



London Borough of Hackney
Full Council Meeting
Municipal Year 2023/24
Date of Meeting: Wednesday, 29 November 2023

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

Councillors in Attendance:	<p>Cllr Anya Sizer - Speaker of Hackney</p> <p>Mayor Caroline Woodley</p> <p>Cllr Kam Adams, Cllr Grace Adebayo, Cllr Soraya Adejare, Cllr Frank Baffour, Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble, Cllr Robert Chapman, Cllr Mete Coban, Cllr Sophie Conway, Cllr Michael Desmond, Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Zoë Garbett, Cllr Eluzer Goldberg, Cllr Margaret Gordon, Cllr Ben Hayhurst (late), Cllr Clare Joseph, Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cllr Shaul Krautwirt, Cllr Lee Laudat-Scott, Cllr Michael Levy, Cllr Hershy Lisser, Cllr Anna Lynch, Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, Deputy Mayor Nicholson, Cllr Jon Narcross, Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren, Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Benzion Papier, Cllr Sharon Patrick, Cllr Sam Pallis, Cllr Clare Potter (late), Cllr Fliss Premru (late), Cllr Steve Race, Cllr Ian Rathbone, Cllr Ali Sadek, Cllr Gilbert Smyth, Cllr Simche Steinberger, Cllr Sheila Suso-Runge, Cllr Lynne Troughton, Cllr Claudia Turbet-Delof, Cllr Joe Walker, Cllr Jessica Webb, Cllr Carol Williams, Cllr Penny Wrout and Cllr Sarah Young</p>
Apologies for Absence:	<p>Cllr Polly Billington, Cllr Sade Etti, Cllr Humaira Garasia, Cllr Richard Lufkin, Cllr Sem Moema, Cllr Yvonne Maxwell, Cllr Deniz Oguzkanli, Cllr Midnight Ross.</p> <p>Cllr Ifraax Samatar (dispensation), Cllr Caroline Selman (dispensation).</p>
Apologies for Lateness:	<p>Cllr Fliss Premru,</p>
Officer Contact:	<p>Natalie Kokayi, Governance Officer governance@hackney.gov.uk</p>

Councillor Sizer [Speaker] in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Billington, Etti, Garasia, Lufkin, Maxwell, Moema, Oguzkanli, Ross, Samatar, Selman.
- 1.2 Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Premru.

2. Speaker's Announcements

- 2.1 Noting the difficult period the community had experienced and the rise in Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia there was a minute's silence that remembered the victims of the devastating events in Israel and Palestine. Citing the importance of public standards, expectations and hope, the Speaker challenged all present to consider how they contributed to kinder and more compassionate politics.
- 2.2 The Speaker informed Full Council of recent and upcoming civic events which included:

- Marking Adoption Week, National Fertility Week and an event with the local Women's Institute.
- George Orwell's play, 1984, fundraising for the Speaker's charities.
- We See You, a neurodiverse art event by local schools and the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) community.
- Democracy Week event that saw over 100 children involved in debates and panel discussions about political engagement.
- Citizenship Ceremonies.
- Numerous School visits.

Forthcoming events included:

- Carol Singing.
- Menorah lighting.
- The pantomime trip.
- Christmas Quiz.

3. Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 Cllr Binnie-Lubbock declared that he was a member of Adblock Hackney, in relation to agenda item 13b.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 4.1 Cllr Steinberger noted under item 8.7 he had not referred to the Planning Sub-Committee regarding a planning application. Cllr Steinberger had made a general point that the application had been badly handled and the inspector's comments had been damaging.
- 4.2 Cllr Steinberger indicated that at item 8.8 he had given thanks to Jackie Moylan, Interim Group Director Finance.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of Council held on 27 September 2023 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings, subject to the amendments noted at 4.1 and 4.2 above.

5. Mayor for Hackney By-Election Results: November 2023

- 5.1 The Speaker outlined the results of the election that were set out at Appendix 1 and extended congratulations to Mayor Caroline Woodley. Congratulations were extended to Mayor Woodley from Cllr Steinberger and Deputy Mayor Bramble. The Speaker acknowledged the other candidates and reiterated comments made by Cllr Steinberger thanking candidates and officers for a well run election.

RESOLVED:

To note the election results as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.

6. Questions from Members of the Public

The Speaker prioritised members of the public present in the Chamber followed by those who had requested their response to be read out in their absence.

- 6.1 To the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Delivery, Inclusive Economy and Regeneration from Antoinette Fernandez

Why are new developments not prioritising social and affordable housing? Developments of 58 flats like the Laundry building on Mare Street should not be exempt.

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

Cllr Nicholson noted the Council had committed to delivering affordable homes to residents for years. The Council had to balance this with other important priorities to achieve sustainable development across the borough. The Laundry building was located in a Priority Office Area (POA), an area of employment floorspace. 6% of land in the borough was in this category where workspace had been prioritised as part of planning policy over residential development. 5000 square metres of workspace had been delivered in the last 2 years.

This had not stopped developers bringing forward housing proposals, however, workspace was the priority. There were 58 residential units at the Laundry building in addition to over 4000 square metres of employment space on the same site.

- 6.2 To the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport from Louisa Hillwood, representing Plant-based Council Campaign

In October 2022 I asked whether Hackney Council would switch to fully plant-based catering at internal meetings and events to address food related emissions. Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on this? If Councillors still have concerns I would like to meet with them to discuss further.

Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban noted the Council had committed to move towards plant-based options and reduce meat consumption. The Council recognised the diverse communities across the borough and committed to work with them on the transition to net zero by 2030. This included supporting communities on the journey through the implementation of the Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP set out 5 themes, one of which was food consumption. It was noted that at the Council's 2023 Annual Meeting plant-based catering alongside meat and fish options had been provided which reduced carbon emissions at the event by over 50%.

The Climate and Sustainability Team led on a London-wide campaign, Eat Like a Londoner, a collaboration with other London boroughs designed to reduce waste and use more plant-based food. Cllr Coban noted the climate emergency had been caused by fossil fuel industries.

Supplementary Question:

Will the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport meet the questioner for further discussions.

Cllr Coban welcomed the input from Louise Hillwood and the Plant-based Council Campaign and indicated further opportunities to engage with council forums and for their voice to be heard. The input into the CAP from the campaign had been welcomed. Cllr Coban and Cllr Kennedy had been in correspondence with the campaign to consider what the Council had already done in relation to emissions, transport, consumption and adaptation. The Council approach considered ways to take people on the journey of transition whilst acknowledging the challenges. Cllr Coban noted that he was happy to meet to continue the engagement.

The Speaker noted that questions submitted at 6.3 had requested a written response. Those who had submitted questions at 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 and 6.8 had requested the response be read in their absence, time permitting.

6.7 To the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture from Laura Pascal

What is the Tree of Life project and why has it won an award?

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

Cllr Kennedy explained that Tree of Life was a talking therapy approach developed in Zimbabwe that had responded to the context of existing therapies that had not resonated with individuals or communities. The Tree of Life approach allowed cultures to be reframed as a strength and had been recognised globally as a therapeutic approach.

The project had been delivered as part of the new structures of the Integrated Commissioning Service (ICS) for North East London. The initiative was delivered in partnership with Hackney Community Voluntary Service (HCVS), NHS Mental Health Support Teams in local secondary schools, and was led by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Alliance in City and Hackney. The aim of the programme had been to give young people from Afro-Caribbean and mixed heritage backgrounds space to gain confidence in their own abilities, acknowledge their dreams and talk about difficult experiences in a safe environment. The project received the Health Service Journal's Innovation and Improvement in Reducing Healthcare Inequalities Award.

Supplementary Question:

How will the new Integrated Commissioning Service partnership arrangements support further improvements in the delivery of the service.

Cllr Kennedy noted that the system had moved from competition to a system of collaboration between local authorities and the NHS. Rather than bidding against each other they worked to identify which organisation was best placed to deliver services. It was noted the Integrated Commissioning Service (ICS) had reduced back office administration costs as over 300 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) had been incorporated into approximately 40 ICS across the country. Cllr Kennedy had delivered a presentation to Health in Hackney about the new structures which can be found [here](#) from [Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 15 November 2023](#)

6.9 To the Mayor from Ifhat Smith

Will the Mayor call on the government to call a ceasefire in Israel/Palestine and for more support to promote community cohesion locally?

Response from Mayor Woodley

Mayor Woodley highlighted the Council was dedicated to local people and understood that local people had been deeply impacted by events on and following 7 October. The Mayor acknowledged the difficulties and recognised the trauma had been distressing for many communities and individuals. It was important that emphasis be placed into building community cohesion and asked political leaders to honour the truce and to find ways to a permanent ceasefire.

In terms of community cohesion statements had been made by the Speaker and Deputy Mayor Bramble, in her role acting as Mayor. Visits to faith partners, and individuals who had lost family, friends, and colleagues in Israel and Palestine had taken place. As a former Councillor in Cazenove Ward the Mayor noted the pride taken in the area by people from all faiths and people with none.

The Mayor indicated that the Council always supported peaceful protest, however, other people had become victims of those passions and it was important to find ways to de-escalate those situations and find ways of healing. The interfaith groups had to find ways that worked to be more inclusive to bring people back together.

Supplementary Question:

Can the Mayor write to the central government to request they call for a ceasefire?

Mayor Woodley indicated that she would write to central government to outline the statement she had made this evening.

The Speaker returned to the following question from the agenda.

6.4 To the Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Resident Participation from Derek Miller

Can the Cabinet Member for Housing provide an update on the Council's response times for dealing with leaks in its Council homes since its launch of a new faster service in February 2023?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Resident Participation

Cllr McKenzie noted that leaks caused damp and mould and were distressing to residents. Tackling them early helped prevent the issue spreading or cause potential issues in neighbouring homes. The Council had increased investment and had committed to residents to increase efforts to address this issue. The service had set new targets to inspect all reports of leaks, damp and mould within 5 working days and provided a dedicated hotline in the repairs call centre. The Council had made significant changes in the way it had managed repairs and had completed 8% more repair jobs than a year ago, completing on average 243 jobs per day. Also in February 2023, the Council committed to responding to leaks by the end of the following day, and employed additional operatives to achieve this target. In the first 6 months of 2023 87% of leaks were reported as an emergency repair. Overall average time to attend a reported leak was 1.48 days. Overall satisfaction in the repairs service was up by 5%. It was recognised that this was the start of a journey and the service had to learn from what had gone wrong to ensure the Council delivered a good and improving repair service.

Written responses to questions 6.3, 6.5, 6.6 and 6.8 are attached at APPENDIX A.

7. Questions from Members of the Council

7.1 From Cllr Binnie-Lubbock to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

In light of the news we heard in the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Committee this month that the Council is likely to fail to meet its 2040 retrofit target and that it could take over 4 decades to retrofit the whole stock, how does the Council

plan on offsetting this carbon cost to meet the Climate Action Plan's 2030 target?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban highlighted the lack of ambition from central government on the retrofit programme. Councils and cities were leading the way towards climate transition in respect of retrofit. Over 50% of Hackney's housing is social housing and the Climate Action Plan (CAP) set out the strategy of how the Council was working to achieve net zero. The Council targets were to reduce its own emissions by 45% by 2030 and borough wide by 2040. It was difficult due to the lack of central government funding and the regulatory framework required to deliver the retrofit programme. Cllr Coban noted GB Energy's investment to local councils to support the transition.

Last year the Council rejoined the UK 100 network of local leaders who had pledged to lead a rapid transition to Net Zero. The Council had also engaged, through London Councils, with other London boroughs in the development of their climate action plans and with forums that progressed net zero ambitions. Today the Council launched the second round of the Community Energy Fund to help reduce emissions from Council buildings. It was acknowledged that the Council had to be more creative in supporting residents on the journey to net zero.

The Speaker briefly adjourned the meeting between 7.50pm and 7.52pm to assist a Councillor who had become unwell.

The Council Climate Action Plan had set out an implementation plan for initiatives over the next 3 years that reduced emissions from council buildings. The approach required the council to be smart and deploy resources from other budgets to benefit, for example, from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. The Council considered corporate buildings and businesses to reduce energy and grow green jobs.

Supplementary Question:

Would the Cabinet Member outline how the Council were going to offset the 2040 retrofit target?

Technologies had changed rapidly and new funding opportunities emerged. The Council had to set out what it was doing to meet the emissions targets; and to be prepared for technologies when they were unlocked which provided benefits to residents.

7.2 From Cllr Gilbert Smyth to Mayor Woodley

Would the newly elected Mayor publicly declare her commitment to Hackney being a Fairtrade Borough?

Response from Mayor Woodley

Mayor Woodley reconfirmed Hackney was a fair trade borough. Social justice was key for fair and equitable trade which recognised climate change impacted everyone on the planet. It was noted that not everyone suffered to the same degree and climate change further exacerbated the inequalities in society. Fair and equitable trade was key to climate justice and the systems and processes supported farmers and producers to ensure they received fair prices for their products. This commitment also enabled the Mayor to meet the manifesto commitment to remain committed to being a fair trade borough.

The Mayor outlined her support to Hackney's growing community which had taken produce out to local community park spaces and used local skills and fair trade suppliers. As a Council fair trade was considered a business model that prioritised people and the planet and brought businesses under one banner to promote fair trade.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Smyth for his work as Fair Trade Champion and acknowledged his commitment to ensuring Hackney was reconfirmed as a fair trade borough. The proposed activities were a tribute in celebration of the 30th anniversary of Fairtrade.

7.3 From Cllr Garbett to the Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Resident Participation

There are 111 neighbourhoods in Hackney requiring urgent adaptation to heat waves, the fourth highest level in the UK according to University of Manchester research. How is the Council prioritising this adaptation for these neighbours - with a focus on protecting the most vulnerable residents?

The Speaker noted the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport was answering the question.

Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban highlighted the record temperatures seen across London and the wild fires experienced last year. It was important to keep flagging the implementation of the Climate Action Plan and how the Council was supporting transition and adaptation. Mayor Woodley, in her previous Cabinet role, had led on the Green Infrastructure Strategy to make streets more resilient. The Council had planted 5000 street trees since 2018 and actions in the implementation plan will support the most vulnerable residents. An important initiative was to increase the street tree canopy from 20-30% as trees matured. Trees played an important role in helping to cool our streets and made a positive contribution to new build developments as a result of meeting urban green factor standards.

When temperature warming was an issue the Council worked with its partners to support vulnerable individuals and communities during heat waves with measures that included providing advice on staying cool, checking on homeless people, providing water, and advising on existing cool spaces in public areas.

In addition, the Council collaborated with climate resilience groups to strengthen the response to the Climate Action Plan. Research by the University of Manchester indicated the need for government commitment to adequately

fund adaptation measures. The cost of adaptation measures around energy systems had been expensive, however, as part of the £61m Climate Action Plan and Green New Deal Hackney saw record levels of investment to help in adaptation and support vulnerable residents.

Supplementary Question:

How are residents included in the Climate Action Plan implementation and does the council consider this a public health priority?

Cllr Coban indicated the Council had committed to continued conversations with residents as part of the 3 year implementation plan and to have conversations with residents in many formats including ward forums and scrutiny commissions, to strengthen proposals as they moved forward.

7.4 From Cllr Turbet-Delof to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service

As we enter the winter months, the cost of living crisis continues to leave many in poverty, having a profound impact on residents' mental health. What support is the Council making available for the winter months ahead to both support residents' financial circumstances and their mental health?

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

Cllr Chapman noted continued concern from the impact of the cost of living crisis on many residents. Last week the Mayor and Cllr Chapman had written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to demand adequate funding for Council services. Since 2010 the Council had seen a £150m reduction in external funding. After years of campaigning local housing allowances had finally been unfrozen, however the Customer Support Fund, which had provided £5.6m last year, had not been mentioned in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement and this fund remained uncertain going forward with the services provided to residents at risk.

The Council faced tougher choices ahead due to the lack of sustainable funding for resident services. Hackney Council continued to support residents through the Money Hub which had helped residents to claim benefits they had been entitled to claim. The Council had planned to meet its manifesto commitment by increasing council tax discounts for those residents least able to pay. As winter approached the Council had organised events such as the Winter Warmer event and promoted warm spaces and hot meals to support residents. The council approach supported residents through the cost of living crisis by more connected and preventative measures in line with the poverty reduction framework. Building connections with and between voluntary and community organisations was important to strengthen support to residents. The Here to Help team had produced an updated cost of living support guide that provided information for example on bills, money and debts. Funds from the Housing Support Fund had been used this year to provide food and fuel vouchers to support residents. The Council had supported Hackney Fuel Network's Just Giving Campaign to provide extra funds to community organisations to help residents through the winter. These organisations provided places for

connection and community. Even with support, significant hardship was experienced through the winter months which impacted mental health.

Supplementary Question:

It was estimated that £28m goes unclaimed in benefits in the borough. What else can the Council do to ensure residents receive their entitlements?

Cllr Chapman advised that it was a problem the Council was aware of and the Money Hub and other voluntary organisations had been successful in identifying and had supported residents to claim benefits. Members helped by referring residents they meet to the Money Hub and other organisations.

7.5 From Cllr Binnie-Lubbock to the Mayor

In the last 5 years, what is the net-loss of mature trees in Hackney?

Response from the Mayor

Mayor Woodley indicated that the council had an ambitious plan to add to the street trees across the borough following the declaration of the climate emergency. The Council had added 5000 street trees over the last 2 years and now had 15,000 street trees and 60,000 trees in parks and open spaces. The Mayor championed the borough tree map, which had been regularly updated, and which helped educate people to learn the benefits that trees brought which included air purification, promotion of species diversity, and health and well-being benefits. A small proportion of mature trees, approximately 38, had been removed due to disease, subsidence, or adjacent development. The Council had sought to replace trees in a suitable location nearby and plant multiple young trees in recognition of the number of trees required to replace the benefits of a mature tree. Mayor Woodley acknowledged support from partners that helped maintain the tree canopy in Hackney.

Supplementary Question:

Can the Mayor confirm 38 trees had been lost in the last 5 years? How long will the new trees take to produce the equivalent carbon capture store to the trees that had been lost?

The Council was confident that the number of trees lost was correct. It was noted that it does take a number of years for young trees to replace mature trees that had been lost, however, replacement demonstrated the council commitment to retain the benefits that mature trees offered.

7.6 From Cllr Walker to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Balls Pond Road has been disproportionately impacted by traffic congestion. Can the Cabinet Member confirm that Balls Pond Road will remain under review, ensuring an ongoing dialogue with residents and other stakeholders to investigate long-term solutions to traffic flow and calming, air quality and noise pollution?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Cllr Coban outlined the work undertaken with Cllr Walker on Balls Pond Road regarding traffic that reduced congestion and improved air quality. It was noted that interventions had to be cross-borough, in conjunction with London Borough of Islington. The Council was committed to strengthen monitoring through traffic counting and other measures to better understand the data. Air quality monitoring had also been used as it was a concern identified by residents. Cllr Coban had met with his London Borough of Islington counterpart and had committed to bring partners together to address the issues. The Council recognised this as a priority and wanted to identify measures to get the right response.

Supplementary Question:

Can Cllr Coban commit to ensuring plans to address congestion and air pollution included engagement with residents and Transport for London?

A Main Road Strategy had been developed to complement the Transport Plan. This had proposals that worked to reduce traffic by 15% by 2026. The Council recognised the importance of the Main Road Strategy and a Bus Strategy and noted the 6% reduction in traffic in Hackney compared to pre-pandemic. It was recognised that not all schemes had been right; some roads had been disproportionately impacted by schemes and the Council had made changes as a result. The council was committed to remaining open and listening to ensure it delivered the changes for residents.

The Speaker noted that the meeting had come to the end of the 30 minutes allocated timeframe and those questions that had not been answered (7.7, 7.8, 7.9, 7.10, 7.11, 7.12, 7.13) would receive a written response included at APPENDIX B

8. Elected Mayor's Statement

- 8.1 Mayor Woodley expressed gratitude to be elected as Mayor of Hackney and acknowledged the other candidates. Mayor Woodley thanked Deputy Mayor Bramble, the Interim Chief Executive, Cabinet colleagues and Councillors for their dedicated work. The Chamber showed their appreciation to all Hackney officers, staff, partners and communities who support and challenge the Council.
- 8.2 The Mayor noted that many residents had connections to the Middle East and sent her condolences to residents who lost loved ones in the conflict. The rise in antisemitism, Islamophobia and hate crimes were acknowledged. The Council had committed to keeping people safe and Hackney was a borough where people of all faiths and none lived side by side. November was Islamophobia Awareness month and the Council had offered staff training and reached out to residents to become Hate Crime Prevention Champions or to join the Hate Crime Prevention Forum. The adoption of the renewed Hate Crime Strategy at Cabinet this week was welcomed and the Mayor thanked Cllr Fajana-Thomas and officers for the work they had done in Community Safety.

- 8.3 The Mayor highlighted the work that had been ongoing in the borough and thanked young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) for the We See You event she attended which provided an opportunity to celebrate their achievements. The Mayor indicated that she had written to the Secretary of State for Education about concerns for SEND funding provision in Hackney. The Mayor had also sent a letter to the government, through the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care with Cllr Turbet-Delof about the need for further support to vulnerable residents.
- 8.4 The Mayor outlined various Council and community partner events attended. These included: black history season, Diwali, Transgender Day of Remembrance, Mental Health Week, various interfaith events and Clapton Common vigil. The Mayor remained conscious of the challenges communities faced and had, as part of the Mayoral campaign, pledged to drive forward better renting, housing, and economic justice to support a more inclusive and anti-racist borough. The Mayor had joined the rough-sleeping count alongside officers and outreach workers and acknowledged the fantastic work that supported vulnerable rough sleepers. The Mayor attended the Council's Anti-Racist Partnerships Day and reaffirmed the Council's commitment to being inclusive, welcoming and kind. She thanked Cllr Williams for sharing the Equalities Plan with community partners. This plan reflected the lived experience of many who had experienced racism and recognised anti-Black racism and maintained a focus on all forms of racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, or bias against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and communities.
- 8.5 The Mayor spoke about housing developments over the next 12 months with 585 new homes anticipated. This included completion of Buckland and Wimbourne schemes where over 50% of the 113 new homes were for social rent. Residents were encouraged to attend the Winter Warmer Event on 7 December and the Poverty Reduction Team and Money Hub continued to help residents to get community and financial support. The housing repairs service had a 24 hour turnaround time for broken heating in council homes. It was noted that fairness and justice had to be prioritised as the Climate Action Plan was implemented. The government had not responded to the call for sustainable funding for local authorities; Hackney faced a £57m budget shortfall by 2027 which meant the Council had to make difficult choices. The Mayor noted the Council had brought together campaigners at an event to raise awareness of violence against women and girls (VAWG) where the Council had taken action which included lighting, CCTV and the pioneering in-house domestic abuse service which had helped over 1300 people. Members of the Youth Parliament attended Cabinet and had set out their requests; the Mayor looked forward to participating in their events. The Mayor highlighted the seasonal celebrations ahead and noted the Menorah candles reminded us of the values of solidarity and hope. The Mayor hoped people found fun and joy through the seasonal celebrations.

Conservative Group Response

- 8.6 Cllr Levy congratulated Mayor Woodley on her election to office and congratulated Cllr Steinberger on what had been a credible campaign reflected in the 42% increase in the Conservative vote compared to the last Mayoral by-election in 2016. Cllr Levy indicated that the Conservative Group continued

to challenge schemes that they considered were not in the interests of residents such as School Streets and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs).

- 8.7 Gratitude and thanks were expressed to the former Mayor Glanville for the leadership he had shown regarding anti-semitism; he had campaigned to drive out all forms of racism from the borough. It was noted that Mayor Woodley continued to fight to keep Hackney a safe place.

Green Group Response

- 8.8 Cllr Garbett acknowledged the violence in the Middle East that represented the failure of politics in the region and internationally to find lasting peace that enabled people to live in safety and dignity. Hackney had seen some of the largest protests in solidarity with Palestinians and Cllr Garbett had joined young people at the school strike for Palestine protest last week. Last night, Cllr Garbett and Cllr Binnie-Lubbock joined Hackney Palestine Solidarity campaigners who had a deputation to the Pensions Committee that asked the Council to divest investments in occupied Palestinian territory. The Pensions Committee meeting had moved venue after residents in the gallery had sought to have their voices heard. Spaces were needed that allowed these voices to be heard. Cllr Garbett had prepared a motion later on the agenda to call for a ceasefire.
- 8.9 Cllr Garbett noted the Green Party had increased their vote in the Mayoral election by 7.5% totalling 24.5% of the vote and thanked residents who had voted for the party and the vision of the Green Party which they had encouraged the Mayor to deliver. Having the Green Group in the Chamber demonstrated what had been achieved which included progress on net zero 2030, advertising policy, transgender rights, and support for workers rights.
- 8.10 Cllr Garbett congratulated Mayor Woodley and supported her ambitions to make Hackney fairer and greener. The Green Group ran a hopeful campaign rooted in social justice and considered consultation had to go beyond traditional methods and included initiatives that recognised residents as experts in their own lives. Cllr Garbett wanted to understand how the Mayor intended to develop resident question and answer formats, such as transparent social media forums. Areas the Green Group wanted the Mayor to prioritise, in her first 100 days, were exploring housing buy-back opportunities and building council homes, rent controls and end to right to buy (RtB), the road strategy, and work with young people that reduced youth violence .
- 8.12 Cllr Garbett noted that the 28th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 28) started tomorrow. The Council had to call for the total phasing out of fossil fuels and had to do that both locally and on the international stage. This included divesting fossil fuels from the pension fund, phased withdrawal from burning waste at the Edmonton Incinerator and commitment to withdrawal from fossil-based fertilisers from estates, parks and roads. The main road strategy Cllr Garbett was sad to hear was not explicit about the World Health Organisation's (WHO) air quality guidance. Cllr Garbett welcomed earlier mentions of the Climate Action Plan and acknowledged that we were deep into a critical decade in determining our future on this planet.

- 8.13 In conclusion, Cllr Garbett acknowledged Young Hackney who, with Deputy Mayor Bramble and herself, had marched from Forest Road Hub to Hackney Town Hall and added their voices to end violence against women and girls. World Aids Day was noted for Friday 1 December.

The Mayor's Reply

- 8.14 Exercising the right of reply, Mayor Woodley stated the following:

- The Mayor thanked Cllr Levy for his kind words and noted that everyone across the chamber wanted the best for residents.
- The Mayor, together with the interim Chief Executive, had committed to do walkabouts in every ward and to meet local organisations that made a difference and to see the challenges they faced.
- The Council had a variety of ways of interacting with the community including Ward Forums, Scrutiny Commissions, community meetings, parents and young peoples voices, and the work supported by councillors through surgeries and casework.
- The importance of standing together against antisemitism and driving out racism was noted.
- The Mayor was open to ideas that improved cohesion across the borough and brought people together to protect one another.
- The Mayor wanted to meet with people, not necessarily on social media, in ways that responded to and connected people.
- Young people's voices were valued as they provided insight into what they considered important.

9. Composition of Cabinet Committees; Appointment of Deputy Cabinet Members and Member Champions; Elected Mayor's Scheme of Delegation

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

10. Standards Committee Annual Report

- 10.1 Deputy Mayor Bramble introduced the report which provided an overview of the work of the Committee in 2022-2023. The Committee's remit ensured that Councillors maintained high ethical standards in their duties and considered concerns or complaints received about Councillor conduct. The role of Councillor had to be held with integrity, diligence, and compassion with care for residents. Members of the Committee were thanked for their work. The Committee had received 13 complaints, none of which met the threshold for further investigation.
- 10.2 Cllr Suso-Runge thanked Deputy Mayor Bramble for the report and indicated that local authorities are required to establish a Standards Committee, to have a Constitution, and a Code of Conduct. Rules and structures had to be underpinned by an organisational culture that valued high standards and a shared understanding. This required constant vigilance and the report reminded the Chamber of this framework and outlined the importance of good governance, personal responsibility and respect for each other.

- 10.3 Cllr Rathbone noted that standards in public life and in democracy had been key to democracy. However, self-righteousness had sometimes taken over to advance a cause and moved into name-calling, shaming, and violence. Social media had been used and hatred blinded people to how far they had gone to achieve their cause. The Pensions Committee on Tuesday evening was disrupted and caused the meeting to be moved elsewhere which had undermined democratic values of discussion and debate.
- 10.4 Cllr Rathbone believed that it was the responsibility of Councillors to set an example to the public as custodians of democracy. Councillors had been democratically elected by residents to run local services that improved the lives of people in the area.
- 10.5 Councillor Binnie-Lubbock noted the Chair's Foreword to the report indicated the opposition group had not taken up its place on the Standards Committee in 2022-2023 and he requested this was amended to indicate that it referred to the majority opposition group as the Green Group was keen to participate in the scrutiny process as much as possible. In addition, it was noted that one of the 13 complaints listed related to transphobia and he considered that this had not been covered adequately in the Equalities Plan.
- 10.6 Deputy Mayor Bramble noted the report had made clear there had been a Conservative Group vacancy on the committee and encouraged the majority opposition group to take up this position. Reassurance was given that the transphobia complaint had not met the evidential threshold for further action. Deputy Mayor Bramble noted that councillors represented the whole community and had to hold that integrity at the heart of the work of the Council.

RESOLVED:

To note the Standards Committee Annual Report 2022-2023 as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.

11. Statutory Chief Officer Extension

- 11.1 The Speaker noted the Interim Chief Executive, Dawn Carter-McDonald, and the Acting Director of Legal Services and Governance, Louise Humphreys declared an interest in the item.

RESOLVED:

To note the Appointment Sub-Committee's decision that the roles of Dawn Carter-McDonald, Interim Chief Executive and Louise Humphreys, Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer are extended for a further 6 month period from 1 February to 31 July 2024.

12. Appointments to Committees and Commissions

RESOLVED:

To agree the appointments and membership changes to Committees and the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Commission as set out at paragraph 1.3 of the report.

13. Motions

Cllr Binnie-Lubbock raised a procedural motion in accordance with Part 4 Rule 15 paragraph 15.1 (c) of the Council's Constitution. He moved to vary the order of business set out in the agenda to bring forward agenda item 13e - The Crisis in Israel and Palestine: Call For a Ceasefire, Release Of All Hostages and more Support for Local Community Cohesion. He believed it was the most pressing matter on the agenda and how important it was to residents.

This was seconded by Cllr Garbett.

Cllr Adams spoke against the motion

Following a vote, the Speaker declared the motion **NOT CARRIED**

Cllr Binnie Lubbock raised a procedural motion in accordance with Part 4 Rule 15 paragraph 15.1 (g) for the Green Group to withdraw motions 13a, 13b, 13c, 13d.

The Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer advised Council that the Constitution allowed a proposer of a motion to propose that it be withdrawn. However, only the proposer of a motion could do so, therefore an en-masse proposal to withdraw a number of motions was not allowed and Cllr Garbett would need to put forward a similar proposal for those motions where Cllr Garbett was listed as the proposer Cllr Garbett confirmed that she similarly requested that those motions she had proposed be withdrawn.

The seconder for each motion acknowledged their consent to the withdrawal of the motions.

The Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer responded to Cllr Rathbone's point of order and advised that the Constitution required that Full Council must decide whether to agree to the motion being withdrawn following a request from the proposer of that motion. If the meeting indicated, when a vote was called, that they did not consent then the motions would be debated in the usual manner.

Following a vote on Motion 13(a) the Speaker declared the proposal to withdraw the motion was **NOT CARRIED**.

Following a vote on motion 13(b) the Speaker declared that the proposal to withdraw the motion was **NOT CARRIED**.

Following a vote on motion 13(c) the Speaker declared that the proposal to withdraw the motion was **NOT CARRIED**.

Following a vote on motion 13(d) the Speaker declared that the proposal to withdraw the motion was **NOT CARRIED**.

13a Green Motion - Call for an independent Investigation Following the Resignation of the Mayor of Hackney

Cllr Garbett introduced the motion. The ongoing distress to residents was noted and she considered transparency and truth helped towards closure and restored faith. The Green Group had called for an independent review when details had become public. An independent inquiry had been required to establish what the Mayor, Councillors, and Hackney Labour knew about the circumstances surrounding the resignation of Mr Dewey. The Green Group continued to press for transparency and had been informed about the independent review commissioned by the Council. This motion reflected the gap in the independent review for Hackney Labour Party to hold an independent investigation into who had known what, when, and the actions taken.

Following Cllr Garbett's introduction of this motion and prior to Cllr Binnie-Lubbock's seconder speech, Cllr Adams proposed a motion without notice in accordance with Part 4, Rule 15, paragraph 15.1(d) of the Constitution, for the matter to be referred to the Monitoring Officer on the grounds that an independent review had started and several members had spoken to the investigator. The Monitoring Officer should therefore consider whether the motion be the subject of debate once the outcome of the independent review was known. Cllr Rathbone seconded the motion.

Following a vote of the procedural motion without notice proposed by Cllr Adams and seconded by Cllr Rathbone, the Speaker declared the motion **CARRIED**

Proposed by: Cllr Zoë Garbett
Seconded by Cllr Alastair Binnie Lubbock

13b Green Group Motion: Include a Ban on High-Carbon Advertising in the Council's Advertising and Sponsorship Policy

Amendments to the motion had been received from the Labour Group and contained in the supplementary papers circulated. None of the amendments had been accepted by the Green Group.

Cllr Binnie Lubbock introduced the motion and noted that the Green Party's national conference had proposed introduction of legislation to ban high carbon product advertising. The Council had to discourage these products and promote sustainable products on its advertising sites. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock suggested Councillors considered applications on the Council's planning portal where high carbon product advertising applications had sought approvals.

Cllr Zoë Garbett, as seconder to the motion, reserved her right to speak until later in the debate.

Cllr Kennedy proposed amendments to the motion. He outlined that the Council already had an advertising policy which supported principles of control over advertising which countered Council policy and principles. The amendments to the motion was seconded by Cllr Potter.

Following a vote, the Speaker declared the amendments to the motion **CARRIED**

The Speaker proceeded to the substantive motion which was not debated. Cllr Garbett had reserved her right to speak and highlighted the need for leadership and commitment. She believed that sustainable measures represented a very small percentage of their overall work, however, sustainable measures were over represented in their advertising spend.

Following a vote, the Speaker declared the motion as amended **CARRIED**

RESOLVED:

This Council notes:

- That the Council's Corporate Advertising and Sponsorship Policy was adopted as Appendix 4 of the External Advertising Contract by the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee on 16/01/2023.
- The policy outlines a number of products and services which will not be accepted on council-owned media, including the promotion of products high in fats, sugars and salts (HFSS), alcohol, knives or weapons and gambling services. These proscribed products and services would undermine the Mayor's priorities as set out in the strategic plan for a fairer, safer, healthier Hackney working together for every child.

This Council further notes:

- That it has adopted a Climate Action Plan which acknowledges that consumption emissions - the things we buy, use and sell - currently represent 73% of the borough's emissions
- That one of the five themes of the climate action plan is a reduction in consumption of goods and services that contribute to those emissions
- Such goods and services include "high carbon" items, such as fossil fuels, internal combustion engines and aviation, which must be reduced or phased out to help reach our carbon reduction targets

This Council believes that:

- Advertising can be used to induce demand for "high carbon" products and services where there may be no actual need, and where the products and services run counter to the council's stated policies, aims and objectives.

The Council resolves to:

- Include in the Advertising and Sponsorship Policy 2022 at paragraph 2.3, an additional subsection ix. reading [Advertising will not be accepted if, in Hackney Council's opinion, it is reasonably objectionable on the grounds that it:.....] could promote goods or services that contradict the council's Climate Action Plan, for example by encouraging the use of fossil fuels.
- Encourage event partners to consider their advertising and sponsorship policies in light of the borough's carbon reduction goals, and where possible, stipulate

that a policy on high-carbon advertising and sponsorship is a requirement in negotiations about the council's support.

Proposed by: Alastair Binnie-Lubbock

Seconded by: Cllr Zoë Garbett

The Speaker noted that it was for members to decide, as the 30 minutes allocated for debating motions had almost expired, if they wished to extend the meeting. Members did not wish to extend the meeting.

The Speaker advised that the remaining three motions which had not been debated would stand referred, without discussion, to the next ordinary meeting of Full Council. The motions would be listed in the order in which they had been received.

Close of meeting.

Duration of Meeting: 7:00 - 9:27pm

Chair of the meeting

Cllr Anya Sizer

Speaker of the London Borough of Hackney 2023/24

Attachments

Appendix A - Questions from Members of the public not responded to at the meeting.

Appendix B - Questions from Councillors not responded to at the meeting.