

London Borough of Hackney
 Full Council Meeting
 Municipal Year 2022/23
 Date of Meeting: Wednesday, 20 July 2022

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

Councillors in Attendance:	<p>Cllr Humaira Garasia - Speaker of Hackney Mayor Philip Glanville - Mayor of Hackney</p> <p>Cllr Kam Adams, Cllr Grace Adebayo, Cllr Soraya Adejare, Cllr Frank Baffour, Cllr Polly Billington, Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble, Cllr Mete Coban, Cllr Sophie Conway, Cllr Michael Desmond, Cllr Sade Etti, Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Zoë Garbett, Cllr Eluzer Goldberg, Cllr Ben Hayhurst, Cllr Clare Joseph, Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cllr Shaul Krautwirt, Cllr Lee Laudat-Scott, Cllr Hershy Lisser, Cllr Richard Lufkin, Cllr Anna Lynch, Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, Cllr Jon Narcross, Cllr Guy Nicholson, Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren, Cllr Deniz Okkkguzkanli, Cllr Benzion Papier, Cllr Sharon Patrick, Cllr Clare Potter, Cllr Steve Race, Cllr Ian Rathbone, Cllr Ali Sadek, Cllr Ifraax Samatar, 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 Carole Williams, Cllr Caroline Woodley, Cllr Penny Wrount and Cllr Sarah Young</p>
Apologies for Absence:	<p>Cllr Robert Chapman, Cllr Margaret Gordon, Cllr Yvonne Maxwell, Cllr Sem Moema, Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Sam Pallis, Cllr Fliss Premru, Cllr Midnight Ross and Cllr Caroline Selman</p>
Apologies for Lateness:	<p>Deputy Mayor Bramble, Cllr Adejare, Cllr Joseph and Cllr Maxwell</p>
Officer Contact:	<p>Natalie Williams, Governance Officer governance@hackney.gov.uk</p>
<p>This meeting was live streamed and can be viewed here: https://youtu.be/0u699eJpoLI</p>	

Councillor Garasia [Speaker] in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chapman, Gordon, Moema, Ozsen, Pallis, Premru, Ross and Selman.
- 1.2 Apologies for lateness were received from Deputy Mayor Bramble, Cllr Adejare, Cllr Joseph and Cllr Maxwell
- 1.3 Councillors Gordon, Ozsen, Pallis and Premru had joined the meeting remotely. They were reminded that they were not counted as being 'present' for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972 and were not able to vote on any item under consideration.

2. Speaker's Announcements

- 2.1 The Speaker informed Council of recent civic events and visits, which included: a Platinum Jubilee community celebration at Springfield Park followed by lighting a Beacon at the Hackney Empire, Hackney Chinese Community Dragon boat festival, E5 Baby Bank second anniversary event, the commemoration of refugee week and the Hackney Armed Forces parade.
- 2.2 The Speaker had also attended several events recognising National Windrush Day, including the unveiling of the Warm Shores sculpture by Thomas J Price outside the Town Hall.
- 2.3 The Speaker would be hosting her first charity dinner to fundraise for St Mary's Secret Garden on 28 July. The dinner would also be an Eid celebration and would be attended by other Mayors from across London. Further information and tickets were available from the Speaker's Office.
- 2.4 Following the Speaker's announcements, a one minute silence was observed in remembrance of the victims and survivors of the Srebrenica massacre of over 8000 Bosnian Muslims in 1995. Srebrenica Memorial Day was observed on 11 July.

3. Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 There were no declarations of Interest.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 4.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 25 May 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

5 Questions from Members of the Public

5.1 Question from Tyrone Scott to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

The Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and promised a Biodiversity Officer in 2020 - this role is important, is there an update on the recruitment to this post and other posts to deliver the climate action plan?

In the absence of Tyrone, the Speaker read his 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 appointment of a Biodiversity Officer formed part of an initiative to integrate the Housing Grounds Maintenance and the Parks & Green Spaces Services. This integration was put on hold during the pandemic, but would progress in 2022/23, including the appointment of a Biodiversity Officer to deliver work across the integrated service.

Affirming the wider commitment to the Climate Action Plan (CAP), Cllr Coban highlighted that the newly formed Climate, Homes and Economy Directorate to which a Group Director had been appointed, saw the required collaboration between inclusive economic growth, skills, regeneration, housing, climate change, public realm and environmental services.

As part of the development of each of the thematic action plans within the CAP there would be an assessment of staff resources needed to deliver its objectives. The Council had taken the opportunity to better use existing staff resources as well as reskilling to meet the added requirements. Five staff had been retrained to become retrofit coordinators in housing services to strengthen the technical capacity for retrofit.

5.2 Question from Matt Davies to the Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure

I welcomed the Council's ambitious proposals for nature recovery in last year's Green Infrastructure Strategy, particularly proposed improvements in north Hackney including the long-awaited replacement of the Stoke Newington gyratory and new green links along Northwold and Dunsmore roads. When will we begin to see this put into action?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure

Cllr Woodley gave assurances that improvements were planned across the entire borough. She thanked officers for the research and partnership approach and to Hackney volunteers who planted trees, built habitats, litter picked, restored damaged areas and all their efforts in tackling the Climate Emergency.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy was put out for consultation earlier in the year and would be brought forward for adoption later in the year. Cllr Woodley reported that Hackney was one of the greenest inner London boroughs. The Council continued to deliver projects that contributed to the outcomes of the strategy, including: completing a street tree programme increasing street tree

canopy to 30%, installing rain gardens to mitigate areas of flood risk and completing a wide number of improvements across all the open spaces managed by the Council making them better for both people and nature.

In reference to the Stoke Newington Gyrotory and other major projects, Cllr Woodley advised that these had been delayed due to the current state of finances at Transport for London (TfL), a major funder. It was difficult to predict when this would be progressed, however the Council continued to make the case for its ongoing priority and suggested improvements which would be of immediate effect.

Acknowledging that local government would be entering a period of further financial austerity, assurances were given that the Council would be using its ingenuity to work within the constraints and had already been successful in a number of external funding applications.

5.3 Question from Peter Snell to the Mayoral Adviser for Housing Needs and Homelessness

I have read that there is a refurbishment of Cape House in Dalston. What support is the Council putting in place for residents needing to relocate during the refurbishment and what is the time frame for completion?

Response from the Mayoral Adviser for Housing Needs and Homelessness

Cllr Etti highlighted the administration's manifesto commitment to refurbish temporary accommodation hostels to meet the growing needs of single homeless people and families in the borough.

Cape House was a privately owned hostel which had been used for temporary accommodation for approximately 20 years. In February 2022, Cabinet agreed to extend the lease, enabling them to oversee the improvements. The renovations would see the building of self-contained units including two units designed for disabled residents.

The premises consisted of two blocks which would be refurbished separately-one of which had been fully decanted. Residents in temporary accommodation placed by the Council were moved to other placements, whilst placements from other Councils were moved back to their respective placing boroughs. Private tenants were able to contact the Benefits & Housing Needs Service for tailored housing advice. A temporary accommodation visiting officer made regular visits to provide support and answer questions. The Council was continuing to assist in decanting the remaining block, with a phased approach which started on 28 June 2022. This allowed the Council time to provide tailored advice to tenants. It was anticipated that work on this block would take 12 months and the total project approximately 2 years to complete.

6. Questions from Members of the Council

6.1 Question from Cllr Anya Sizer to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

Hackney Council's Hoxton Street Market is a great place to buy food and a hub for the whole Hoxton community. But it has also helped tackle food poverty, accepting Council food vouchers, such as Alexandra Rose Vouchers, for some of our most vulnerable residents in Hackney. Can the Cabinet Member with responsibility for food justice outline the other measures the Council has taken to address food poverty in our borough, what it is doing to fight for food justice for all, and the steps it is taking to make Hackney a Right to Food Borough?

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

Cllr Kennedy commended the important role that Hackney's street markets played in providing affordable healthy food and their acceptance of Alexander Rose vouchers. Following Covid, the Council created the Community Partnership Network, which had been used to coordinate activity including: surplus food delivery to three food hubs, continued grant funding of Alexander Rose, the continued grant funding of Hackney Food Bank, provision of a voluntary sector lease for the food bank's main depot at the Florence Bennet Centre and the use of Queensbridge Sports centre as a distribution hub.

The Council had identified residents who were likely to be struggling and the £2.8m household support fund was being used to support these residents. The Council had also supported initiatives such as the development of a food co-op in Stoke Newington, with a second one opening in Woodberry Down and food growing organisations such as Gainsborough Bridge where council land had been licensed for residents to grow food.

In reference to campaigning, Cllr Kennedy outlined the various measures undertaken by the Council. It was noted that Hackney had declared itself a Right to Food Borough and had made requests to the Government to help combat food poverty alongside other local authorities. In addition, the Council had joined the Marcus Rashford campaign for holiday food and the call for continuing the uplift to Universal Credit.

Concluding, Cllr Kennedy stated that the one thing that would make the most difference to food poverty was a Labour Government.

6.2 Question from Cllr Zoë Garbett to the Mayor

Developers failed to bring forward a plan for the Morning Lane Tesco site and the agreement has expired. What is the latest plan for the site?

Response from the Mayor

Mayor Glanville stated that the Council bought the site in 2017 to have more control over a central area in the borough following the Tesco Extra-Tesco Towers' failed planning bid. The Council's intention was to safeguard a supermarket for residents, to ensure the site was under public ownership and to play a pivotal role in shaping plans for the site through an option agreement.

The Mayor explained that extensive time had been spent engaging with local residents regarding what they would like to see from their town centre. He acknowledged that these conversations were not developer-led; subsequently, a proposal was not brought forward to the Planning Sub-Committee under the option agreement. This resulted in the option ending and the site reverting to the Council.

Looking ahead, Mayor Glanville advised that the Council had been engaging with stakeholders including Tesco, other local businesses, Morning Lane People's Space and the Markets Team. The Council had started the process to actualise ambitions for the site and had begun training an in-house team to support any proposals going forward. The process to appoint a new, experienced development partner to work with the Council to incorporate its ambitions and that of the community would begin later in the year. As well as retaining a Tesco store, any development would have a green infrastructure, be compliant with the Council's planning policy and include: new homes, affordable homes, workspace, new local jobs, and improved public spaces for Hackney Central.

Concluding, the Mayor pledged that the Council would be a strategic part of any development partnership and have much greater control over plans taken forward for the site, ensuring the investment was of benefit to local residents and saw a return.

Supplementary Question

Will requests from community groups to be resourced and the residents' top priorities for the site, which included fifty percent social housing, be considered?

The Mayor advised that the Council would not resource any community groups; however they would be fully included in the steering group as a partner. He outlined the dangers of a solely community-led plan and stated that the priority was to resource a team that could work with the development partner to achieve the objectives of both the community and Council. The Mayor stated that it would not be viable to deliver on the request for fifty percent social housing on a site that was not previously in public ownership if it was to achieve all the other ambitions and also see a return on the £60m public investment. However, he committed to further investigate the possibilities of the requests.

6.3 Question from Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

What will the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport be doing to ensure the Council are requesting Transport for London provide full details of its equality and diversity impact assessments in relation to the proposed bus cuts and how these negatively affect Hackney residents?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban acknowledged that with no tube station in the borough, buses were an integral, affordable and sustainable mode of transport which kept communities connected and linked to the rest of the city.

Cllr Coban confirmed that Equality Impact Assessments had been released by Transport for London (TfL). It confirmed the proposed bus cuts would disproportionately affect the global majority, those on low income, the elderly, and those with mobility issues. This would be highlighted in the Council's corporate response. The Council would also raise concerns about poor interchange connections at Old Street between bus stops and concerns relating to the impact of cutting back the 236 bus route to Homerton Hospital from Hackney Wick - one of the most deprived areas in the country. It was felt that this was at a time when there should be improved links to hospitals and GP surgeries.

Concluding, Cllr Coban stated that TfL was being used as a political pawn by the Government and pledged that the Council would keep campaigning against these destructive cuts. He urged Members and residents to sign the Hackney Labour Group petition and respond to the TfL consultation on bus cuts which had been extended to 7 August 2022 due to high response rates.

6.4 Question from Cllr Zoë Garbett to the Mayor

The development of Ridley Road Studios has seen a loss of genuinely affordable studio space. Given how few artists are returning, what will you do to ensure Dalston remains a place for all artists, not just the ones who can afford to pay ever increasing market rent?

Cllr Garbett informed the chamber that the Mayor had provided a written response to this question outside of the meeting but welcomed the opportunity for a more detailed response in the public domain.

Response from the Mayor

Mayor Glanville outlined the timeline of events and actions by the Council and community following the police issuing of a Community Protection Notice and the building owners' decision to close by Christmas 2018. He stated that the resolute actions led by his administration resulted in the market remaining open, Ridley Road Shopping Village designated as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) and the landlord's change of plans to largely external work, leaving the existing floor space in place

The Mayor explained that the ACV process would become most relevant in legal terms if the asset was put up for sale and did not affect the owner's ability to seek planning permission for change of use.

The Mayor informed the chamber that the Council's Markets Team had leased the ground floor of the shopping village, taking over the existing micro-retail units which enabled the Council to have a stake in the building and protect the provision of small retail units at affordable levels for Shopping Village traders. Commending the work of former Cllr Peter Snell (and at the time prospective) Cllr Grace Adebayo, who worked on the ACV with the community group Save

Ridley Road was cited as an example of community power and leadership used to secure a community asset and create an inclusive economy.

Officers had been in direct contact with the artists in the shopping village over recent years and supported them in finding new spaces in the local area. The works proposed by the landlord were relatively minor external works and did not trigger the Local Plan affordable workspace policies which would have made the provision of 10% of affordable workspace necessary.

The Mayor reported that the Council continued to engage with the landlord, Shopping Village and studio space tenants through the planning process and through Area Regeneration Officers. While the proposed rent levels were an increase, they were below market rents in the area and below the affordable rents set by many other workspace providers in Dalston.

The Mayor stated that the artistic and creative community and businesses were vital to the borough and the Council continued to do all it could to ensure they grew and prospered.

In conclusion, Mayor Glanville stated that the Council had no role in setting the market rate for rent; as it did not own the land or control the building. The Council could not control rent levels beyond what it could do through its own property portfolio and through the planning process. However, the Council was campaigning with the East End Trades Guild on market rents, business rates and lasting reforms that would assist in shaping town centres.

Supplementary Question

Would spaces like Hackney Walk be made available to groups, artists and community groups to use as a meanwhile space as well as community ownership?

The Mayor stated that he was passionate about meanwhile spaces and what could be achieved citing new and existing examples of this across the borough. He reported that the Council continued to assess its land and building holdings to see how they could be unlocked in a meanwhile way. In reference to Hackney Walk, it was explained that the Council did not have ownership of the site. The Council was interceding with the owners of visibly empty retail spaces working to bring them back into use. This formed part of a levelling up bid for Hackney Central Town Centre.

6.5 Question from Cllr Grace Adebayo to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services

The Mayor rightly condemned the distressing scenes around the police operation on moped crime that took place in Dalston in May. Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services outline what engagement she has had to hold the local police to account, and what the Council is doing to restore trust and confidence in policing among local residents?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services

Cllr Fajana-Thomas stated that following the police operation, she had met with Detective Chief Superintendent Marcus Barnett to raise concerns. She was subsequently informed that the police operation in Ashwin Street was in direct response to a number of community complaints about scooter and e-scooter riders gathering in large numbers and on a frequent basis causing anti-social behaviour. At the time, there was also an unrelated event in Gillett Square, which saw a gathering of over 300 people.

Cllr Fajana-Thomas informed the chamber that she had been assured that this was not an operation to address immigration and the Border Agency was not involved or present. An individual who was arrested was initially stopped for a non immigration issue, but was found to be wanted for arrest for an immigration offence.

Meeting with Detective Chief Superintendent Marcus Barnett, Cllr Fajana-Thomas had made it clear that it was an error of judgement to have carried out the operation at a time when there was a major event in Gillett Square. She also expressed disappointment that the Council's Community Safety Team was not made aware of the operation beforehand.

Cllr Fajana-Thomas outlined the work that was being undertaken with the police to improve trust and confidence, which in summary included:

- A review of 796 stop and search encounters.
- A review of the current London-wide Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) structure commissioned by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime with an emphasis on greater community representation and enhanced accountability.
- Reinvigoration of the Police Ward Panels
- The development of a Trust and Confidence Action Plan to improve trust and confidence in policing, with delivery monitored by the Community Safety Partnership Statutory Officer Group.
- Review of the police's use of Section 60 Stop and Search, supporting greater accountability.
- Trust and confidence in policing to be a standing agenda item of the Community Resilience Partnership, chaired by Cllr Fajana-Thomas

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. Elected Mayor's Statement

7.1 Mayor Glanville welcomed newly elected Cllr Joe Walker following the recent De Bevoir by-election and Rickardo Hyatt, Group Director for Climate, Homes and Economy who had recently joined the Council.

7.2 The Mayor thanked various teams across the Council who had worked diligently to keep people safe and services running throughout the two days of extreme heat on 18 and 19 July. Thanks were also relayed to the Fire Brigade for quickly acting to put out a fire in South Millfields Orchard. He expressed

sadness at the loss of all the hard work of the Tree Musketeers (volunteers who planted and cared for trees in Hackney) and committed to providing help to restore and replant.

- 7.3 Referencing the extreme weather and the climate crisis, the Mayor expressed great disappointment at Conservative candidates for Prime Minister who he believed had ditched net zero targets and presented inadequate plans to deliver on COP26 commitments and funding. The Mayor reaffirmed the Council's commitment to tackling the climate emergency, highlighting the Council's declaration in 2019 and subsequent plans to transform Council roads, estates and town centres, insulating them against climate change and building resilience. The Council had planted 5000 street trees to help weather extreme heat, tackle air pollution, and respond to loss of biodiversity. This would provide benefits in the years and decades ahead.
- 7.4 The Mayor outlined measures undertaken to deliver on the Green New Deal for Hackney. In summary these included: 40 schools signed up to the Council-funded Eco-Schools programme, rolling out pollution-blocking green screens to 32 primary schools, a 97% reduction in the Council's pension fund investment in fossil fuel reserves, approved plans for another 4,000 secure bike parking spaces and a community energy fund. This was in addition to the ongoing implementation of School Streets and Lower Traffic Neighbourhoods to improve air quality in the borough.
- 7.5 Mayor Glanville expressed dismay at the lack of leadership of the Conservative Government and their local counterparts across the chamber in the climate emergency and cost of living crisis. He cited the unveiling of artwork dedicated to the Windrush Generation, standing up against bus cuts, marching in London Pride and calling out undercounting of the census, as ways in which his administration had shown leadership and stood up for the values that made Hackney a special, diverse, progressive borough.
- 7.6 Concluding, the Mayor condemned the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States (US) to undo the legal right to abortion; the impact of which he believed would not be limited to the US. His administration would continue to stand for the women of Hackney and their rights and send a clear message that personal bodily autonomy should be protected as a fundamental human right.

Conservative Group Response

- 7.7 Cllr Steinbeger thanked Council officers and emergency services who had worked throughout the recent heatwave to ensure Council services were delivered. He expressed disappointment relating to the lack of ventilation and inbuilt air conditioning as part of the Town Hall restoration and refurbishment.
- 7.8 Cllr Steinberger stated that the recently released Forde report was evidence that racism and anti-semitism was present within the Labour Party. Referring to the Conservative Party leadership challenge, he noted that 7 out of the 12 candidates were from minority ethnic groups and one of the two remaining was a woman. He believed this demonstrated the Conservative Party's commitment to equality.

- 7.9 Cllr Steinberger thanked Gilbert Stowe, Head of Tenancy and Leasehold Services, who would be retiring shortly, for his help and assistance over the years.
- 7.10 Referring to the Transport for London (TfL) public consultation on bus cuts, Cllr Steinberger stated that TfL was inefficient and ineffectively managed by the Mayor of London with many officers being overpaid. He believed that the need to make savings was largely self-induced and consequently this mismanagement and subsequent bus cuts would ultimately impact local residents.
- 7.11 In conclusion, Cllr Steinberger urged Mayor Glanville to take into consideration the views of residents with regard to previous and ongoing consultations and commended the Mayor of Tower Hamlets for doing so.

Green Group Response

- 7.12 Cllr Garbett thanked Council staff and partner services for their efforts in ensuring that residents were protected during the recent heatwave. In reference to the health challenges posed by the recent heat-wave she stated that a climate emergency was also a health emergency. Acknowledging the devastation caused to green spaces, she relayed thanks to the Tree Musketeers and Millfields User Groups for their efforts.
- 7.13 Highlighting the recent High Court ruling that the Government's net zero strategy did not meet the obligations under the Climate Change Act, Cllr Garbett hoped that the Council's forthcoming Climate Action Plan recognised the urgency of the situation. She believed that the climate emergency should be a consideration in all Council decisions. Cllr Garbett expressed disappointment at the recent decision by the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee to approve the installation of 14 new double sided digital advertising boards. Each board consumed the equivalent amount of electricity as three average UK households. Cllr Garbett called on the administration to move away from an economic system based on the promotion of endless consumption and manufactured demand.
- 7.14 In relation to the cost of living crisis, Cllr Garbett stated that this did not only affect residents but also staff employed by the Council who were working with unions to raise concerns about pay and conditions which were believed to be unheard by management and political leaders. The Green group pledged to stand in solidarity with workers within and outside the Council and to ensure the Council did everything within its power to support staff and residents through the crisis.

Mayor's Reply

- 7.15 In reply to the Opposition Groups, Mayor Glanville referred to the Forde report and condemned the use of sexist, racist and anti-semitic language and behaviour used to progress factions within the Labour Party. He stood in solidarity with Hackney Labour MPs Dianne Abbot and Meg Hillier, both of whom had faced external and internal party attacks.

- 7.16 Referring to the Conservative leadership challenge he acknowledged that white men were in the minority; however despite the visible diversity, he believed there to be nothing progressive about their views on public services, tax cuts, climate emergency, race and diversity. He believed that the candidates did not address the needs and concerns of a diverse borough such as Hackney.
- 7.17 In relation to the proposed bus cuts, Mayor Glanville stated that issues with TfL funding began when the Prime Minister was Mayor of London and agreed a deal with the government to do away with the £500m grant funding and subsequently left a £1bn black hole in TfL's finances. Mayor Glanville called on all present to join with the Mayor of London to campaign for proper funding for TfL. He believed there were several models by which to deliver and operate public transport which could also achieve climate objectives and embody social justice, if adequate funding was available.
- 7.18 Mayor Glanville explained that his administration would continue to campaign for better pay for public sector workers however there was a dispute within the workforce with only half accepting the national pay agreement. It was felt that it would not be equitable to accept pay increases for some staff and not others without proper government funding.

8. De Beauvoir By-Election Results

RESOLVED: To note the results of the recent by-election in De Beauvoir ward as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

9. Political Balance and Appointments to Committees

RESOLVED:

1. To note the review of the allocation of seats in accordance with section 15 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 following the by-election in De Beauvoir Ward on 7 July 2022 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
2. To note that there are no changes to the allocation of seats on the Council's Committees etc. as between the three political groups of the Council.
3. To approve the nominations of Councillors and Co-Optees to the Committees and Commissions as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

10. Annual Update on Progress with Decarbonisation Commitments July 2022

- 10.1 The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport introduced the third annual report which demonstrated the administration's progress against the key goals to address the climate emergency the previous year. He outlined some of the major achievements set out within the report as well as the emergence of a number of Council plans and policies which incorporated decarbonisation principles.
- 10.2 Cllrs Binnie-Lubbock and Garbett contributed to the debate. They welcomed the report but felt that more regular scrutiny of the administration's progress above the six monthly intervals offered was required. It was queried whether all Council decisions considered the impact of net zero as well as social and

economic considerations and requested clarity on how this would be prioritised. It was also questioned whether a citizen's assembly co-designed by local environmental experts with decision making and budgetary powers would be considered.

- 10.3 Cllrs Etti, Wrout and Deputy Mayor Nicholson also contributed to the debate. They commended the Council's engagement with local residents and businesses in assisting to provide a sustainable, green local economy. The challenge was presented to Conservatives Councillors to lobby the Conservative Government to ensure that Councils were given the much needed funds to meet net zero targets.
- 10.4 In response to the comments made, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport highlighted the link between tackling the cost of living crisis, social justice and the climate crisis. He informed the chamber that the administration was working on ways to educate and shift local thinking. With regard to the citizens' assembly, Cllr Coban stated that Hackney was a unique and diverse borough and any arrangements would reflect this. He agreed to provide a more detailed response in writing to the Green Councillors outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED: To note the Annual Update on progress with its decarbonisation commitments.

11. Members' Allowances Scheme 2021/22 (updated July 2022) and Members' Allowances Scheme 2022/23

- 11.1 Correction - Page 108 of the report within the agenda referred to the 2nd Opposition Group Whip rather than Group Leader - the remainder of the report has the correct reference.
- 11.2 Cllr Steinberger stated his objection to the report and dissatisfaction that an independent person had not been involved in setting allowances for several years. He also raised concerns about the number of Cabinet Members.
- 11.3 Mayor Glanville explained that the decision was taken across London Councils to jointly commission an Independent Panel in order to reduce costs. Pay bands had been created following the evaluation of various roles and pay awards across London. This process was funded collectively by the boroughs with a view to reducing costs to individual Councils and creating an efficient, up to date, fair and impartial cross-party process. In reference to Hackney, he further advised that following the May 2022 local elections, the remuneration of the First Opposition Group Leader now took into account the presence of a Second Minority Opposition Group.
- 11.4 Cllr Garbett requested that it be noted that whilst the Green Party supported the recommendations, the inaccessibility of politics nationwide was quite widely recognised and Councillors allowances were one of the contributing factors.

RESOLVED:

1. To approve the report and the Members' Allowances Scheme 2021/22 (July 2022 Council) attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

2. To agree the Members' Allowances Scheme 2022/23 (July 2022 Council) attached at Appendix 2 of the report.

12. Constitution Committee Terms of Reference and Membership

- 12.1 Deputy Mayor Bramble stated that the administration was keen to ensure changes to the Constitution took place in the public domain and were transparent and accessible with a cross-party approach.
- 12.2 Cllr Binnie-Lubbock welcomed the report and amendment to the terms of reference to recognise and offer take up of membership to the Green group..

RESOLVED:

1. That the terms of reference of the Constitution Committee be amended as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.
2. That Councillor Binnie-Lubbock be appointed to the Constitution Committee having been nominated by the Green Party.

At 8.56pm there was an adjournment for prayers.

The meeting resumed at 9:39pm

Councillors Krautwirt, Goldberg, Lisser, Oguzkanli, Papier and Steinberger left the meeting at the commencement of the adjournment and were not present for the remainder of the meeting.

13. Motions

The proposed tabled amendments to the motions have been published separately.

13a Cost Of Living Crisis

It was noted that the proposer and seconder of this motion no longer wished to pursue the amendment as set out in the tabled papers but were content for this be considered at the same time as the other tabled amendments.

The motion as set out at agenda item 13a within the agenda was **MOVED** by Cllr Adejare and **SECONDED** by Cllr Samatar.

The withdrawal of the amendment as set out in the tabled papers marked as 13d Amendments to Motions was **MOVED** by Cllr Adejare and **SECONDED** by Cllr Samatar.

Cllr Adejare briefly stated the purpose of the motion.

The proposed amendments as set out in the tabled papers marked as 13d Amendments to Motions were **MOVED** by Cllr Binnie-Lubbock and **SECONDED** by Cllr Garbett.

Cllr Binnie-Lubbock spoke to the proposed amendments. He welcomed the motion to request for the Council to call upon the Government to keep benefit payments in line with inflation. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock highlighted an additional range of measures the Council could undertake in recognition of the crisis. In summary these included: support the development of a “pledge my cheque” scheme, as a living wage borough urge local employers to end zero hours contracts, consultation to remove the fifteen percent contribution from residents eligible for full council tax support and continue to protect children centres and nurseries as a priority.

The proposed amendments were put to the vote without debate.

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

Cllr Adejare introduced the motion and highlighted the Government’s lack of understanding of the impact of the cost of living crisis on many of the borough’s residents. It was noted that Hackney had one of the highest levels of deprivation. The use of food banks had increased exponentially with an increasing amount of residents forced to access finite hardship grants. Cllr Adejare highlighted the far reaching consequences of the crisis which included education, hunger and poor mental health and called for urgent Government intervention and increased levels of support. She believed it was incumbent on Councillors to support the motion and represent the needs of their constituents.

Cllr Samatar spoke in support of the motion and stated that the impact of the crisis was disproportionately hitting poorer households in particular the elderly, disabled and children. She stated that the country had suffered under Conservative austerity and incompetence which could only be remedied by a change of Government.

Deputy Mayor Bramble and Councillors Walker, Williams, Joseph, Billington and Turbet-Delof contributed to the debate, speaking in support of the motion.

Concluding, Cllr Adejare thanked Councillors for their comments and pledged the administration’s on-going commitment to helping the plight of local residents affected by the cost of living crisis.

Unanimously RESOLVED:

1. To call on the Government to introduce an Emergency Budget to take urgent action to protect the people of Hackney from the cost of living crisis.
2. To note that:
 - Energy costs have risen by an average of £693 per household – and are set to rise even further, with Ofgem setting the energy price cap at £2800 from October
 - Food prices are soaring, some basic staples by as much as 20%
 - Inflation has hit 9% – its highest level in 40 years

- Personal Taxation is now at its highest level in 70 years
 - 48% of children in Hackney live in poverty and 16.5% of local residents are claiming out-of-work benefits
 - Meanwhile £11.8bn of public money has been lost to fraud through the Governments covid support schemes
3. To write to the Prime Minister urging him to:
- Introduce an immediate Emergency Budget to protect children, families, and pensioners from the worst fall in living standards in generations
 - Cut business rates for small businesses
 - Cut the VAT rate on energy bills
 - Increase the support available to all claimants through the welfare and benefits system
 - Deliver on the calls made by UNISON, the NEU and other education unions to expand the free school meals programme to all families receiving universal credit or an equivalent benefit
 - Fund Hackney Council's Green Homes programme to retrofit homes helping to reduce home energy consumption and cut energy bills.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.4 of the Council's Constitution, the Speaker advised that the total time of 30 minutes for the consideration of Motions had come to an end. Subsequently, there was not sufficient time to debate the Long Covid and Fair Vote Motions. These motions shall stand deferred to the next ordinary meeting of Full Council on 14 September 2022 where they will be the first and second motions to be debated.

13b Motion: Long Covid

RESOLVED:

1. That in accordance with Procedure Rule 16.4 of the Council's Constitution that this motion, which was not debated, stand referred without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of Full Council on 14 September 2022.
2. That this motion will be the first motion to be debated at the next ordinary Full Council meeting.

13c Motion: Fair Votes

RESOLVED:

1. That in accordance with Procedure Rule 16.4 of the Council's Constitution that this motion, which was not debated, stand referred without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of Full Council on 14 September 2022.
2. That this motion will be the second motion to be debated at the next ordinary Full Council meeting.

Duration of Meeting - 7:00-9:57pm

Attachments

Appendix A - Questions from Members of the Council not answered due to time (Agenda item 6)