it was important not to actively endorse one voting system over another, but to ensure that the Council advocated for the democratic rights of voters.

Cllr Ogundemuren also spoke to the proposed amendments. He believed that the introduction of voter identification would disenfranchise those marginalised

and from black and global majority backgrounds. He highlighted the importance of diverse representation but not at the cost of those who faced the worst outcomes in society.

Cllr Binne-Luccock advised that ongoing discussions were being held with Hackney Youth Parliament regarding voting systems. It was clarified that one particular form of PR was not being promoted over another however to remove it would change the overall essence of the motion.

The proposed amendments were put to the vote.

**The amendments to the MOTION were declared CARRIED.**

The substantive motion was debated.

Cllr Binnie-Lubbock and Deputy Mayor Bramble contributed to the debate.

The substantive motion was put to the vote

**The MOTION was declared CARRIED.**

**RESOLVED:**

**Hackney Council notes:**

- Research has found that electoral systems impact participation in politics for example there is a positive correlation between proportional representation (PR) and women elected to legislatures.
- The introduction of PR for local elections in Scotland has led to an increase in turnout, which was 44.8% at the last elections, held in 2022. In contrast turnout in Hackney in 2022 was 34.29% (this varies by ward with the lowest turnout in Hoxton at 24%).
- The Labour Party in government successfully implemented Proportional Representation to a number of elections, introducing PR into the London Assembly, in devolved government for Scotland and Wales and the Supplementary vote for the Mayoral elections.
- The Labour Party's conference in 2022 passed a motion calling on the Party to make a commitment to introduce a Proportional Representation electoral system for general elections.
- 370 Constituency Labour Parties (CLPs) – about 60% of the total number – have now formally passed policy in favour of PR.
- The Green Party has long supported a fairer voting system and PR for national and local elections to ensure seats in parliament better reflect the share of votes cast, as well as supporting extending the right to vote to those aged 16 and up.
- With the Welsh Senedd reviewing legislation on Single Transferable Vote for local councils, England looks likely to be the only part of the UK without any form of PR at the local level.
- According to polling, the majority of voters in the United Kingdom support the use of PR for elections in the United Kingdom.
- The last Labour Government put together the Jenkins Commission, which recommended the adoption of the AV+ voting system. This system is

similar to how we vote for the London Assembly, giving voters local representatives and regional list members.

- PR would end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. PR also prevents 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.
- The current Conservative government, elected by less than 30% of the electorate under the First Past the Post voting system, led by a Prime Minister selected by just 81,326 Conservative Party members, is enacting an extreme policy platform that was not in its manifesto and does not therefore have any democratic mandate.
- In June 2022, Unison, Prospect and the University and College Union (UCU) voted to embrace more proportional general elections. The list of trade unions that back electoral reform is long and growing, it currently includes Unison, Unite the Union, Fire Brigades Union and Musicians' Union.

### **Hackney Council recognises:**

- That there are many reasons people are disillusioned with politics and that disproportionate electoral systems could have contributed to dangerous levels of distrust and disillusionment with our democratic process along with other factors such as politicians and institutions failing to focus on issues that matter most to people's daily lives.
- That it is essential that faith is restored in our democratic system and that the public see Parliament as fairly reflecting their views and their votes.
- That our First Past the Post voting system could be a significant barrier to restoring this faith.
- That the current Conservative Government introduced the biggest barrier to Hackney's communities engaging in democracy by introducing voter ID requirements and removing the limited use of the supplementary vote in England and Wales in the Elections Act 2022.
- That this Council lobbied against the Elections Act<sup>1</sup>, its introduction of voter ID and the removal of the supplementary vote for directly elected Mayors.
- Voter ID is also a significant barrier to Hackney residents engaging in democracy, particularly among poorer and more diverse communities that may not have valid ID such as a passport and drivers licence. 24% of the electorate hold neither a passport or photographic driving licence<sup>2</sup> and Hackney Council estimates that 47% of households in Hackney have no driving licence holder.<sup>3</sup> Democracy must be inclusive and accessible to work.
- That a system of Proportional Representation in which seats match votes and all votes count equally could help to rebuild public trust by ensuring that all political views are represented in Parliament and at local councils in proportion to their level of public support.
- That no voting system is perfect and many forms of Proportional Representation lack the vital local link between elected representatives

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<https://news.hackney.gov.uk/voter-id-plans-will-disenfranchise-young-black-and-asian-council-tells-mps/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/voter-id-key-facts-and-figures/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/boroughs-and-communities/streetspace-funding>

and their constituents, risk creating fragile coalitions, and risks creating opportunities for extremist views in our democratic institutions.

**Hackney Council therefore resolves to:**

- To write to the Secretary of State for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities and the Home Secretary, to call for a national review of voting systems in England and condemning the introduction of voter ID and removal of the supplementary vote for Mayoral elections.
- To consult the Hackney Youth Parliament on their choice of voting systems for Youth Council elections.

**Proposed by:** Deputy Mayor Bramble

**Seconded by:** Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren

Close of meeting.

**Duration of Meeting** - 7:00- 9:51pm

**Attachments**

Appendix A - Questions from the public not answered due to time constraints  
- to follow

Appendix B - Questions from Members not answered due to time constraints  
- to follow

Appendix C - Proposed tabled amendments to motions  
(Agenda item 10) - attached