

**Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 1 March 2023**

**Agenda item 11: Proposed Amendments to Motions received by the  
Monitoring Officer prior to 12 noon today**

Underlined text = proposed additional wording

~~Strikethrough text~~ = proposed deletions

**Bold** = amendment to the motion from the proposer / seconder

**Motions**

**11(a) Supporting the transgender community (Green and Labour Group  
Amended Substantive Motion)**

This Council believes in equity of opportunity and that human rights are the bedrock of our society. Trans women are women. Trans men are men. Non-binary people are non-binary. We believe in the dignity of all people, and their right to respect and equity of opportunity. We value the strength that comes with difference and the positive contribution diversity brings to our community. Our aspiration is for Hackney to be a safe, welcoming, and an inclusive borough for everyone, no matter their gender identity or gender expression.

This Council notes:

- The rise in reports of violent attacks and hate crime against LGBTQIA+ people, with hate crime against trans people having quadrupled in the last 5 years.
- The Tory Government has fallen far short of its promise to reform the Gender Recognition Action (GRA), despite the consultation yielding overwhelming support for change, the results mean the process will not be de-medicalised, the spousal veto will remain, and legal recognition for non-binary individuals will not be extended.
- The concerning rise in transphobia in the UK, from individuals, politicians and the media, as well as the increasing severity of the threats faced by the trans community.
- That transgender and non-binary people may require specific support to access services without facing discrimination. All council services must be equipped to welcome and provide appropriate service and good customer care to suit transgender and non-binary people.
- Data on gender identity was gathered in the 2020 Census for the first time. More than 1% said their gender is different to their sex registered at birth. Hackney also has the highest number and the highest proportion of usual

residents who described a nonbinary+ gender identity out of any of the 34 London boroughs.

- That there are transgender and non-binary people in Hackney of all ages, and that the need for better understanding and acceptance of what it means to be transgender or non-binary is an intergenerational issue.
- That transgender and non-binary people may face intersecting struggles due to factors like their race, religion, disability, socio-economic background, or sexuality.
- Hackney Council has a proud and recognised history of working to achieve equality of opportunity both within the Town Hall and across the borough, whilst supporting groups and organisations to deliver essential services, projects and events.
- The vital work done by groups in Hackney to support local trans and nonbinary people, as well as the wider LGBTQIA+ community. Including, but not limited to, Project Indigo, Rainbow Mind, ELOP, Proud Hackney (the Council's LGBTQIA+ staff network), Pride in Education, Dalston Superstore, Shelter, Live Through This, St Paul's West Hackney, London Friend, Positive East, Mouth That Roars, Volunteer Centre Hackney, Rio Cinema, Queer China Collective.
- The London Borough of Hackney first flew the Progress rainbow flag to mark LGBTQIA+ History Month, in February 2019, and the Intersex Inclusive Pride flag for LGBTQIA+ history month in February 2023.
- That the London Borough of Hackney has marked the Trans Day of Remembrance since 2021.
- That Hackney Council has taken the following recent work to support the LGBTQIA+ community: ensuring Mx is included on the data standards, and our standard equality monitoring form has, since 2011, included "Male, Female, Prefer to use my own term."
- That despite positive initiatives there is always more to do to ensure we are a genuinely supportive, inclusive and welcoming borough. The Council will seek to better support transgender and non-binary people to live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives.
- The Council has an inclusive language guide to ensure council forms and documents are trans and non-binary inclusive where possible.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To state publicly that trans rights are human rights and affirm the legal rights of all protected groups under the Equality Act 2010.
- To do more to shift the culture of the Council overall by working with LGBTQIA+ groups to encourage training for councillors and council staff to raise awareness of the difficulties transgender and non-binary people face and of the support councillors could offer to this community.

- To continue supporting and celebrating the work of Proud Hackney, the Council's LGBTQIA+ staff network.
- To request that the Mayor agrees to publicly acknowledge International Trans Day of Visibility (March 31st).
- To encourage council staff and councillors to consider important gestures that make it clear transgender and non-binary people are welcome.
- To consider the particular needs of transgender and non-binary people who are at high risk of facing homelessness when implementing the Council's existing homelessness and rough sleeping strategy.
- To work with partner organisations to ensure transgender and non-binary people are not discriminated against whilst accessing homelessness services.
- To ask the London Borough of Hackney Health in Hackney Commission to consider the barriers which transgender and non-binary people face when accessing medical care and to find ways of reducing them.
- To review with a view to improving signposting to support services for transgender and non-binary people within Council communications.
- To ask the Chief Executive to ensure all staff are supported in bringing their authentic selves to the workplace. ~~; and to consider working towards publishing a statement and commitments akin to that published by Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Barts Health NHS Trust.~~

**Proposed by:** Cllr Clare Potter

**Seconded by:** Cllr Zoë Garbett

**11b(i) Solidarity with striking workers (Green Group Amended Substantive Motion)**

**This Council notes:**

- The UK is facing a wave of industrial action in the wake of rising prices a cost-of-living crisis and paltry pay offers
- That in December, the Royal College of Nurses took the unprecedented step of holding a national strike on the 15th and 20th December 2022, and announced strikes on the 18th and 19th of January 2023 alongside other healthcare workers including ambulance workers who are striking in January
- The National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers took part in strikes on 13th, 14th, 16th and 17th December 2022, with strikes ongoing in January 2023
- Major education unions in England balloted [their members](#) [and an NEU national strike took place on 1 February with up to 300,000 members across 23,400 schools.](#)

- [A ballot of 47,000 Junior Doctors who are BMA members in England has supported strike action, to take place for 72 hours between 7.00 am on Monday 13 until 7.00 am on Thursday 16 March.](#)
- [The main union for Tube drivers, ASLEF, has announced a one-day strike for Wednesday 15 March.](#)
- Over 70,000 staff at 150 universities across the UK took three days of strike action over attacks on pay, working conditions and pensions

**This Council further notes:**

- [In January 2023 the Government announced its Strikes \(Minimum Service Level\) Bill - a wide-ranging set of proposals which, taken as a package, will undermine the basic right to strike and make it harder for workers to organise effectively in trade unions.](#)
- [The proposals will also bring in new restrictions on pickets and protests during strikes. Unions will have to give the details of a lead picketer on every picket line to the police and employers - and the Government has even floated the idea of making all picketers give their details to the police. They may even be required to submit a campaign plan to the police and employers two weeks in advance - setting out what they intend to do, whether they will use a loudspeaker or carry a banner and even what strikers intend to put on social media, such as Facebook or twitter.](#)
- [The Government has also proposed new thresholds for turnout in strike ballots, plus additional thresholds for those working in "important public services".](#)
- [The Government wants to grant ministers the power to unilaterally cut so-called "facilities time" in the public sector. This is paid time-off mutually agreed between employers and unions for union reps to represent their members and negotiate with their employer.](#)
- [The Government also proposes to prohibit public sector employers assisting unions collecting their membership subscriptions through payrolls - even though this is used for a variety of other staff benefits such as cycle-to-work schemes and childcare vouchers, and even though unions often meet the costs of this.](#)
- [The Strikes \(Minimum Level of Service\) Bill has been rushed through parliament without proper scrutiny and does not have backing of the International Labour Organisation \(ILO\), the United Nations' workers' rights watchdog.](#)
- [The human rights organisations Liberty, Amnesty International and the British Institute of Human Rights have said that the Government's proposals "would hamper people's basic rights to protest and shift even more power from the employee to the employer".](#)

- That under Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of their interests
- The Government refuses to allow trade unions to ballot their members electronically, which could help increase engagement, yet use electronic voting in their own party political elections
- Trade unions take industrial action for a wide range of reasons including defending wages and pensions, conditions at work and safety.
- Research by the Resolution Foundation has found that trade union membership has more than halved from 53 per cent in 1980 to 23 per cent in 2021, and to just 10 per cent among low paid workers in the private sector.<sup>1</sup>
- That the government has consistently failed to make adequate pay offers to workers and has repeatedly undermined the right to strike, and has undermined pay offers which could see a successful resolution to the strikes.
- The government is undermining the right to strike by allowing employers to use agency workers during industrial action.
- That anti-union laws have given us some of the tightest and most undemocratic restrictions on strikes in the advanced industrial world
- That all over the country, workers are winning improved wages through the power of collective action which is growing in popularity outside of the workplace providing vital support to their members against the backdrop of more than a decade of decay.
- No worker ever wants to go on strike, but it is a crucial last resort for workers after negotiations are exhausted and when their employer refuses to listen to their views, or negotiate with them. The right to strike and protest are not a gift from the State, but fundamental rights fought hard for by workers in the last two centuries, which should be valued and respected in a free and democratic society.
- Without the right to strike, workers will be unable to defend their jobs or pay, stand up for decent services and achieve fairness and safety at work.
- Hackney Council maintains positive and constructive working relationships with local trade unions, and believes that the Government's proposals will undermine effective employment relations and meaningful engagement with trade unions within the London Borough of Hackney.
- Councils should be free to build positive industrial relations that work for their communities with a minimum of central government involvement.

## The Council welcomes

- The administration's engagement and promotion of the Council's trade unions, including the instigating regular meetings since 2016.
- That the administration actively promotes trade union membership at all staff events.
- That the administration unanimously passed a comprehensive Fire and Rehire Motion in January 2022, sending a clear statement to employers locally that the practice will be actively resisted in the Borough.
- That key moments like Heart Union Week and International Workers' Memorial Day have become part of the annual calendar.
- The inclusion of trade union recognition in the Hackney's Sustainable Procurement Strategy, and signatories of Unison Ethical Care Charter.
- The consistent engagement led by the Mayor and Cllr Sem Moema in working with London Renter's Union and accepting their 2022 campaign asks.

## **This Council resolves to:**

- To support the TUC's campaign to protect the right to strike.
- Ensure that wherever possible, agency workers for Hackney Council are not penalised for taking part in strikes, despite lacking the same legal protections as the employees they work alongside
- Write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy stating our opposition to the Government's anti-trade union laws, including but not limited to arbitrary thresholds in strike ballots, mandatory balloting of every pay offer, additional cooling off periods, the banning of online ballots and the use of agency workers, and unwarranted interference in local industrial relations which risks making matters worse.
- Write to Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Industrial Strategy, encouraging the implementation of plans<sup>2</sup> as soon as possible after next General Election.
- In the event that the government's proposals become law, in so far as is lawful for the council as an employer:
  - to continue to allow recognised trade unions to use subscriptions through payroll, or otherwise support trade unions' efforts to move members onto direct debit subscriptions.
  - to maintain current arrangements on "facility time" for trade union reps to represent their members.
  - in so far as is lawful for the council and consistent with its responsibilities to residents, to commit not to use agency workers to

[break strikes.](#)

- [to continue the positive relationships that the Council has developed with the unions representing its workforce.](#)

**Proposer:** Cllr Alasair Binnie-Lubbock

**Seconder:** Cllr Zoë Garbett

### **11b (ii) Solidarity with striking workers - Labour group amendments**

*Note: Labour Group's amendments are shown here for completeness. All amendments have been adopted by the Green Group and have formed part of their amended substantive motion.*

#### **This Council notes:**

- The UK is facing a wave of industrial action in the wake of rising prices, a cost-of-living crisis and paltry pay offers
- That in December, the Royal College of Nurses took the unprecedented step of holding a national strike on the 15th and 20th December 2022, and announced strikes on the 18th and 19th of January 2023 alongside other healthcare workers including ambulance workers who are striking in January
- The National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers took part in strikes on 13th, 14th, 16th and 17th December 2022, with strikes ongoing in January 2023
- Major education unions in England ~~are~~ [ballotting](#) their members, ~~on possible strike action over pay and an NEU national strike took place on 1 February with up to 300,000 members across 23,400 schools.~~
- ~~That under Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of their interests~~
- [A ballot of 47,000 Junior Doctors who are BMA members in England has supported strike action, to take place for 72 hours between 7.00 am on Monday 13 until 7.00 am on Thursday 16 March.](#)
- [The main union for Tube drivers, ASLEF, has announced a one-day strike for Wednesday 15 March.](#)
- Over 70,000 staff at 150 universities across the UK took three days of strike action over attacks on pay, working conditions and pensions

**This Council further notes:**

- In January 2023 the Government announced its Strikes (Minimum Service Level) Bill - a wide-ranging set of proposals which, taken as a package, will undermine the basic right to strike and make it harder for workers to organise effectively in trade unions.
- The proposals will also bring in new restrictions on pickets and protests during strikes. Unions will have to give the details of a lead picketer on every picket line to the police and employers - and the Government has even floated the idea of making all picketers give their details to the police. They may even be required to submit a campaign plan to the police and employers two weeks in advance - setting out what they intend to do, whether they will use a loudspeaker or carry a banner and even what strikers intend to put on social media, such as Facebook or twitter.
- The Government has also proposed new thresholds for turnout in strike ballots, plus additional thresholds for those working in "important public services".
- The Government wants to grant ministers the power to unilaterally cut so-called "facilities time" in the public sector. This is paid time-off mutually agreed between employers and unions for union reps to represent their members and negotiate with their employer.
- The Government also proposes to prohibit public sector employers assisting unions collecting their membership subscriptions through payrolls - even though this is used for a variety of other staff benefits such as cycle-to-work schemes and childcare vouchers, and even though unions often meet the costs of this.
- The Strikes (Minimum Level of Service) Bill has been rushed through parliament without proper scrutiny and does not have backing of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations' workers' rights watchdog.
- The human rights organisations Liberty, Amnesty International and the British Institute of Human Rights have said that the Government's proposals "would hamper people's basic rights to protest and shift even more power from the employee to the employer".
- That under Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of their interests
- The Government refuses to allow trade unions to ballot their members electronically, which could help increase engagement, yet use electronic voting in their own party political elections
- Trade unions take industrial action for a wide range of reasons including defending wages and pensions, conditions at work and safety.



- [Research by the Resolution Foundation has found that trade union membership has more than halved from 53 per cent in 1980 to 23 per cent in 2021, and to just 10 per cent among low paid workers in the private sector.](#)<sup>13</sup>
- That the **Conservative** government has consistently failed to make adequate pay offers to workers and has repeatedly undermined the right to strike, and has undermined pay offers which could see a successful resolution to the strikes.
- ~~That Hackney staff have been balloting for industrial action including most recently Library staff voting to strike over the planned restructure to the service~~
- ~~That all over the country, workers are winning improved wages through the power of collective action~~
- The **Conservative** government is undermining the right to strike by allowing employers to use agency workers ~~to break strikes~~ [during industrial action](#)
- That ~~decades of~~ anti-union laws have given us some of the tightest and most undemocratic restrictions on strikes in the advanced industrial world
- [That all over the country, workers are winning improved wages through the power of collective action](#) ~~The~~ [which is](#) growing in popularity ~~of collective action~~ outside of the workplace ~~with community, tenants and renters unions, including ACORN and the London Renters Union, who are~~ providing vital support to their members against the backdrop of more than a decade of **Conservative** decay.

### **~~This Council believes that:~~**

- [No worker ever wants to go on strike, but it is a crucial last](#) ~~That unions already only~~ resort [for workers to strikes](#) after negotiations are exhausted [and when their employer refuses to listen to their views, or negotiate with them.](#) [The right to strike and protest are not a gift from the State, but fundamental rights fought hard for by workers in the last two centuries, which should be valued and respected in a free and democratic society.](#)
- [Without the right to strike, workers will be unable to defend their jobs or pay, stand up for decent services and achieve fairness and safety at work.](#)
- [Hackney Council maintains positive and constructive working relationships with local trade unions, and believes that the Government's proposals will undermine effective employment relations and meaningful engagement with trade unions within the London Borough of Hackney.](#)
- [Councils should be free to build positive industrial relations that work for their communities with a minimum of central government involvement.](#)
- ~~That now more than ever, many residents understand that if workers don't fight for fair pay and conditions, they will not be able to make it through the~~

~~ongoing crises~~

- ~~● Collective action is a necessary tool to rebalance power away from the few to the many, in the workplace and in communities~~

### The Council welcomes

- The administration's engagement and promotion of the Council's trade unions, including the instigating regular meetings since 2016.
- That the administration actively promotes trade union membership at all staff events.
- That the administration unanimously passed a comprehensive Fire and Rehire Motion in January 2022, sending a clear statement to employers locally that the practice will be actively resisted in the Borough.
- That key moments like Heart Union Week and International Workers' Memorial Day have become part of the annual calendar.
- The inclusion of trade union recognition in the Hackney's Sustainable Procurement Strategy, and signatories of Unison Ethical Care Charter.
- The consistent engagement led by the Mayor and Cllr Sem Moema in working with London Renter's Union and accepting their 2022 campaign asks.

### **This Council resolves to:**

- To support the TUC's campaign to protect the right to strike.
- ~~● Promote trade, community and renters union membership to Hackney's residents~~
- ~~● To work collaboratively with the unions representing the Council's workers~~
- ~~● To ask Hackney residents to support striking workers in whatever way they can~~
- Ensure that wherever possible, agency workers for Hackney Council are not penalised for taking part in strikes, despite lacking the same legal protections as the employees they work alongside
- ~~● Support the attendance of Hackney's two MPs, Diane Abbott and Meg Hillier, and councillors, and our Assembly Members at picket lines in solidarity with striking workers~~
- Write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy stating in our opposition to the Government's ~~to~~ anti-trade union laws, including but not limited to arbitrary thresholds in strike ballots, mandatory balloting of every pay offer, additional cooling off periods, the banning of online ballots and the use of **strikebreaking** agency workers, and unwarranted interference in local industrial relations which risks making matters worse.
- ~~● Write to the Secretary of State for Transport in opposition to the Transport Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill which would infringe on the rights of transport workers to withdraw labour to fight for fairer pay and conditions, and~~

- ~~oppose any future legislation for other sectors~~
- Write to Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Industrial Strategy, encouraging the implementation of plans<sup>4</sup> as soon as possible after next General Election
- ~~Write to the Secretary of State for Justice in opposition to the proposed British Bill of Rights, that threatens the right of workers to organise collective action.~~
- In the event that the government's proposals become law, in so far as is lawful for the council as an employer:
  - to continue to allow recognised trade unions to use subscriptions through payroll, or otherwise support trade unions' efforts to move members onto direct debit subscriptions.
  - to maintain current arrangements on "facility time" for trade union reps to represent their members.
  - in so far as is lawful for the council and consistent with its responsibilities to residents, to commit not to use agency workers to break strikes.
  - to continue the positive relationships that the Council has developed with the unions representing its workforce.

**Proposer:** Cllr Carole Williams

**Seconder:** Cllr Grace Adebayo

### **11c(i) Hackney: A Borough of Sanctuary (Labour Group Substantive Motion)**

**This Council notes:**

- That the Coalition and successive Conservative governments' "Hostile Environment" policies deliberately make life hard for refugees, asylum seekers and for those who cannot prove their right to remain in the UK.
- During the Windrush 75th anniversary year, the government is rowing back on key recommendations made by Wendy Williams in the 2020 Lessons Learned Review: to create a the post of Migrants' Commissioner; increase the powers of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) to publish reports; and to run a series of reconciliation events with members of the Windrush Generation to discuss the impact of the scandal on their lives.
- The Government's cruel treatment of the Windrush Generation has forced many Hackney residents who were born in the UK, to go through unnecessary amounts of distress, with some being deported.

- The Council will continue to celebrate tolerance and diversity and welcome refugees and migrants. The Council has already welcomed refugees from Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine and through formal schemes, who have made Hackney their home over the last 5 years.
- The Government's underfunding of the immigration system and the impact of migrant and refugee communities results in delayed decision making on applications, unjustifiably high and unreasonable fees for immigration applications, and the harsh reality of being excluded from fully participating in society for those who are granted leave to remain in the UK, but who have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).
- The Home Office NRPF policy is inhumane and fails to comply with the legal obligation to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It has also been found unlawful by the High Court for the third year in a row.
- That the pandemic has brought further difficulties for refugees and migrants, including insecure work, lack of access to decent housing and digital exclusion.

**This Council further notes:**

- That Hackney celebrates our borough's history of being a welcoming borough, and welcoming everybody, regardless of their background. The Council recognises the contribution of refugees, migrants and those seeking sanctuary to the Borough of Hackney. We are committed to welcoming and including them in all of our activities and actively seek ways in which we can support them.
- That, throughout the pandemic, Hackney Council's support services were open to anyone who needed them, no matter their immigration status.
- Despite limitations imposed by central government, Hackney Council continues to try to find ways to support people with NRPF. For example, the Council has extended eligibility for free school meals to include some children of groups who have no recourse to public funds.
- The Council celebrates Refugee Week annually and publicly shares and celebrates the contribution of refugees and migrants in Hackney.
- That the Council is committed to our refugee and migrant communities. We support the initiative to make Hackney a recognised 'Borough of Sanctuary,' welcoming those fleeing violence and persecution and offering them safety.

**This Council resolves to:**

- Join a network of cities and towns which promote the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries and become a recognised "Borough of Sanctuary".
- Continue to celebrate the contribution of refugee and migrant communities to Hackney.

- Continue to work with organisations in Hackney who support refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the borough to create an inclusive and welcoming borough for those seeking sanctuary here.
- Challenge anti-refugee and anti-migrant attitudes wherever they are found.
- Continue to lobby the government to reform the No Recourse to Public Funds condition so that people are no longer blocked from fully participating in society for years while they wait for their status to be resolved.
- Continue to put pressure on the Government to reverse the Home Secretary's plans to abandon key Commitments on the Windrush Compensation Scheme, following the publication of the lessons learned review, and for the Scheme to be run independently from the Home Office.
- Work with local businesses and community partners to further tackle the digital divide, provide affordable access to online services and look at ways to donate IT devices locally to those in need, rather than scrapping them.

**Proposer:** Cllr Claudia Turbet-Delof

**Seconder:** Cllr Joe Walker

**11c(ii) Hackney: A Borough of Sanctuary (Labour Group Motion) - Green Group amendments**

**This Council notes:**

- That the Coalition and successive Conservative governments' "Hostile Environment" policies deliberately make life hard for refugees, asylum seekers and for those who cannot prove their right to remain in the UK.
- During the Windrush 75th anniversary year, the government is rowing back on key recommendations made by Wendy Williams in the 2020 Lessons Learned Review: to create a the post of Migrants' Commissioner; increase the powers of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) to publish reports; and to run a series of reconciliation events with members of the Windrush Generation to discuss the impact of the scandal on their lives.
- The Government's cruel treatment of the Windrush Generation has forced many Hackney residents who were born in the UK, to go through unnecessary amounts of distress, with some being deported.
- The Council will continue to celebrate tolerance and diversity and welcome refugees and migrants. The Council has already welcomed refugees from Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine [who have made their way to safety through both informal](#) and through formal schemes, who have made Hackney their home over the last 5 years.

- The Government's underfunding of the immigration system and the impact of migrant and refugee communities results in delayed decision making on applications, unjustifiably high and unreasonable fees for immigration applications, and the harsh reality of being excluded from fully participating in society for those who are granted leave to remain in the UK, but who have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).
- The Home Office NRPF policy is inhumane and fails to comply with the legal obligation to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It has also been found unlawful by the High Court for the third year in a row.
- That the pandemic has brought further difficulties for refugees and migrants, including insecure work, lack of access to decent housing and digital exclusion.

**This Council further notes:**

- That Hackney celebrates our borough's history of being a welcoming borough, and welcoming everybody, regardless of their background. The Council recognises the contribution of refugees, migrants and those seeking sanctuary to the Borough of Hackney. We are committed to welcoming and including them in all of our activities and actively seek ways in which we can support them.
- That, throughout the pandemic, Hackney Council's support services were open to anyone who needed them, no matter their immigration status.
- Despite limitations imposed by central government, Hackney Council continues to try to find ways to support people with NRPF. For example, the Council has extended eligibility for free school meals to include some children of groups who have no recourse to public funds.
- The Council celebrates Refugee Week annually and publicly shares and celebrates the contribution of refugees and migrants in Hackney.
- That the Council is committed to our refugee and migrant communities. We support the initiative to make Hackney a recognised 'Borough of Sanctuary,' welcoming those fleeing violence and persecution and offering them safety.
- [That the Nationality and Borders Act does not address these issues, and has instead created a two-tier system, punishing people seeking safety based on the journeys they make.](#)
- [Under these laws, people seeking safety will be criminalised and threatened with removal to Rwanda.](#)
- [People will be warehoused in large accommodation centres, segregated from communities and denied support.](#)
- [Many recognised refugees will receive a temporary and precarious status.](#)
- [Over 400 charities, councils and faith groups have signed a national pledge to 'Fight the 'Anti-Refugee Laws',](#)

This Council believes that:

- Everyone's claim for asylum should be treated equally and fairly
- The Nationality and Borders Act are fundamentally 'anti-refugee' laws that undermine internationally recognised rights for people fleeing war and persecution to seek safety.
- These measures will create ever-longer delays in the asylum process, lead to greater poverty and homelessness in Hackney and will undermine people's ability to rebuild their lives.
- People seeking safety should be housed as our neighbours and as a part of our communities.
- The UK needs an asylum system that empowers people seeking safety to rebuild their lives and enables communities to welcome them.

**This Council resolves to:**

- Join a network of cities and towns which promote the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries and become a recognised "Borough of Sanctuary".
- Establish a councillor champion to join the Migrants Champion Network whose development is supported by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants.
- Continue to celebrate the contribution of refugee and migrant communities to Hackney.
- Continue to work with organisations in Hackney who support refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the borough to create an inclusive and welcoming borough for those seeking sanctuary here.
- Challenge anti-refugee and anti-migrant attitudes wherever they are found.
- Continue to lobby the government to reform the No Recourse to Public Funds condition so that people are no longer blocked from fully participating in society for years while they wait for their status to be resolved.
- Continue to put pressure on the Government to reverse the Home Secretary's plans to abandon key Commitments on the Windrush Compensation Scheme, following the publication of the lessons learned review, and for the Scheme to be run independently from the Home Office.
- Work with local businesses and community partners to further tackle the digital divide experienced by migrants refugees and asylum seekers, provide affordable access to online services and look at ways to donate IT devices locally to those in need, rather than scrapping them.
- Defend the right to seek safety from war and persecution in the UK and sign the national 'Fight the Anti-Refugee Laws' pledge.
- Call on the UK Government to withdraw the UK-Rwanda agreement, repeal the Nationality and Borders Act, and work with Local Authorities and communities to build a refugee protection system that treats all people with dignity and compassion.

- [Work with local organisations and people with lived experience of the asylum system to identify ways to mitigate the effects of these measures in Hackney.](#)

**Proposer:** Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock

**Seconded:** Cllr Zoë Garbett