

**Extraordinary Council Meeting
Wednesday, 26 October 2022**

**Agenda item 10: Proposed Amendments to Motions received by the
Monitoring Officer prior to 12 noon today**

Underlined text = proposed additional wording

~~Strikethrough text~~ = proposed deletions

10. Motions

10a **Long Covid (Green Group Amendment)**

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”. There is also evidence regarding the mental health impacts of Long Covid.
- 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.
- The importance of rest and recovery and the inequalities in the availability of this to, for example, people in low paid, insecure and/or labouring jobs.
- At present it is not clear what causes Long Covid, but it can be the result of the initial infection sends 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.

- The pandemic is continuing and the financial impact continues to be felt by the Council. Across London the evidence of Long Covid in cost pressure terms is emerging.
- 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:

- Work 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, and their carers, are supported.
- Work with and encourage our supply chain and borough partners to also review their employment policies (if they have not done so already) to support and protect those suffering from Long Covid.
- Dedicate a Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission meeting to hear from residents and staff experiencing Long Covid to further inform policy.
- Stay up-to-date on research of the impact of Long Covid including on children and young people and incorporate findings into future policy development and service provision.
- Consider the key recommendations of the Long Covid publication by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Coronavirus.

Proposer: Cllr Zoë Garbett **Seconder:** Cllr Alistair Binnie-Lubbock

10b **Fair Votes (Amended Substantive Motion)**

Following the acceptance of 2 amendments proposed by the Labour Group, the proposer and seconder amended their motion as follows:

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 Act¹, 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 licence² and Hackney Council estimates that 47% of households in Hackney have no driving licence holder.³ 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 and their constituents.

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

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

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

Hackney Council therefore resolves to:

- To make representations to Hackney's MPs asking them to lobby for change to our outdated electoral systems and support proportional representation.
- 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.

Proposer: Cllr Zoë Garbett **Seconder:** Cllr Alistair Binnie-Lubbock

10b(i) **Fair Votes (Labour Group Amendment)**

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 Act⁴, its introduction of voter ID and the removal of the supplementary vote for directly elected Mayors.
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- 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 and their constituents, risk creating fragile coalitions, and risks creating opportunities for extremist views in our democratic institutions.

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

⁵ <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/voter-id-key-facts-and-figures/>

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- To consult the Hackney Youth Parliament on their choice of voting systems for Youth Council elections.

Proposer: Deputy Mayor Bramble

Seconder: Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren