



London Borough of Hackney
Full Council Meeting
Municipal Year 2022/23
Date of Meeting: Wednesday, 25 January 2023

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

Councillors in Attendance:	Mayor Philip Glanville - Mayor of London Borough of Hackney Cllr Humaira Garasia - Speaker of London Borough of Hackney Cllr Kam Adams, Cllr Grace Adebayo, Cllr Frank Baffour, Cllr Polly Billington, Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble, Cllr Robert Chapman, Cllr Mete Coban, Cllr Sophie Conway, Cllr Michael Desmond, Cllr Sade Etti, Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Zoë Garbett, Cllr Ben Hayhurst (part), Cllr Clare Joseph, Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cllr Shaul Krautwirt (part), Cllr Lee Laudat-Scott, Cllr Michael Levy, Cllr Hershy Lisser (part), Cllr Richard Lufkin, Cllr Anna Lynch, Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, Cllr Sem Moema, Cllr Jon Narcross, Deputy Mayor Guy Nicholson, Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren, Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Benzion Papier (part), Cllr Sharon Patrick, Cllr Clare Potter (part), Cllr Fliss Premru (part), Cllr Steve Race, Cllr Ian Rathbone, Cllr Midnight Ross (part), Cllr Caroline Selman, Cllr Anya Sizer, Cllr Gilbert Smyth, Cllr Simche Steinberger (part), Cllr Sheila Suso-Runge, Cllr Joe Walker (part), Cllr Jessica Webb, Cllr Carole Williams, Cllr Caroline Woodley, Cllr Penny Wrount and Cllr Sarah Young
Absent:	Councillors Adejare, Goldberg, Gordon, Maxwell, Oguzkanli, Pallis, Sadek, Samatar, Troughton and Turbot-Delof.
Officer Contact:	Natalie Williams, Senior Governance Officer governance@hackney.gov.uk
Live stream link:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHqjccwH0s4

Councillor Humaira Garasia [Deputy Speaker] in the Chair

The Speaker welcomed all who were in attendance online and in person.

1 Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adejare, Goldberg, Gordon, Maxwell, Oguzkanli, Pallis, Sadek, Samatar, Troughton and Turbot-Delof.
- 1.2 Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Billington, Desmond, Premru and Walker.
- 1.3 It was noted that Councillor Troughton had joined the meeting remotely.

2 Speaker's Announcements

- 2.1 In commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January, the Speaker informed the Chamber that she had attended the London Assembly's Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony at City Hall on 23 January. The Council's ceremony would be held at the Town Hall on Friday, 27 January. The Speaker invited those who were able to stand and join her in observing a minute's silence to remember the victims of the world's genocides.
- 2.2 The Speaker informed the chamber of recent civic and forthcoming engagements and events as follows:
 - Citizenship ceremonies
 - Hackney Christmas lights switch on
 - Hackney Civic Carol Services
 - Greenhouse GP Christmas Fair
 - Panto at The Mildmay Club
 - Junior Citizenship scheme at the Forest Road Youth Club
 - Chinese New Year Celebrations
 - Speaker's charity dinner at the De Beauvoir Block on 25 February.
- 2.4 The Speaker informed Members of the passing of former Cllr Richard Taylor who served as ward councillor for Northfield ward, now known as Woodberry Down, from 1982 to 1986. The Mayor paid tribute to him. A minute's silence was observed by all present.

3 Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 It was noted that all Members of the Council who live in the borough would have an interest in respect of agenda item 8 - Calculation of 2023/24 Council Tax Base and Local Business Rate Income.
- 3.2 It was further noted that a collective dispensation had been granted by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with the Constitution under section 33(2)(a) Localism Act 2011, on the basis that without it, the number of persons who would be prohibited from participating in the meeting would be so great a proportion as to impede the transaction of the business under that item.

3.3 There were no other declarations of interest.

Councillors Bilington and Woodley entered the meeting.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

4.1 Members were informed that concerns raised by Councillors Steinberger and Papier relating to the recording of attendance at July's Council meeting had been resolved. It was established that Cllr Goldberg and Cllr Oguzkanli, in addition to the four Conservative Councillors recorded in the minutes, had also not returned to the meeting following the break. The minutes of July's Council meeting had been amended accordingly to reflect this.

4.2 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 23 November 2022 be agreed as true and accurate record of proceedings

Councillors: Desmond and Papier entered the meeting.

Councillor Hayhurst exited the meeting.

5 Questions from Members of the Public

All questions and responses are attached at Appendix A

6 Questions from Members of the Council

All questions and responses are attached at Appendix B

Councillors Potter and Premru entered the meeting.

Councillor Ross exited the meeting and did not return.

7 Elected Mayor's Statement

[The Mayor's statement can be viewed online here](#)

7.1 Mayor Glanville congratulated Cllr Fajana-Thomas who was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2023 New Year Honours for services to local government and to gender equality. Other Hackney residents who were rewarded included:

- Cleo Sylvestre appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to drama and charity.
- Sylvia Pierce was appointed a MBE for services to education.
- Nicola Baboneau, former Council employee, received a British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to the community, in partnership with the Metropolitan Police
- DJ Spooky received a BEM for services to charity through music.
- Chris Garnsworthy received a BEM for services to home visit libraries

7.2 Mayor Glanville welcomed the recent announcement from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities that the Council had secured a £19m

Levelling Up funding bid. This would see: new green space along Amhurst Road, investment in Hackney Central Library, a redesign of Pembury Circus and a rejuvenated Hackney Town Hall Square. The Mayor expressed thanks to MP Dame Meg Hillier for her tireless support of the bid, which was within her constituency and to Ronnie Barden, former Mayor of Redbridge who lived in London Fields for putting his 'civic weight' behind the bid. Thanks were also relayed to Cabinet colleagues, officers, residents and stakeholders who supported the bid.

- 7.2 The Mayor strongly objected to the cut to the Council's core funding by 45% since 2010 and acknowledged the inadequacies in public service funding. He reported that Cllr Chapman had written to the Government detailing the Council's concerns relating to the Local Government Finance Settlement's short-term perspective and the burden it placed on councils to raise Council Tax. He supported Labour's commitment to devolve real power and funding to local government and stated the importance of long term, comprehensive solutions.
- 7.3 Mayor Glanville highlighted the ways in which his administration had shown leadership and long term planning for its communities. This included: using the Council Tax system to reward foster carers and the Council's ambitious and award winning transport programme, which consisted of 8 new Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, amongst other schemes. This would reduce traffic, improve air quality, support public transport and tackle the climate crisis. Other initiatives included: an updated support guide on the cost of living crisis, the recently launched Hackney Money Hub, £40,000 worth of grants to provide a network of warm secure spaces across the borough and the launch of the Hackney Central Walking map; a Council collaboration encouraging residents to switch to walking and explore the borough's history and culture. The Mayor believed the actions taken by his administration were a direct result of the Labour values embodied within his manifesto and the corporate values, which were: Inclusive, Pioneering, Proactive, Open, Ambitious and Proud. These values permeated the work undertaken to deliver the best services for residents.
- 7.5 The Mayor stated that his administration supported the right to strike, to ensure a fair pay deal. He condemned the Government's view of public sector workers and efforts to ban the right to strike through the introduction of new legislation.

The Conservative group response

- 7.6 Cllr Levy, leader for the Conservative group, extended warm congratulations to Cllr Fajana – Thomas and Nicola Baboneau for recognition of services to the community in the King's New Year Honours List. He recalled Nicola's work in collaboration with the Speaker's Office organising previous Holocaust Memorial Day Events.
- 7.7 Cllr Levy spoke of the valued and dedicated services provided by library staff. He expressed disappointment that an agreement with the trade unions to avoid compulsory redundancies had not been reached. He acknowledged the

difficult financial climate and the Council's quest to become a leaner, more efficient organisation; however did not believe that this should be at the expense of dedicated frontline library staff. He requested the Mayor explore all other options.

- 7.8 Cllr Levy expressed disappointment that local resident Anthony Burton who had asked a question earlier at agenda item 5.3 had not received a satisfactory response to the issues he raised in his deputation to Full Council in 2021.
- 7.9 In reference to the School Street in Castlewood Road, Springfield ward, which he represented, Cllr Levy expressed dismay for what he considered to be a total disregard of residents' views. He spoke against the Council's decision to make the scheme permanent despite significant opposition. He questioned the rationale behind diverting traffic from one street on the basis of road safety and improved air quality onto surrounding streets causing more traffic and compromised quality of life for others.
- 7.10 Cllr Levy drew parallels between what he believed to be the Council's indifference and disregard for public opinion in the implementation of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) and the Mayor of London's plans to expand Ultra Low Emission Zones (ULEZ).
- 7.11 Concluding, Cllr Levy informed the Chamber of a situation that arose at Kings Hall Leisure Centre-where ladies were refused entry at women only sessions on the grounds that they had not pre-booked using the on-line booking system. The sessions were attended by many women from Jewish and Muslim communities many of whom did not have internet access. He thanked the Mayor for his timely, robust and sympathetic response. A new booking system had since been implemented which allowed for a percentage of drop-in customers.

Councillors Papier and Lisser exited the meeting and did not return.

The Green group response

- 7.12 Cllr Garbett was alarmed by the current state of the Metropolitan Police Service (Met) and noted that its Commissioner predicted that two to three officers a week would face trial for crimes such as violence against women and dishonesty. In the news earlier that day, it was reported that a Met Police Safer Schools Officer had pleaded guilty to a string of child sex offences. Cllr Garbett voiced concerns that this reflected a total failure in recruitment, vetting and safeguarding.
- 7.13 Cllr Garbett welcomed the opportunity to have recently met the new East Central Borough Commander, James Conway at the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission. She believed the areas of concern which needed to be addressed were the racial disproportionality of stop and search and the strip searching of children especially where an appropriate adult was not present. Cllr Garbett emphasised the importance of the Council being in a position of trust; enabling communities to raise any concerns they may have about the

police. She believed it was the Council's responsibility to hold the police to account to ensure safeguarding and person-led approaches were taken at all times.

- 7.14 Cllr Garbett expressed disappointment that the Conservative's in Westminster had blocked Scotland's Gender Recognition Act. Quoting the Scottish Greens, she stated that it was a 'dark day for devolution, democracy and trans rights' Further disappointment was expressed that only 11 of the 194 Labour Party MPs voted in support of the legislation. It was noted that this did not include either of the Hackney MPs. She looked forward to supporting activities and campaigns across the borough during LGBTQIA+ month in February.
- 7.15 Cllr Garbett questioned the Executive's support of the Trade Unions' Right to Strike Campaign. She and Cllr Binnie-Lubbock had supported Hackney's library staff and had joined picket lines following proposals for a new structure. She expressed disappointment that strike action was being curtailed by the Council through negotiations. She thanked UNISON for their support to staff and pledged solidarity with library workers.
- 7.16 Thanks and appreciation were offered to officers working on the sustainability agenda which had been recognised by an award. Cllr Garbett raised concerns that some of the Labour Party manifesto sustainability commitments were not being delivered. These included: the recruitment of a biodiversity officer and the setting up of a Citizen's Assembly. Further concerns were raised that despite the Pensions Committee reducing its exposure to the carbon risk by 97%, tens of millions of pounds was still invested in fossil fuel companies with no reduction since Divest Hackney began its campaign. She welcomed the agreement of the Local Implementation Plan and pledges made by the Labour group to deliver many of the Green group's manifesto commitments. She urged the administration to be more ambitious in particular in relation to targets to reduce traffic miles and improve air quality. An offer of assistance was made to deliver safer, healthier streets in the borough.
- 7.17 Cllr Garbett was pleased to see that an advertising policy had recently been agreed which had taken on board the Green group's suggestions of banning ads for junk food, gambling, alcohol and payday lenders. The Green group also wanted to see adverts for high carbon industries banned as well as a reduction of digital advertising sites, as each billboard had a significant carbon impact.
- 7.18 Speaking on housing matters, Cllr Garbett acknowledged efforts to address damp and mould within the borough, but there remained urgent outstanding cases. She stated that the Council needed to ensure residents were removed from homes that were unfit for human habitation. It was noted that there was a worrying increase in eviction casework. Thanks were relayed to Cllr Etti and officers for their assistance with this.
- 7.19 Concluding, Cllr Garbett congratulated Cllr Fajana-Thomas on her OBE appointment. In the spirit of Holocaust Memorial Day, Cllr Garbett shared some hopes for 2023. These included: the cessation of inhumanity, resolution to war, safe routes and compassion for asylum seekers and for lost children to

be found. It was hoped that there would be a general election that would see more Green Members of Parliament. She hoped that locally, there would be cross party, collaborative partnership working to deliver for residents.

Councillor Krautwirt and Steinberger exited the meeting and did not return.

The Mayor's reply

7.20 In response to the Opposition Groups, Mayor Glanville raised the following points:

- He echoed sentiments expressed regarding Holocaust Memorial Day and looked forward to the Council's commemoration on Friday, 27 January.
- The purpose of the restructure of libraries was to safeguard and future proof the service ensuring a higher paid, higher skilled workforce with no library closures, extended hours and more investment in the core service. Negotiations were ongoing with a resolve to finding pragmatic solutions.
- He supported the Mayor of London's proposals to expand ULEZ and the transition plans.
- Equity was at the forefront of the Local Implementation Plan, as such, the intention was to work with private schools within the borough to extend school streets and travel plans ensuring the same level of protection from air pollution as maintained schools.
- The Mayor reiterated commitments to tackle damp and mould in Council properties and to hold itself, housing associations and private providers accountable.
- He shared Cllr Garbett's dismay at recent headlines about the Metropolitan Police. He paid tribute to the work of the Council's scrutiny commission and Cabinet colleagues who held the police to account. The Council was resolute in restoring trust in policing and supporting the Met to deliver real change.
- His administration would continue to fight for trans rights. He opposed the Government's approach to the Scottish Act. Protecting the rights of some of the most marginalised would be at the heart of LGBTQ history month in Hackney.
- He paid tribute to Mark Barton, a member of staff from the Council's Community Safety Team Integrated Gangs Unit, who passed away in December 2022. Survived by his wife and children, the Mayor described him as an "incredible outreach worker", who had made an enormous contribution to Hackney and the response to protecting young people.
- Best wishes were sent to Cllr Yvonne Maxwell, who was stepping down from her role as Cabinet Advisor for Older People and Carers. Cllr Maxwell played a key role in the development and delivery of Hackney's Ageing Well Strategy as well as being a dementia champion.
- Congratulations were extended to Cllr Ali Sadek and his partner who had become parents in the last few days.

8. Calculation of 2023/24 Council Tax Base and Local Business Rate Income

Members were reminded that the calculation of the Council Tax Base is covered by s.106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This provides that if a Member owes two or more months' arrears of Council Tax, they were obliged to disclose this fact to the meeting and not vote on the matter.

Failure to comply was a criminal offence punishable by a fine.

- 8.1 Cllr Chapman introduced the report; a legal requirement and key component of setting the Budget and Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year. He reported an estimated collection rate of 92.5%, remarkably improved from the 80% collected previously. The significant problems faced in both council tax and non-domestic rates collection arising from Covid-19 and the cyber-attack were noted. The current financial climate was referenced as was the need for the Council to be prudent. There were no changes to be made to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. Thanks were relayed to the Group Director of Finance & Corporate Resources and officers for maintaining the service during challenging times and for the sensitive way the issue of debt collection had been managed.
- 8.2 In response to a question from Cllr Garbett, Cllr Moema advised that the increased Council Tax premium for empty properties did not form a material part of the forecast. She further advised that the Private Sector Housing Team were undergoing some changes however work in this area would continue.
- 8.3 In response to a question from Cllr Binnie-Lubbock, Cllr Chapman advised that groups of local authorities were able to make their own pooling arrangements. Calculations and negotiations were undertaken as part of each budget cycle.

Councillor Walker entered the meeting.

On a recorded vote, there being:

39 Members for: Cllr Adams, Cllr Adebayo, Cllr Baffour, Cllr Billington, Cllr Binnie-Lubbock, Deputy Mayor Bramble, Cllr Chapman, Cllr Coban, Cllr Conway, Cllr Desmond, Cllr, Etti, Cllr Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Garasia (Speaker), Mayor Glanville, Cllr Joseph, Cllr Kennedy, Cllr, Laudat-Scott, Cllr Lufkin, Cllr Lynch, Cllr McKenzie, Cllr Moema, Deputy Mayor Nicholson, Cllr Narcross, Cllr Ogundemuren, Cllr Ozsen, Cllr Patrick, Cllr Potter, Cllr Premru, Cllr Race, Cllr Rathbone, Cllr Selman, Cllr Sizer, Cllr Smyth, Cllr Suso-Runge, Cllr Webb, Cllr Williams, Cllr Woodley, Cllr Wrout and Cllr Young.

2 Abstentions: Cllr Garbett and Cllr Levy

No Members against

The resolution was declared **CARRIED**

RESOLVED:

1. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Hackney Council as its Council Tax Base for 2023/24 shall be 77,108.86 Band D equivalent properties adjusted for non-collection. This represents an estimated collection rate of 92.5%
2. In accordance with The Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013, Hackney's non-domestic rating income for 2023/24 is £161,803,507 subject to completion of the 2023-24 NNDR1 return. This comprises three elements:
 - £59,639,165 which is payable in agreed instalments to the Greater London Authority
 - £48,972,654 which is retained by Hackney Council and included as part of its resources when calculating the 2023/24 Council Tax requirement.
 - £53,191,688 which is payable in agreed instalments to Central Government
3. To note that no changes are proposed to the current CTRS scheme in 2023/24.

Cllr Hayhurst, Cllr Krautwirt, Cllr Lisser, Cllr Papier, Cllr Ross, Cllr Steinberger and Cllr Joe Walker were not present in the room during the debate and/or at the time of the vote.

9 Children and Families Full and Mid Year Update Report to Members 2021-22

- 9.1 Deputy Mayor Bramble, Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care introduced the report. She reported that despite the challenges of the criminal cyber-attack frontline practitioners were quickly able to access accurate information, meet statutory requirements and track progress of children and young people. The Deputy Mayor thanked staff within the service area, Members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Commission and members of the Corporate Parenting Board for holding the service to account. It was noted that Ofsted had commented positively on the service's decision making, quality of child focussed assessments, management oversight and political leadership.
- 9.2 There were some challenges relating to staff retention which were also experienced by other local authorities. Efforts were being made internally and London-wide to resolve this. The Council had made it a priority to address racism and the adultification of black children and young people following the Child Q incident. Concluding, the Deputy Mayor spoke of the administration's initiatives for children, young people and their parents and carers in response to the cost of living crisis. She also highlighted efforts made to ensure anti-racist policies and practices were embedded within the service.

- 9.3 Cllr Conway, Chair of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Commission and Cllr Rathbone contributed to the debate and welcomed the report.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the report.

10 Gender and Ethnicity Pay Gap 2022

- 10.1 Cllr Williams, Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources and Equalities introduced the report. The gender pay gap had continued to narrow since the information was first published in 2018. The pay gap remained in favour of women, who made up 53.42% of the highest quartile of the workforce in 2022. Whilst the Council was not required to publish information on the ethnicity pay gap; this was the third year in which it had done so. The ethnicity pay gap showed a pay gap in favour of white employees of 15.15% as measured by the median. It was noted that the proportion of black and global majority staff had increased in the top 5% of earners to 29% in 2022. The ethnicity pay gap would change as the quality of the Council's data improved; nonetheless the Council was committed to taking practical actions to address disparities.
- 10.2 In response to a question from Cllr Garbett, Cllr Williams advised that as set out in the Labour Group's manifesto, there was a commitment to look at the ethnicity pay gap intersectionality. This would take into account disability as well as gender identity.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the report.

11 Annual Pay Policy Statement 2023/24

- 11.1 Cllr Williams, Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources and Equalities introduced the report, a legal requirement of the Localism Act 2011. It was noted that the national negotiated pay deal for 2022/23 had been paid to staff in full. There were no major changes to the pay grades or remuneration of chief officers. The report had been considered by the Corporate Committee in December 2022 and commended to Council for approval.

RESOLVED: To approve the Pay Policy for Chief Officers for 2023/2024, as recommended by the Corporate Committee?

12 Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24

RESOLVED: To agree the report and the Members' Allowances Scheme 2022/23 (Updated January 2023) attached at Appendix 1.

13 Appointments to Committees and Commissions

RESOLVED: That Cllr Claudia Turbet Delof replace Cllr Steve Race on the Skills, Economy & Growth Scrutiny Commission and Cllr Kam Adams (the Mayor's nominee) be appointed to the Appointments Committee.

14 Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies

RESOLVED: That Cllr Clare Potter and Cllr Soraya Adejare be appointed to Hornsey Parochial Charity for a 4 year term.

Councillor Hayhurst re-entered the meeting.

15 Motions

Full details of the debate on all motions can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHqjccwH0s4>

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

15a Fireworks and Sky Lanterns

Following the publication of the motion within the agenda, proposed amendments to the motion were received. These were tabled at the meeting.

The proposer and seconder had agreed to some of the suggested amendments. As such, a revised motion incorporating the amendments was tabled as were the further proposed amendments.

The amended motion as set out at in the tabled papers was **MOVED** by Cllr Garbett and **SECONDED** by Cllr Binnie-Lubbock.

Cllr Garbett introduced the motion. The motion was proposed because of the impact of fireworks and sky lanterns on people, animals and the environment. The motion was a response to the RSPCA's campaign for tighter firework regulations to protect pets, wildlife and farmed animals. It was urged that a decibel level of 70 be set for all Council firework displays to minimise disturbance to wildlife. The Green Group were disappointed that the Labour Group had removed references to sky lanterns. These were described as a fire risk, an aviation hazard, and litter issue. When ingested sharp parts could cause internal bleeding in animals who may become entangled in fallen lanterns. The Green group believed that the proposed amendments had substantially changed the context and action of the motion. The amendment to write to the Secretary of State to outline the need to enhance legislation to enable Councils to enforce the safe use of fireworks and sky lanterns was welcomed.

The proposed amendments as set out in the tabled papers were **MOVED** by Cllr Fajana-Thomas and **SECONDED** by Cllr Rathbone.

Cllr Fajana-Thomas spoke to the proposed amendments.

Mayor Glanville also spoke to the proposed amendments. For clarity, he highlighted that Council displays were currently being paused due to the pandemic and cost of living crisis. The Council was extremely mindful of the

deer enclosure and wildlife during previous displays at Clissold Park. Zero bang fireworks were let off to classical and film score music. Assurances were given that future displays would not reach levels of 70 decibels.

The proposed amendments were put to the vote.

The Green group voted against the proposed amendments.

The amendments to the MOTION were CARRIED.

Cllr Binnie-Lubbock spoke to the amended substantive motion expressing disappointment that some of the references to distress and harm caused to animals and people had been removed. He advised that Members vote against the motion as amended.

The amended substantive motion was put to the vote.

The MOTION was CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

Hackney Council notes:

- That this Council abhors the misuse of fireworks that can cause distress and harm to persons, domestic pets and wildlife.
- That the Council's CCTV team and Enforcement Officers continue to monitor the illegal setting off of fireworks in public spaces and report them to the Metropolitan Police, who have the authority to act on the information provided to prosecute individuals who misuse fireworks in public spaces.
- That the current legislation allows a retailer to apply for an all year licence to trade in fireworks and sparklers. Otherwise, fireworks and sparklers are only permissible for purchase from registered sellers for private use on selected dates of the year from the 15th October to 10th November, between 26th to 31st December, 3 days before Diwali and 3 days before Chinese New Year.
- That in Hackney, no all year licences have been issued for the sale of fireworks outside of the dates above.
- Under current legislation, a local authority can only refuse to grant a licence, including an all year licence, if the applicant has previously committed offences under related pieces of legislation.
- That Hackney Trading Standards apply the powers that current national legislation enables them to enforce. In addition, the team also carry out on site inspections to ensure fireworks are stored safely and are being sold in line with the law.
- Hackney Trading Standards Officers work with the Metropolitan Police to tackle the illegal sale of fireworks to under 18s and advisory visits are made to retailers prior to the fireworks season to ensure that they are fully aware of the law.
- Hackney Council already uses quieter fireworks for council-run fireworks displays to ensure minimum disturbance to local wildlife and domestic pets.
- There is no evidence that in Hackney there is an overuse or misuse of sky lanterns.

- That there is a lack of national legislation enabling the Council to control the use of sky lanterns on public or private land. However, Hackney Council uses its available powers around littering and refusing permission for formal public events which plan to release sky lanterns.

Hackney Council therefore resolves:

- To continue to ensure that residents are notified by the Council in advance of all public firework displays within the Local Authority's boundaries.
- To continue to promote alongside the London Fire Brigade, a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on environmental pollution, animal welfare, vulnerable residents and the measures to mitigate the risks of injury and stress from the use of fireworks on residents, domestic pets and wildlife.
- To advise local firework suppliers to stock 'quieter' fireworks and fireworks for safe use in small outdoor spaces for private domestic use.
- To encourage the use of sky lantern alternatives, as advised by the RSPCA.
- That the Mayor and Cabinet member write to the Secretary of State about the need to enhance the legislation that enables the Council to enforce the safe use of fireworks and sky lanterns.

Proposer: Cllr Susan Fajana Thomas

Seconder: Cllr Ian Rathbone

15b Local Electricity Bill

Following the publication of the motion within the agenda, proposed amendments to the motion were received. These were tabled at the meeting.

The proposer and seconder had agreed to some of the suggested amendments. As such, a revised motion incorporating the amendments was tabled as were the further proposed amendments.

It was noted that the seconder to the motion had changed since its publication within the agenda.

The amended motion as set out at in the tabled papers was MOVED by Cllr Smyth and SECONDED by Cllr Coban.

Cllr Smyth introduced the motion. He spoke about Hackney Light and Power, a Council initiative that was committed to providing solar and a range of other renewable technologies throughout the borough. He spoke in support of the Power for People campaign for the Local Electricity Bill which would help local authorities sell locally generated renewable energy. He believed that the current energy crisis had accelerated the need for the Council's renewable energy offer to be expanded. Community owned clean energy infrastructures would boost the local economies, jobs and services locally and across the country. It would also help the Council in achieving its next zero carbon emissions.

Cllr Coban spoke in support of the motion.

The proposed amendments as set out in the tabled papers were **MOVED** by Cllr Binnie-Lubbock and **SECONDED** by Cllr Garbett

Cllr Binnie-Lubbock spoke to the proposed amendments, he supported the Power for People campaign and hoped to see Hackney Light and Power live up to its promised potential to sell energy directly to residents.

The proposed amendments were put to the vote.

The amendments to the MOTION were NOT CARRIED.

The substantive motion was put to the vote without debate.

The MOTION was CARRIED

RESOLVED:

Hackney Council notes:

- A government report published in 2014 stated that with investment and legislative change, the community energy sector could deliver 3,000 megawatts (MW) of energy by 2020.
- Evidence to the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee's recent 'Technological Innovations and Climate Change: Community Energy' inquiry states that "by 2030 the community energy sector could grow by 12-20 times, powering 2.2 million homes and saving 2.5 million tonnes of CO2 emissions every year...
- But the same inquiry also noted that as of 2020, community energy contributed just 278 MW of renewable energy.
- Local renewable energy generators, such as community energy groups, are unable to sell the energy that they generate to local people because the current energy market and licensing rules lead to unmanageable local supply costs.
- Power for People is a not-for-profit organisation campaigning for the Local Electricity bill that would kick start a community energy revolution.
- Power for People estimates a Local Electricity Act would result in a twenty-fold increase in renewable community energy generation over 10 years, preventing 1.5 million tonnes of CO2 emissions every year.
- The Co-operative Party is calling for a £90 million National Community Energy Fund to help deliver 150,000 new community energy owners.
- It is recognised that Hackney Council is already working on encouraging local renewable energy projects along with the innovation of setting up Hackney Light and Power, which is pioneering a programme of solar panels on roofs.
- Hackney Council is supporting community energy generation schemes through its £300k Community Energy Fund.
- That making costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would create significant opportunities for local companies and community groups to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses, and organisations which in turn

could help lower energy bills for local people to help them cope with the rising cost of living;

Hackney Council believes:

- That the Local Electricity Bill would help local authorities, like Hackney, sell locally generated renewable energy installed by Hackney Light and Power.
- Revenue generated from Hackney Light and Power could be re-invested into a local decarbonisation scheme.

Hackney Council resolves to:

- Write to Power for People to inform them of the Council's support for their campaign.
- Write to the local Members of Parliament to inform them that the Council has passed this motion and supports the Local Electricity Bill.
- Write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and the Minister for Energy and Climate, calling on the Government to:
 - support the Local Electricity Bill;
 - follow Hackney Council's lead by setting up a National Community Energy Fund

Proposer: Cllr Gilbert Smyth

Seconder: Cllr Mete Coban

15c The Right to Food

It was noted that no amendments to this motion had been received.

The motion as set out at agenda item 15c within the agenda was MOVED by Cllr Narcross and SECONDED by Cllr Suso-Runge.

Cllr Narcross introduced the motion, the purpose of which was to make access to food a legal requirement. He stated that food poverty and food insecurity remained rife across communities in Britain despite it being one of the richest countries in the world. The situation for many poorer residents had been exacerbated under a decade of Conservative Governments. Research from the food foundation in 2022 revealed that 7.3 million adults had experienced food insecurity. Since 2010 the number of emergency food parcels distributed by the Trussell Trust had increased by 5000%. Cllr Narcross outlined the measures that the Council had taken to help alleviate food poverty during the pandemic and beyond. He highlighted the impact of food insecurity which was linked to depression, obesity, eating disorders, decreased immunity and overall poor physical health and malnutrition. The Right to Food Campaign, its demands and implementation in Hackney were highlighted.

Cllr Suso-Runge spoke in support of the motion.

Cllr Blinnie-Lubbock welcomed the commitments to universal free school meals and to grant access to public land suitable for community food growing.

Mayor Glanville clarified that the commitments were for him to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs urging national implementation of free school meals and to promote access to public land for community growing purposes. The Mayor highlighted that his administration had allocated £600,000 for the improved delivery of school meals.

Deputy Mayor Bramble highlighted other initiatives taken by the Council to support children, young people and their parents in addressing food poverty.

The motion was put to the vote.

The MOTION was unanimously CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

Hackney Council notes that:

- The last decade has seen a staggering rise in food poverty across the UK, with millions of people going hungry in the UK and food bank use spiking since the start of the pandemic.
- In April 2020 alone, Hackney's foodbank fed 1,803 people (an 186% increase on the previous year) with over 400 of them being children.
- During the height of the pandemic and first lockdown, the Council was delivering 1,500 food parcels per week, on average.
- During school holidays and half terms, Hackney Council supports families of more than 20,000 children on low incomes with help to buy food and pay bills.
- Some data suggests that as many as 56,000 adults are missing meals and 22,000 using a food bank in Hackney as a result of the cost of living crisis.
- Department of Work and Pensions statistics show that the number of people in Hackney dependent on Universal Credit has risen from 13,000 in 2020 to 32,000 in 2022.
- Poverty in our borough and across London has been exacerbated by the pandemic and this Conservative Government's failure to tackle the current cost of living crisis and target support to those who most need it.
- The 'Right to Food' campaign argues that the millions pushed into food poverty should be central to this strategy.
- The establishment of a council-wide Free School Meals task force, aimed at providing a hot meal to as many children in poverty as possible.

Council believes that:

- These figures are devastating for a rich country like the UK and reflect the fact that twelve years of Tory austerity have left too many people below the breadline.
- Enshrining the Right to Food in law would clarify government obligations on food poverty and would introduce legal avenues to hold public bodies accountable for failing to prevent people from going hungry in the fifth largest economy in the world.

Council resolves to:

- Declare Hackney a Right to Food borough and campaign for the Right to Food to be adopted at a national level.
- Ask the Mayor to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs urging the Government to:
 - Bring forward legislation to enshrine the Right to Food in law, clarifying the government's obligation to protect people from food poverty and introducing legal avenues to hold government bodies accountable for violations.
 - Create a national network of community kitchens including community use of school kitchens.
 - Implement a policy of Universal Free School Meals.
 - Promote access to public land suitable for community food growing.
 - Strengthen Hackney's Food Poverty and Insecurity Action Plan to address the worsening impact of the cost of living crisis to support the borough's poorest and most vulnerable families.

Proposer: Cllr Jon Narcross

Seconder: Cllr Sheila Suso-Runge

The Speaker declared the meeting closed.

Duration of Meeting: 7.00-9.43pm

Attachments

Appendix A - Public Questions

Appendix B- Member Questions

Appendix A - Agenda item 5: Questions from Members of the Public

5.1 From Raluca Beznea to the Mayoral Adviser for Private Rented Sector and Housing Affordability

Residents in Hackney who privately rent their homes are facing large increases in their monthly rents, in some cases by over 23%. Is there any restriction on the amount by which private landlords can increase rent charges, particularly where no improvement has been made to the property?

At the request of the questioner, a written response as set out below was sent.

Response from the Mayoral Adviser for Private Rented Sector and Housing Affordability

Dear Raluca Beznea

Thank you for the question you submitted for Full Council regarding rent increases for private sector properties. As you were unable to attend the meeting in person I understand that you requested a written response.

The question of rent increases is of course a major issue for Hackney residents who privately rent their homes. Unfortunately, there are no legal restrictions on the rate at which a private landlord can increase the rent. A landlord can raise rents to whatever they think is the “market rate,” whether or not improvements have been made.

Hackney Council has long campaigned against this, and has lobbied for rent controls. It is completely unacceptable that the average weekly rent in the private sector at the end of last year in Hackney was £650. We believe that a home, warm, dry and in good condition, is a basic human right. It is certainly not a lever that a landlord can hold over residents at any time, and let alone during a truly desperate cost of living crisis.

This is why we have long campaigned for renters’ rights, and why we support the Renters’ Reform Bill, including the abolition of no-fault “Section 21” evictions. Therefore, we are working to expand our ‘Hackney landlord licensing scheme’ to cover the whole of the borough; this would allow us to enforce humane and appropriate standards on private landlords and every single privately rented property in Hackney.

We support Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan’s call for London-specific rent control and for him to be given the powers to establish a London Private Rent Commission to bring down rents, and continue to work with City Hall to achieve this. We also support greater priority being given to the enforcement of decent living standards, and to tackle rogue and rip-off landlords.

Our lobbying on this issue is set out in our “[Better Renting](#)” campaign for Hackney. We are continually and tirelessly campaigning for tenants’ rights and reasonable, affordable controlled rents in Hackney and across London as a

whole. We will continue to do all we can to support residents living in private rented homes in Hackney.

With regards

Cllr Sem Moema

5.2 From Reiner Tegtmeier to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

I appreciate the Council's efforts to draft a Climate Action Plan and having sought the feedback from Hackney citizens. Can you give an outline of the major comments and probable suggestions, if any, for improvements and when, the Council is intending to publish the results and how?

Paul Urwin, who was in attendance remotely asked this question on behalf of Reiner Tegtmeier, who was unable to attend.

Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban noted that Hackney was one of the most ambitious Councils in the country when it came to tackling the climate crisis and outlined measures the Council had taken to support this. The Council recognised that collective action was the only way the climate and ecological crisis could be tackled. The draft Climate Action Plan set out the Council's response to the climate emergency which had been recognised in the Evening Standard that day.

The consultation on the Climate Action Plan ran from 1 November 2022 to 10 January 2023 and received 219 responses to the online consultation and twelve more detailed email responses from organisations and residents. A shorter survey for residents ran on social media which received a further 307 responses.

It was noted that the consultation and engagement team were still analysing the results; the Cabinet Member was unable to outline the major comments, suggestions and improvements until that process had concluded. The Climate Action Plan was scheduled to come back to Cabinet for adoption in April 2023. The Cabinet report presented at that meeting would include an analysis of the consultation responses and how these have been incorporated, or otherwise responded to, in an updated Climate Action Plan.

Supplementary Question

How will additions to the Climate Action Plan be communicated to the community?

Cllr Coban advised that the updated plan would be published on the Council's website and via social media. Residents, businesses and other stakeholders would be informed through the usual communications channels.

5.3 From Anthony Burton to the Mayor

Following your attendance at a freeholder's meeting on the Regents Estate on 13 July 2021, can you update me on the commitments you made to: explore resident compensation for extended periods of CCTV outages; and speak to the Estate Manager regarding informing residents of planned works and service charge spends?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Resident Participation)

Cllr McKenzie reported that at the meeting with the Regents' Estate residents and the Mayor in July 2021, 3 main areas were discussed; CCTV outages, service charge refunds in recognition of CCTV outages, and tree maintenance. These matters had been the subject of a large amount of correspondence and further discussions since then. The position regarding CCTV, planned works and service charge spending were summarised as follows:

1. CCTV: the cameras, cabling and recorders on the estate were all replaced as part of the major CCTV refurbishment project, and was completed in June 2020; 11 new cameras were added to the system to ensure more comprehensive coverage of the estate.

Three estates that were most adversely affected were prioritised for CCTV refurbishment. Regents Estate was one of those estates in this category (the others being the Suffolk and Regents Court Estates).

Since the refurbishment, maintenance had been undertaken on a regular basis, with 24 hour/7 days a week staffed Control Centre provided by the Council's Civil Protection Service where cameras borough-wide are monitored. The cameras were monitored, both by routine patrol, and in response to specific requests from a weekly joint Police/Council Task Group.

Cllr McKenzie stated that he had received assurances that there were no outstanding issues relating compensation for CCTV outages

2. Planned works and service charge spends: a well established process of engagement with residents regarding planned works that would affect service charges, was in place. Any planned improvements to the estate environment were consulted on with residents via the usual communication routes. Following consultation, the enhancements would then be implemented.

For more detailed information on how estimated and actual service charges were calculated, Regent Estate homeowners were advised to see the homeowner pages of the Council's website (<https://hackney.gov.uk/service-charges>)

With regard to the calculation of service charges, each March, the Homeownership Team (previously the Leasehold Team) issued homeowners with an estimated service charge invoice for the coming financial year. This included an itemised list of the services to be provided during the year. This was based on a combination of the average of the service charges in previous financial years, and the anticipated spend for the coming year.

Within 6 months of the end of the financial year, the Homeownership Team would calculate each property's share of the actual costs over the year, and issue each individual property's service charges reflecting this.

3. Tree Pruning: following a visit from the Tree Officer tree pruning work would shortly be carried out on the estate.

Supplementary Question

What assurance can the Cabinet Member give that information for residents and resident updates will be placed on estate notice boards?

Response

Cllr McKenzie gave assurances that officers would ensure placed notices and information for residents on notice boards on the estate.

5.4 From Eleanor Tate to the Mayoral Advisor for Housing Needs and Homelessness

As a result of the cost-of-living crisis we've seen an increase in Hackney residents being made homeless; is the Council able to identify residents at risk of homelessness and what support is available in terms of temporary accommodation in the borough?

Response from the Mayoral Adviser for Housing Needs and Homelessness

Cllr Etti explained that Hackney had been experiencing a housing crisis for some time and the increased risk of homelessness from the cost of living crisis was very worrying. The lack of affordable accommodation within the borough had significantly impacted on the wellbeing of many Hackney residents, who often lived in insecure, unaffordable or overcrowded housing.

Hackney, along with other London boroughs, was experiencing an increase in the number of households facing homelessness and required assistance from the Council. This was most acute in the provision of suitable temporary accommodation. The Council had a statutory duty to provide temporary accommodation to homeless households. The worsening housing crisis meant demand far outstripped the available supply of temporary accommodation in the borough.

Cllr Etti advised that the Council's Homelessness Strategy was reviewed regularly in light of the changing environment. One of the key themes within the strategy was homelessness prevention; supporting households before they faced a homelessness crisis. In practical terms this included:

- Using the data and information held across the Council to identify households that were at risk of homelessness;
- Working with partners, including those in the voluntary sector, raising awareness of the extent of the housing crisis and the realistic options available;
- Engaging with Landlords and Housing Providers to offer pre-eviction support, including financial advice support, to help sustain a tenancy;
- Supporting residents to access alternative accommodation; this included guidance on accessing the toolkits and support mechanisms available to them, advice on affordability and how to maximise their opportunity to source suitable accommodation.

While the Council had been able to add some new stock, the need for additional units continued to grow. The Council was committed to the increased stock of housing available for use as temporary accommodation, including examining options both within Hackney and further afield.

During 2021-22, over 3,500 residents approached the Council seeking help to find alternative accommodation. This was 44% more than in 2017-18. The demand for temporary accommodation was predicted to continue to grow at around 8% per year over the next few years; Based on this the council would need to place around 1550 households in temporary accommodation in 2023-24. This would have a significant cost impact on the Council. Last year, expenditure on Temporary Accommodation was almost £36m.

Where the tenants find a suitable option themselves, outside of the borough, the Council may be able to assist with the financial costs of moving, including removal costs and rent deposits, as a way of preventing the household becoming homeless.

It was noted that to identify those at risk of homelessness, one of the most useful tools is the Low Income Family Tracker dashboard. This identified households at risk and predicted where those households would be in 6 months time based on their current situation. Similar analysis for particular demographic groups and areas could be undertaken and would identify any benefits they could apply for.

Cllr Etti gave assurances that the Council continued to examine available options and ensured that advice and support was available to residents at risk of homelessness.

Appendix B - Agenda item 6: Questions from Members

6.1 From Cllr Zoë Garbett to the Mayoral Adviser for Private Rented Sector and Housing Affordability

Can the Cabinet Member explain why only 9 Hackney landlords have been submitted to the London Rogue Landlord checker since 2017?

Response from the Mayoral Adviser for Private Rented Sector and Housing Affordability

Cllr Moema explained that where successful prosecutions had been undertaken against landlords, the Council had referred them to the London Rogue Landlord public database.

It was noted that the public database did not contain as much information as the professional London database due to data and privacy constraints. Information uploaded to it was removed after a year. This meant that some Hackney data was inevitably removed and the headline number quoted might not reflect the entirety of the referrals made.

The private sector housing service in Hackney continued to increase enforcement and prosecution activity taken against landlords. However, enforcement action against a landlord meant that something had already gone wrong. Hackney's approach had been to prevent things going wrong in the first place, preventing the need for prosecution and enforcement.

Concluding, Cllr Moema advised that the Council had also worked to extend the authority's landlord licensing scheme, so that it covered the whole of the borough. This would allow the Council to enforce consistent standards on all landlords and every rented property across Hackney. It also meant the Council was able to collect more detailed information on each individually let property in Hackney, providing the best landlord database possible.

Supplementary Question

What are the timescales for extending the licensing scheme and any other measures to hold private landlords to account.

Response

Cllr Moema highlighted that this was a manifesto commitment and proper steps had to be put in place as part of this process. This included a refresh of the Private Rented Sector Housing Strategy, which was ongoing. Members would be encouraged to participate in the consultation.

6.2 From Cllr Eluzer Goldberg to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the Council's efforts to make Hackney smoke free by 2030?

In the absence of Cllr Goldberg the question was asked by Cllr Adams

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

Smoking remained one of the main causes of preventable disease, premature death and health inequalities, killing around half of all regular smokers and reducing life expectancy by 10 years. Cllr Kennedy further outlined the health implications for smokers which was at a cost to the borough of over £100m a year through lost productivity, health and social care costs, and smoking-related fires.

The percentage of adults (18+) smoking in Hackney halved between 2011 (28%) and 2021 (14%). Which was not dissimilar from London or England averages. However, 14% still equated to more than 25,000 adult smokers.

Hackney's smokefree 2030 ambition mirrored the Government's objective for England (set in 2019) of no more than 5% of the population smoking by that date. A new national tobacco control plan was expected last year to build momentum towards this target, but this had not been forthcoming. Dr Javed Khan OBE, in his recent independent review, concluded that without further action England would miss the smokefree 2030 target by at least 7 years, and the poorest areas by 14 years.

The Council continued to work locally through its Tobacco Control Alliance towards the smokefree ambition. The shared local commitment to a smokefree Hackney was cemented by the Council's signing of the Local Government Tobacco Control Declaration in 2014 and NHS partners' signing of the NHS Smokefree Declaration in 2018.

Local priorities included:

- Funding an evidence-based stop smoking service
- Training frontline staff and volunteers in 'very brief advice' to encourage smokers to quit and signpost them to local support
- Regular communication campaigns (including Stoptober),
- Prevention work in schools
- Targeted enforcement activity to raise awareness of and reduce supply of cheap/illegal tobacco
- More recently supporting Homerton and ELFT to implement new NHS tobacco dependency treatment services.

Each year City & Hackney Smokefree service worked with 2,000+ smokers, supporting around 60% to successfully quit (much higher than the national standard of 35%); this equated to 5,000 successful quits over the past 4

years. Through the Council's enforcement teams over £88,000 of illicit goods (including vapes) had been removed from Hackney retail businesses since 2019.

Concluding, Cllr Kennedy emphasised that the Council had a strong and established partnership supporting progress towards a smoke free Hackney. Central Government needed to play an active role and Members would be lobbying for a new national tobacco plan to be published as soon as possible. It was noted that the Shadow Health Secretary had committed to consultation on banning the sale of tobacco.

6.3 From Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock to Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

During recent snowfall and cold snap, many pavements remained treacherous for days, limiting people's mobility while roads were fully gritted with environmentally damaging salt based grit. What has the Council learned from this about giving pavements and paths equal priority to roads?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban thanked staff who worked through the recent severe weather. He highlighted the legislative requirements of the Council as the Highway Authority to ensure, as far as reasonably possible, that safe passage along the highway was not endangered by snow and ice. This duty was undertaken by Environmental Services Street Scene Team after weather warnings were given. The Service followed the agreed schedule to grit principal roads in the borough including the resilience network. In addition, Environmental Services provided gritting and snow clearance of pavements, estates footpaths and other locations on a priority basis as set out in the Environmental Services Winter Maintenance Plan.

This Plan detailed the operational arrangements in terms of Priority 1, 2 and 3 locations. Locations that needed the most attention, including principal footways, train stations, bus stops, the hospital and schools, were prioritised. Residential footways were classified as Priority 3. It was noted that this approach could appear that motor traffic was prioritised over pavement users, which was not the case. On a strategic level, principal roads needed to be gritted to ensure essential goods and services, emergency services, buses and council vehicles carrying grit could get around the borough. Gritting roads linked directly to the greatest risk and pedestrian safety, the Council ensured that vehicles could stop for pedestrians to cross.

Following assessments, an additional 40 streets that were not in the plan were gritted, this was predominantly in the Stamford Hill area. It was deemed those streets posed a risk to elderly and vulnerable residents.

Concluding, Cllr Coban informed the Chamber that officers were to meet in February to review learning and investigate the use of salt free grit for future severe weather events. He noted the great undertaking that was carried out

by Environmental Services in responding to the extreme weather whilst also maintaining waste and recycling services for residents.

Supplementary Question

Can the Cabinet Member share the Winter Maintenance Plan and reflections from the learning from the operational activities during the recent severe weather?

Response

Cllr Coban stated that he was happy to share, in principle, the review of learning together with current schedules and plans including the Winter Maintenance Plan. Cllr Coban invited Members to share their experiences and those of members from the community.

6.4 From Cllr Grace Adebayo to the Mayor

In June 2020, Barratt Developments embarked on the journey of replacing the cladding in Dalston Square in line with the new standard set out by the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government; residents were told that the cladding replacement would be completed within 18 months. 30 months down the line, the scaffolding is still up and cladding work uncompleted, not to mention the emotional and psychological impact on residents. Can the Mayor or the Cabinet Member kindly tell us the reason for the delay?

Response from the Mayor

The Mayor stated the approach required a cross-cutting response and echoed concerns about the delays in Barratt's completion of the cladding replacement works and addressing other issues. It was noted that residents wanted the Council to hold Barratt's to account. Following the initial letter to Barratt asking them to address the concerns, the Mayor, ward councillors, and 3 Dalston Square residents met with Barratts in December 2022. At the meeting Barratt committed to working with the Council to address the issues.

Barratt agreed to stronger ownership of the issues and to review everything that had happened. The issues of lighting, design, access and communication were raised at the meeting following which there were some improvements. It was noted that Barratt had terminated the contractor, Jesella, which made the prospect of the works' completion more uncertain and caused further distress to residents. The Council committed to continue to work to hold Barratt to account for a clear timeline for completion of the works.

6.5 From Cllr Zoë Garbett to the Deputy Mayor for Delivery, Inclusive Economy & Regeneration

Currently, only 25% of the Council's contracts go to local businesses which means 75% of contracts – and so profits – flow out of the borough, when will you increase this to a much more meaningful 50%?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing, & Customer Service

Cllr Chapman highlighted the important work of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee (CPIC) and the Council's commitment to supporting local businesses, voluntary sector and cooperatives through the Council's Sustainable Procurement Strategy. The Council spent around £90 million last year on contracts with around 500 local organisations. This supported hundreds of local jobs and provided a boost to local businesses. The proportion of expenditure on local businesses had substantially increased. The Council believed it was at the top end of comparable local authorities in spending locally.

This had been achieved through the development and implementation of the Sustainable Procurement Strategy which had 3 main themes:

- Procuring for a Better Society
- Insourcing work brought back in-house, carried out directly by staff. 332 jobs had been brought back in house since January 2020.
- Support of the voluntary sector and cooperative organisations and other social enterprises that may have a regional or national base.

The primary obligation was to ensure compliance with the rules that govern Public Procurement and to ensure quality services and value for money for local residents.

Cllr Chapman advised that it was not possible to award all Council contracts to local organisations. Highly specialist works were likely to remain outside of the scope of what could be procured locally. In these circumstances, the Council looked to firms to employ local staff and run initiatives such as apprenticeship schemes.

As part of the refresh of the Sustainable Procurement Strategy the Council would continue to review how it could increase the level of spending with local suppliers and work with local and social organisations.

Cllr Chapman avoided setting an arbitrary target, however, he gave assurances that the Council would make every effort to ensure that local businesses, voluntary organisations and co-operatives could help deliver high quality, value for money, services for residents in the future.

Supplementary Question

Can the Cabinet Member provide a specific example where Council's sustainable Procurement Strategy made a difference to a procurement outcome.

Response

Cllr Chapman stated that at the most recent Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee (CPIC) the committee let a £50m contract for mental health services to a local organisation which in turn supported other organisations under its umbrella contract.

6.6 From Cllr Sarah Young to the Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Resident Participation

What is the Council doing to improve its responses to damp and mould, both short term and in the medium-longer term, especially on regeneration estates like Woodberry Down where the homes are older, colder and not up to modern standards?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Resident Participation

Cllr McKenzie noted the recent high profile press coverage around damp and mould cases in Hackney. The administration had taken these cases very seriously and the learning had helped shape the approach to drive forward tackling damp and mould.

The Council had cleared the repairs backlog of over 7000 overdue repairs that had built up across all stock as a result of the pandemic. With regard to damp and mould the Council introduced a range of initiatives to address the issues raised including:

- Coordinated a dedicated damp and mould option into the repairs reporting line.
- Created an inspection priority so that all reports of damp are surveyed, within 5 working days of being reported, to identify the underlying cause rather than fixing the problem.
- Reinspect all damp / mould Legal Disrepair cases where there had not been a recent visit.
- Officers would undertake a 20% Stock Condition Survey to improve understanding of council homes.
- Analysing block data which are likely to have high disrepair, to ensure a proactive approach.
- Field based staff have had dedicated damp & mould training to know what to look out for.
- Officers reviewed the 26 recommendations from the Housing Ombudsman's Spotlight on Damp & Mould report and aligned Hackney's approach to these.

In considering regeneration estates, a decision had been made that the

homes were not sustainable in the long term and earmarked for demolition and replacement. This recognition did not impact future long term investment in improvement of these homes.

In considering the medium to long term investment, the length of time before the homes were to be demolished was taken into account. This meant that some improvement investment would not be undertaken. However, when considering how the Council maintained homes on regeneration estates in the short term, the fact that they were due for demolition, would not impact what responsive repairs were undertaken.

Where a responsive repair led to more major works and it was felt that undertaking the work did not represent value for money, consideration of an out-of-phase temporary move would take place on a case by case basis.

The following questions were not taken at the meeting due to time constraints and received written responses

6.7 From Cllr Binnie-Lubbock to the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Delivery, Inclusive Economy & Regeneration

British Trust for Ornithology estimates up to 100,000,000 birds crash into windows of buildings in the UK each year, with one-third dying as a result, London Plan Policy D9 suggests impacts of tall buildings on birds "may need to be taken into consideration" in development. Will Hackney create policy guidance?

Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Delivery, Inclusive Economy & Regeneration

Dear Alastair,

Thank you for the question you tabled at January's Full Council asking whether the Council will create policy guidance with regards to the impact of tall buildings on birds. It was unfortunate that time was not on our side and I was unable to respond in the meeting but please find the following written response.

Protecting and enhancing existing open spaces and the biodiversity of the flora and fauna found in Hackney are identified as supporting good growth and as such are strategic objectives within Hackney's Local Plan, LP33. The plan contains objectives and planning policies that respect, protect and enhance biodiversity and local character.

The impact of a proposed development on birds and their habitat is already a material planning consideration when assessing all applications in Hackney, including any application for a tall building, so it is not necessary to create any additional specific policy guidance on this matter.

Under the requirements of Hackney's adopted LP33 all new development must protect biodiversity, and where possible enhance it, creating a net gain in biodiversity terms. All major development proposals must be accompanied by a biodiversity survey. As I am sure you are aware, by the end of 2023 there will be a new national requirement for many new developments to improve biodiversity on site by 10%.

LP33 policy also requires that development schemes involving buildings with an eaves height or roof commencement height of 5 metres and above must provide nesting boxes for swifts, sparrows, starling and/or bats as appropriate to help preserve endangered urban biodiversity in Hackney.

The forthcoming Local Development Scheme, scheduled to be discussed by Cabinet in February, sets out the Council's commitment to producing a number of area based plans and thematic supplementary planning documents up to the end of 2025.

There are several area based plans being produced for key growth areas in Hackney, such as Shoreditch, Dalston, Stamford Hill, Clapton and Homerton - which will provide area and site specific guidance in these locations - including guidance on building heights and considerations for taller buildings and all of which will of course be subject to their own biodiversity surveys.

Part of the LDS also commits Council to the review of the existing Sustainable Design & Construction supplementary planning document (SPD). The SPD review will include refining guidance around the type of materials and glazing for buildings, particularly for taller buildings, that can minimise environmental impact.

Clearly the London Plan sits with the Mayor of London and Hackney Council has no powers of adoption for the Plan, in addition it should be noted that Hackney's LP33 must conform to the London Plan. For reference, currently the policy on tall buildings in the London Plan sets out the definition of tall buildings and considerations for assisting in their location, impact and public access. The Plan also goes on to state that consideration should be given to the impact of new tall buildings in proximity to water bodies that support notable bird species, or lie upon the birds' flight lines and of course Hackney applies this to due process.

I hope this response clarifies the approach that has and is being taken in Hackney on this matter.

Yours

Guy

Cc All Councillors

6.8 From Cllr Ross to the Mayoral Adviser for Housing Needs and Homelessness

With the cost of living and increase in homelessness, how is the council supporting vulnerable women through temporary accommodation?

Response from the Mayoral Adviser for Housing Needs and Homelessness

Dear Cllr Ross

Thank you for the question you tabled at Full Council asking how the Council is supporting vulnerable women through temporary accommodation. It was unfortunate that time was not on our side and I was unable to respond in the meeting but please find below my written response.

Hackney has been experiencing a housing crisis for some time which the cost of living crisis has only exacerbated. We have seen the increase in demand for advice and support rising significantly, particularly from both young people and those with complex needs. Included within this group are an increasing proportion of vulnerable women.

We have recently been able to expand the stock of temporary accommodation specifically available to these residents. The Council has acquired a former hotel in Seven Sisters Road which has been transformed into safe, warm, modern temporary accommodation for homeless women, including pregnant women and women with babies.

The detached property was given a significant investment by the Council, and now contains 14 high-specification self-contained rooms, with en-suites and kitchenettes, with a number of specially designed rooms for small family units.

More widely, we recognise that increased financial stress means that vulnerable women are potentially at greater danger of exploitation. Currently, the Benefits and Housing Needs Service makes every effort to ensure that the advice, guidance and support offered is tailored to the needs of the household, and is delivered in an empathic and trauma informed way, including to vulnerable women. The service works with a range of partners to try to deliver this holistic approach, for example:

- The service works particularly closely with our colleagues in the Domestic Abuse Information Service on an approach that includes accreditation, multi-agency working, and delivery of the 'Safe and Together' model.
- Similarly, the service works with Pause Hackney, who engage with women who have experienced, or are at risk of, repeat removals of children from their care. This partnership brings in skills from clinical therapy, counselling, homeless outreach, substance misuse and criminology.

- We also link into the Open Doors service, a free and confidential service operating out of the Homerton Hospital for people working in the sex industry.
- The Service works closely with female prisons to encourage earlier referrals for assistance for women who would be leaving prison with no safe accommodation to go to, so that we can prevent cliff-edge scenarios where women could return to unsafe, and in some cases dangerous, housing options. Female prisons don't have commissioned housing advice contracts whereas male prisons do.
- The Service also works closely with the Housing for Women charity, who support women through affordable housing, help women and children escaping domestic abuse, survivors of trafficking, women leaving prison and older women.

In addition to working with partner agencies, the service also participates in the Hackney MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) which is a regular local meeting to discuss how to help victims/survivors of domestic abuse who have been assessed as being in the top 10% at highest risk of homicide or serious harm.

With regard to the safeguarding of all our hostel residents, the Council applies a robust visitors and personal callers protocol. Safety and security is of paramount importance to the Council. The Council has a responsibility to control those who have access to the buildings and be completely satisfied they are there for a legitimate purpose.

I hope that this response is helpful in addressing your query, but if you have any further questions please do come back to me.

Kind regards

Cllr Etti

6.9 From Cllr Laudat-Scott to the Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the London Fields lido project?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure

Dear Cllr Laudat-Scott

Thank you for the question at Full Council regarding the London Fields Lido project. As we unfortunately ran out of time for me to answer your question in person at the meeting, I am sending you this written response.

I'm delighted to advise that the Leisure team is currently working through first draft designs for a brand new learner (or teaching) pool at London Fields Lido.

Here in Hackney we have long recognised the impact that sport and physical activity can have on the wellbeing of our residents, and over the last decade we have made really significant improvements in both the quality and operation of our facilities.

In September 2022, a multi-disciplinary consultant team was appointed to project manage and design the new indoor teaching pool at London Fields Lido. Since their appointment, the consultant team has been undertaking the necessary ground investigations, survey work and meetings with the Local Planning Authority to inform the design of the teaching pool.

We anticipate that initial concept designs and operational arrangements for the new teaching pool will be ready for public engagement in early Spring 2023.

We will warmly welcome your input as ward councillor on both the design and on the wider engagement that we are looking forward to undertaking, and will of course be continuing to uphold the design guidance that emerged from our (award-winning!) planning work to make Hackney a Child Friendly borough, and are hoping to hear the voice of children and young people, as well as their parents, carers and indeed all users who will benefit from this new teaching pool.

We want to continue to improve the quality of provision still further for local communities. We are therefore committed, in addition to developing a new learner pool at London Fields Lido; to:

- Developing a plan for the refurbishment of Kings Hall Leisure Centre;
- Improving the West Reservoir Centre; and
- Undertaking refurbishments to key areas of Clissold Leisure Centre.

Thank you again for your question regarding the London Fields teaching pool. I very much look forward to the Council delivering this valuable new facility so it can be used by the whole community and complement the existing and extremely popular open air 50m pool at the Lido.

Kind regards

Cllr Woodley

6.10 From Cllr Sadek to the Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Resident Participation

Could the Cabinet Member please update the Council on progress with improving the turnaround time for addressing water ingress to Council homes.

Response from the Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Resident Participation.

Dear Cllr Sadek

Thank you for the question at Full Council regarding improving the turnaround time for addressing water ingress to Council homes. As we unfortunately ran out of time for me to answer your question in person at the meeting, I am sending you this written response.

We recognise that water ingress into someone's home can have a significant detrimental impact on how they live, potentially damaging physical property, but also potentially impacting on individuals mental wellbeing.

As part of our response to damp and mould we are specifically looking at water ingress into the home. This generally is from two areas, damaged roof coverings / rain water systems allowing rain water in, or leaking pipes from within the building.

To improve the speed of our response we have changed the way we work. All reports of damp and mould are passed to our surveying team who will inspect the property to identify the underlying cause rather than just dealing with the mould. We have set a target of undertaking damp and mould inspections within 5 working days; we are currently achieving this.

We have also introduced a dedicated damp and mould option for residents contacting our call centre / repairs number. Since its introduction we have taken 1,207 calls with an average call wait time of 1m 26s.

In addition, we are introducing a 24 hour priority for responding to reports of plumbing leaks, meaning that we get there as quickly as possible to determine the cause of the leak which will also speed up our resolution time.

In general terms, our ability to undertake work in a timely manner is driven by the available trade operative capacity. The council has made a commitment to grow our Direct Labour Organisation and we have increased its capacity by 14 additional trade operatives; we are also recruiting more trade operatives and have put in place arrangements with a number of external contractors to further increase our capacity.

I hope that this response reassures you with regards to the actions the Council is taking on this important issue.

Kind regards

Cllr Clayeon McKenzie